



MAY, 2025

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CITRUS COUNTY,
FLORIDA

Vicky Iozzia is the Editor of this newsletter. Our mailing address is
LWVCC, P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460 Our website is
lwvcitrus.org

Our May 14 meeting features Nichelle Mohre-Cassidy, Executive
Director of YaYAs, Youth and Young Adult Shelter. She will share her
important work to help teens escape homelessness. It is at the
Coastal Region Library in Crystal River at 10 am. See Page 5

Special Zoom meeting with Holly Davis to learn about growth in
Citrus County, May 21, 2025, 7:00 PM. See Page 6

Our June 11 meeting features Citrus County Superintendent of
School Dr. Scott Hebert, who will make a presentation about
“Listening to the Community.” It is at the Coastal Region Library in
Crystal River at 10 am. See Page 7

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Please visit our Facebook page and "like" us!

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofcitruscou>



HAPPY MAY EVERYONE

MAY HOLIDAYS

- 1-May Day
- 2-Brother & Sisters Day
- 4- Kentucky Derby Day (first Saturday)
- 4-Star Wars Day
- 5-Cinco De Mayo
- 5- Ramadan (varies)
- 6-National Nurses Day
- 8- No Socks Day
- 10- Clean Up Your Room Day
- 11- Eat What You Want Day
- 12- Mother's Day (2nd Sunday)
- 15- National Chocolate Chip Day
- 17- National Bike to Work Day (3rd Friday)
- 18- Armed Forces Day (3rd Saturday)
- 18-No Dirty Dishes Day
- 19- World Plant a Veggie Garden Day
- 21- Victoria Day (Canada)
- 22-National Buy A Musical instrument Day
- 23- Lucky Penny Day
- 25- National Brown Bag It Day
- 26-Sally Ride Day
- 27-Memorial Day (last Monday)
- 28-National Hamburger Day
- 30-Water a Flower Day



Events in May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 9:00 am: LWV Board meeting on zoom	8	9	10
11	12	13 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting 4:00 pm: Citrus County School Board meeting	14 10:00 am: LWV General Meeting	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 7:00 pm: Special Zoom meeting with Holly Davis, Board of Citrus County Commissioner	22	23	24
25	26	27 8:00 am: Library Advisory Board 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting	28	29	30	31

(The calendar is from our website, lwvcitrus.org)

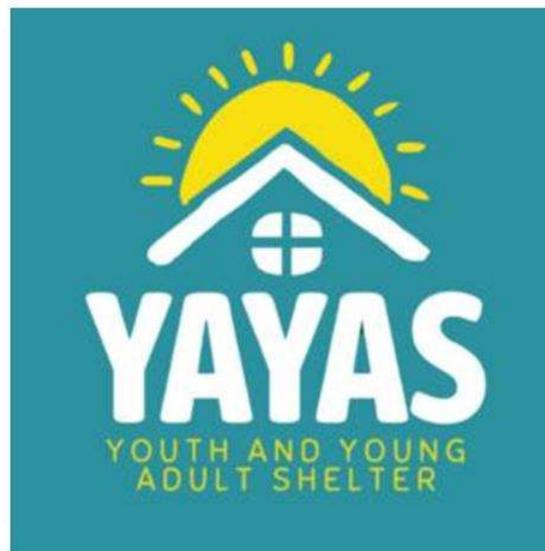
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League of Women Voters of Citrus County

When: Wednesday, May 14, 2025 at 10:00 AM

**Where: Coastal Region Library
8619 W Crystal St. Crystal River, FL 34428**



What happens to a high school graduate when he or she is told they now must leave home? Where does a teen live when his parents are incarcerated? Who will support a student who has aged out of foster care? This is not a common, everyday topic. However, it needs to be addressed as a problem and needs to be solved.

Nichelle Mohre-Cassidy is the Executive Director of YaYAS, the Youth and Young Adult Shelter. Ms. Mohre-Cassidy will be the guest speaker at the League of Women Voters of Citrus County, May 14 at 10:00 am. She will give a presentation on the organization, their goals, and their concerns.

The LWVCC will be having a collection for those who wish to donate in the form of cash or checks made out to: YaYAs.

For more information call 352-613-5056

Public is Invited

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

To provide information for our members and for the community, we will be providing a

Special Zoom meeting



On Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7:00 PM.

Holly Davis,

member of the Board of

County Commissioners of Citrus County,

will provide information and answer questions about plans for **growth in Citrus County**

All are welcome to attend. You must register.

To register, follow this link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/20rm-gvhQbiiiUpsMNLaqw>

League of Women Voters of Citrus County

Guest Speaker: Dr. Scott Hebert

Wednesday, June 11, 10:00 AM

At Coastal Region Library

8619 Crystal St., Crystal River



Superintendent Dr. Scott Hebert will be the guest speaker at the League of Women Voters of Citrus County's June meeting. The topic of his presentation will be, "Listening to the Community."

Topics will include: instructional and media center materials, new legislation, and Dr. Hebert's vision for next year, which includes Career and Technical Education (CTE), accountability, and transparency. There will be time for audience questions.

Dr. Hebert was elected as Superintendent of Citrus County Schools in 2024. Over his 30-year career in Citrus County, he has served in various roles, including teacher, counselor, assistant principal, principal, district director, chief academic officer and assistant superintendent.

The public is invited to attend this meeting. For more information, contact 352-613-5056. Or visit website lwvcitrus.org

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization, never endorsing or opposing political parties or candidates. LWVFL develops positions on issues only after careful study and consensus.



Linda Abels, Membership Chair

Welcome to May! The weather has been so good as I write this, if it would stay like this all year. We would be very happy.

First I would like to welcome our new members, **Rachel Newman, Dot Lang, Joanne Walker, Mindy Brady, Carolyn Kilduff, Terry Morrison, Leslie Bishop**, and **Susan Kern**! Welcome and please introduce yourselves at our next meeting.

The new Chapterspot Membership Program we have been talking about over the last several months is finally working! After many, many emails, calls, etc. we finally have a working link to the LWV US Membership Website. Please go to our

website: lwvcitrus.org and click on membership. That will take you to LWWUS. After you put in your email address, you will be sent a code to enter and that will bring you to the LWWUS Membership portal. Once there you can renew your membership or become a new member. You are asked a question about which league you wish to join, so make sure you say Citrus County League.

Many of our current members dues are coming due on June 1 , 2025. If you have not renewed, please do so. You will receive an email reminder or a phone call reminding you. If you renew your membership now, it will not change your next renewal date, it will remain the same as it is now.

As always, if you have any questions or difficulties with renewing your membership or joining, please feel free to email me at: labels58@aol.com.

Have a Wonderful May!

Linda



Devora Stager, Treasurer

GREAT NEWS!! WE ARE UP AND RUNNING!



Please let us know if you encounter any difficulties in joining or renewing and we will gladly help you. If all else fails, we are still able to accept your check or credit card for your dues payment. We can accept your payment at our monthly meeting(s) or you can mail your check to League of Women Voters Citrus County, PO Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460. **Lastly, should you have the resources and the desire to further support our Citrus County Chapter, please go to our website at lwvcitrus.org, click on the Membership and Dues Information page, and go to the bottom of that page where you will find a green “Donation” button. You will need a credit or debit card. Your donation will go directly to our Chapter.**



Vicky Iozzia,

1st President, Speakers Bureau Chair,

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster

As I write it is April 19, a beautiful Saturday. I have just returned from the protest in Crystal River sponsored by the Citrus Coffee Coalition.

My decision to protest is the result of the frustration with the illegal and immoral dismantling of the government. I wore my League of Women Voters shirt and pin. I showed my sign and walked among the crowd of over 300 people.

I have the following observations:

- The demonstrators were overwhelmingly senior citizens. I know some of them and they were enthusiastic.
- There were very, very few young people. I spoke with some high school girls, one of whom told me that she told her parents she was going shopping and left her phone at home so that her parents, of a different political persuasion, could not track her.
- The signs, mostly home-made, were all as different as the people who held them.
- Many of the people driving by honked their horns in agreement.
- Others greeted us with their middle finger. One called us “commies.”

It has been a long time since I protested. The last time was maybe 6 or 7 years ago, with the League, for gun safety. Before that was many decades ago, protesting the Vietnam war at my college and in Washington. I am proud of doing that, helping to end a useless war that was killing my generation.

Will this do any good? I don't know, but I do know that I cannot do nothing.

Below are some photos from the demonstration. I had a flip sign.



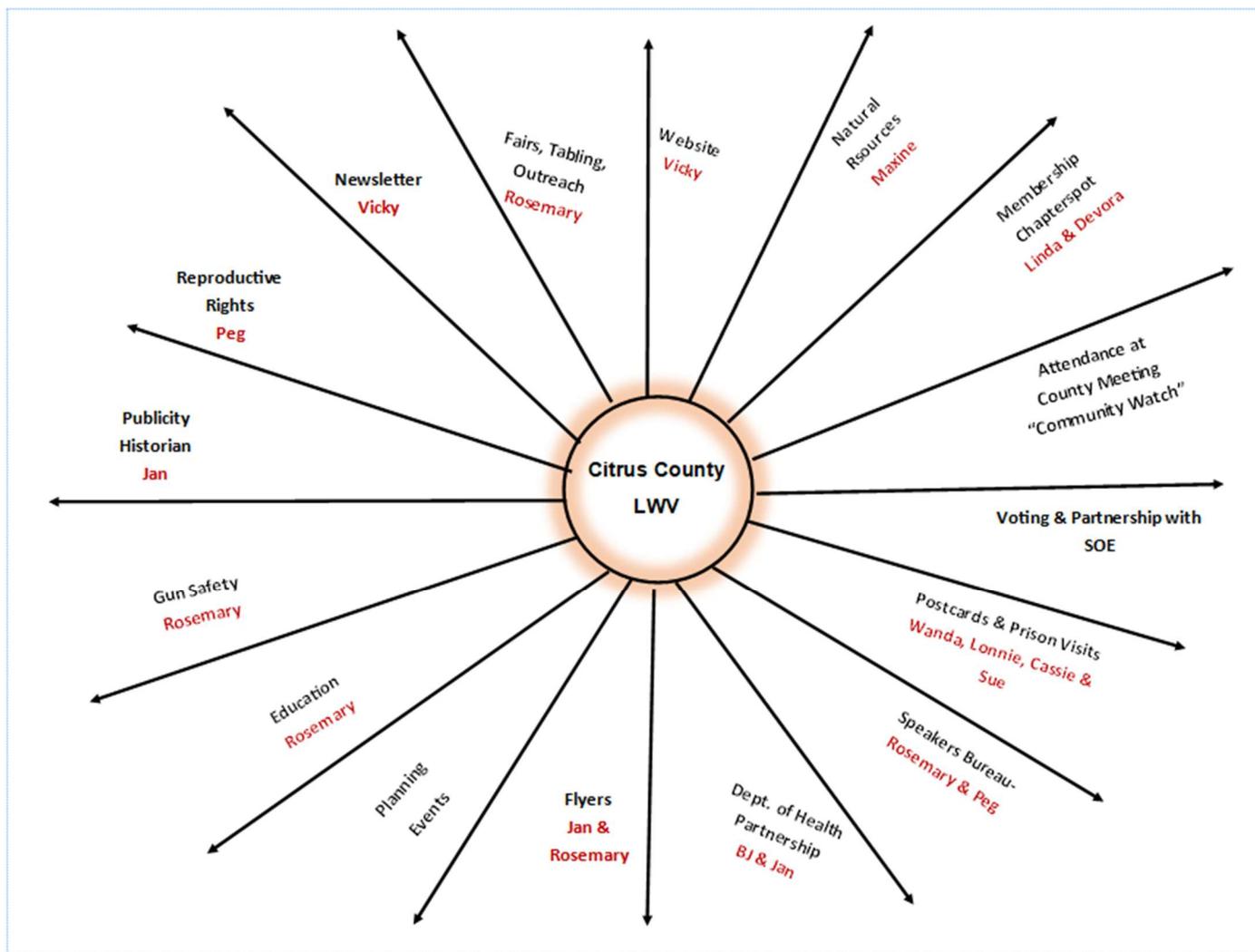
Jean McCauley and Holly Alexander collected petitions for Medicaid expansion and Clean Water.

I hope that our League will spark activities that will help our democracy to return. Frankly I don't know how that might look, but I am counting on our new members and veteran members.

I asked our Board to keep track of the hours that they spend doing work for our League for the month of March. The total number of hours was 300.

We are not asking people to do what they don't want to do, or to put in an exorbitant amount of hours, but I will continue to ask for more participation from the membership.

I have learned in my life that hard work is good, but the relationships that are built with others are excellent.



Member involvement

Above is a mind map I made of the activities that we do.

Take a look at it and see where you might fit in. You might have **an idea** that would make another arrow, another direction for us to take. Then **contact us**. You can do that at our website, <https://www.lwvcitrus.org/contact-us/> We will contact you, get to know you, and find the best way to use your desires and skills. We work hard, but we have a lot of fun! We also enjoy doing what benefits our community.

Please let us know, your talents, your passions, what you would like to do to participate in this democracy we all love. We are interested!

Part of community involvement is connecting with your elected officials. Write, email, call. Let them know how you feel about what they are doing and what they are not doing.

CITRUS COUNTY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public comments welcome at specified times at each meeting.

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

1:00 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

March 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, May 27, June 10, June 23

Citrus County Courthouse, 110 Apopka Ave. Inverness

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Citrus County BOCC/Departments/Commissioners

Meetings are livestreamed on the Citrus County Government You Tube Channel.

Broadcast live: Comcast - Channel 71, Spectrum - Channel 643

All county meeting dates:

<https://citrusclerk.org/calendar.aspx>

Citrus County Library Advisory Board

9:00 AM, 4th Tuesdays, April 22, June 24

Lecanto Gov't Bldg., 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto 34461

For more information:

Citrus County/BOCC/Special Library Board

<https://citrusclerk.org/calendar.aspx>

Citrus County Schools District (CCSD) School Board

4:00 PM, 2nd Tuesdays: April 8, May 13, June 10

1007 Main St. Inverness 34450

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Citrus County School District/School Board tab/ Board Agenda and Minutes or View School Board Meetings

League of Women Voters Social at Cattle Dog Restaurant in Inverness, April 23, 2025

Eleven League members attended this first of its kind gathering for our League. Our purposes are to get to know each other better, to talk about ways that the League can contribute to the community, to involve our members more, have something good to eat, and have fun. (Not necessarily in that order) Topics discussed included:

- Getting information on pending bills
- Finding out how our elected officials voted
- Discussion of Deb Daniels League zoom on how the Florida government works. You can watch it with the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BygOHWDdeAd0>
- Midas Touch online news network
- Disruption of the government
- Communicating with those who do not agree with you.
- **5 calls app** – you can get it on your phone or computer. It enables you to get updates on issues, personalize your information based on where you live, and make calls to elected representatives. Try it out!
- Misinformation, disinformation



Our next social is at the Cattle Dog Restaurant in Inverness, 4:00 to 5:30, on Wednesday, May 28.

Below is a letter I wrote to the Chronicle that was published on April 27, 2025

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

OPINIONS INVITED

- Viewpoints depicted in political cartoons, columns or letters do not necessarily represent the opinion of the editorial board.
- Groups or individuals are invited to express their opinions in a letter to the editor.
- SEND LETTERS TO: The Editor, 1624 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429; or email to letters@chronicleonline.com.

Other costs will be personnel for grounds maintenance, equipment, golf carts, refurbishing the clubhouse, utilities and taxes. Don't forget general liability insurance (\$1,800-\$4,000/year). Also, you will need insurance for golf carts.

The average yearly cost to maintain a golf course in the U.S. is around \$810,000! This would make our P.O.A. fees unbearable for most residents. There are several public and private golf courses in this county to satisfy the avid golfer. Allow Dicks to develop the site, which will be done to minimize destroying the Pine Ridge community. Let's not opt to create a money pit that will burden many homeowners.

**Quinn Hughes
Beverly Hills**

Out of the mouths of babes

As I observe and listen to people lately, many of the remarks I hear also often come out of children's mouths.

Children are not little adults. They do not have the experience

that adults have. They misbehave and say things that they have heard others say. Often, they do not listen or misinterpret what they hear.

They call people names: loser, ugly, fat, you name it. They are afraid of bullies and often agree with them so that they are not hurt. They can be incredibly cruel to others, whether it is in person or on social media.

They don't want to be told what to do. "You're not the boss of me!" "I don't have to - you can't make me!" "Want to bet?"

They can be judgmental. They can swear that they know the facts when they have no idea of what they are talking about.

Children may blame someone else when they get caught doing something. "I hate you!" "You don't love me!" "You are mean!" "You're not fair!" "Go back to -----" "I am rubber, you are glue; whatever you say bounces off me and sticks to you." "You're not my friend anymore!"

They lie. They have "magical thinking," not realizing when they are being lied to.

They fail to show empathy. "Whatever." "I couldn't care less."

They can bond with an abuser, begging for the abuser's approval, trying to please them, doing whatever they tell them to do.

Do you recognize any of these behaviors being exhibited in the political arena? Are they the high level of standards that we should have?

We should have better role models for our children - and for our adults.

"Careful the things you say, children will listen"

**Vicky Iozzia
Beverly Hills**



Rachel Newman, Title IX, LWV meeting on April 9, 2025

If you don't know what Title IX is, or if you think that it is dull and boring, you are quite wrong. Rachel Newman gave us an excellent presentation explaining what it is, how it effects women, and how it has been changed by the Biden and Trump administration.

Her presentation triggered a lively discussion on the trans athletes, women's rights, and the challenges facing the law now.

To summarize, here are Rachel's words:

"While Title IX's history lies in athletics, in contemporary times, Title IX is being practically used as a route of justice and healing for student survivors of gender-based violence. This includes acts such as sexual and domestic violence, sexual harassment, and stalking.

Title IX procedure allows for student survivors to gain access to accommodations that are intended to restore their equal access to education, while simultaneously providing a forum by which respondents may face academic sanctions in light of their actions. This system, complete with due process, keeps educational communities safe and accountable.

Title IX's practical expansions have created an environment in which more students hold access to protections than ever before. Title IX still faces its challenges, however, with attacks on its policy negatively impacting student survivors. Logistical challenges also continue to harm K-12 institutions, with many parents being unaware of the Title IX

protections their children are privy to, as well as a lack of understanding of how many Title IX violations our K-12 students are facing.

As a community, it is our duty to ensure that our institutions are first and foremost compliant with the federal registers. And moving forward, it should be our continued effort to verify that districts are moving toward individual care for students rather than just compliance. We can do this by furthering our education on Title IX issues, sharing this information with our community, communicating our needs with our local educational institutions, and ensuring that the officials we vote for are champions of survivor-oriented Title IX policy.”

We are so happy that Rachel took the time to speak to us. She has also joined our League!

To see her presentation, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j7urwNDluP0>

For those who attended Rachel’s presentation, a discussion about gender addressed the “fact” that there are only two genders, male and female. Read what follows (thank you Joanne Walker) for the scientific explanation.

"It's scientific fact that humans come in 2 varieties:
XX for female, and XY for male."

EXCEPT:

- You can be born appearing female, but have a 5-alpha reductase deficiency and grow a penis at age 12.
- You can be born legally male with an X and a Y chromosome, but your body is insensitive to androgens, and you appear female.
- You can be born legally male with an X and a Y chromosome, and have a penis and testes, *'and'* a uterus and fallopian tubes.
- You can be born legally male with an X and a Y chromosome, but your Y chromosome is missing the SRY gene, which gives you a female body.
- You can be born legally female with two X chromosomes, but one of the Xs has an SRY gene, which gives you a male body.
- You can be born legally female with two X chromosomes - and also a Y chromosome, which gives you a male body.
- You can be born legally female with two X chromosomes, but your adrenal gland doesn't produce enough cortisol, and your body develops as male.
- You can be born with XX chromosomes - *'and'* XY chromosomes (chimerism).

So the next time you attempt to use science as justification for your bigotry, remember that God created humans in many variations, and maybe stop trying to stuff everyone into little 'male or female' checkboxes.

**County
Supervisor of Elections
Maureen Baird**

Website: www.votecitrus.gov

Physical address: 1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429

Mailing address: PO Box 1870 Lecanto, FL 34460-1870

Main office: (352) 564-7120

Vote-by-Mail Requests Have Expired

Citrus County Voter,

Per F.S. 101.62(1)a All Vote-by-Mail ballot requests expire on December 31st after each election cycle.

To receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot for the 2025-2026 election cycle, you must renew your request.

You can request your Vote-by-Mail ballot today by scanning the QR code below.



You may also visit our website at www.votecitrus.gov and select the Request a Vote by Mail Ballot on top tab.

Website: www.votecitrus.gov

Email: vote@votecitrus.gov

Phone: (352) 564-7120.

From the League of Women Voters Impact on Issues

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

Founded by the activists who secured voting rights for women, the League has always worked to promote the values and processes of representative government. Protecting and enhancing voting rights for all Americans; assuring opportunities for citizen participation; and working for open, accountable, representative, and responsive government at every level—all reflect the deeply held convictions of the League of Women Voters.

In the 1950s, the League worked courageously to protect fundamental rights and individual liberties against the threats of the McCarthy era. In the 1960s, attention turned to securing "one person, one vote" through apportionment of legislative districts based substantially on population. In the 1970s, members worked to reform the legislative process and open it to scrutiny, and to balance congressional and presidential powers. The League also sought to reform the campaign finance system to reduce the dominance of special interests, affirmed support for the direct election of the President, and fought for full voting rights in Congress for the residents of the District of Columbia.

In the 1980s and 1990s, the League worked to break down the barriers to voting, first through multiple reauthorizations of the Voting Rights Act (VRA), and then through a campaign for passage and implementation of the landmark *National Voter Registration Act* (NVRA). Campaign finance reform, with a focus on public financing and closing loopholes, again was a major activity at the federal and state levels, with the goal of enhancing the role of Americans in the election and legislative processes. In the late 1990s, the fight for DC voting rights was reinvigorated. During that same period, the League worked to ensure the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices and opposed term limits for legislative offices.

In the mid- to late 1990s, the League launched its Campaign for Making Democracy Work®, focusing on five key indicators of a healthy democracy: voter participation, campaign finance reform, diversity of representation, civic education and knowledge, and civic participation. The 1998 Convention added "full congressional voting representation for the District of Columbia" to the campaign. State and local Leagues measured the health of democracy in their communities, reported the results, and worked with other groups to seek change. The LWVUS report, *Charting the Health of American Democracy*, took a nationwide measure and made recommendations for change.

In the 2000s, this campaign continued. Convention 2002 decided to update the position on the Selection of the President, focusing not only on the electoral process, but on the other factors that affect the presidential race (e.g., money, parties, the media). The position was expanded and formally approved at Convention 2004.

In the second half of the 2000s, the League supported legislation to reform the lobbying process and rebuild public confidence in Congress. In 2008, the House passed new ethics guidelines, including new ethics rules, disclosure requirements for campaign contributions "bundled" by lobbyists, and a new ethics enforcement process. The League also continued its work seeking full enforcement of the *National Voter Registration Act*.

In late 2010 and again in 2012, the League and coalition partners urged the Speaker to preserve and strengthen House ethics rules and standards of conduct.

IN THE NEWS

Upcoming Dates for the League of Women Voters of Florida Offerings

- May 5: LWVFL to release proposed 2025-2027 State Program for delegate consideration (*Online*)
- June 6-8: 40th Biennial Convention (*Orlando, FL*) – *Registration to open in early Spring!*
- June 25-29: LWVUS Council (*Leesburg, VA*)

Housing forecast for Citrus County

https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/study-citrus-county-poised-for-continued-growth-spurt/article_9e8c058b-192f-5c6e-b32d-2e824140142c.html



Earth Day Celebration, April 26, 2025



League members Jeanne McCauley, Rosemary Nilles, and Peg Primeau wo-manned tables at the Earth Day celebration.

Did you know that you can recycle glass? You can no longer do it at the landfill. Aimee Van Alstyne has formed "Acres of Glass." Her photo, card, and brochure follow. She has bins across from the Church on Old Homosassa Road.

A brochure for Acres of Glass. At the top right, it says "ACRES of glass" and "4342 W Homosassa Trl Lecanto, FL". Below this is a photo of glass jars and a photo of green glass sandbags. The main heading is "GLASS TO SAND RECYCLING" in large white letters. Below that is the sub-heading "Creating eco-friendly glass sand & mulch". There are two sections: "Uses of Glass Sand" and "Services Offered".
Uses of Glass Sand

- Arts & Crafts
- Small Landscape Projects
- Gardening: Soil additive & topper
- Sandbags
- Sandblasting Media
- Concrete additive, fire pits, pathways, trail bed, etc.

Services Offered

- Glass Drop Off & Pick Up
- Make & Take Classes

Why Choose Us?

- Over 98% of all glass collected is repurposed into eco-friendly glass sand and mulch, diverting tons of glass waste from the Citrus County landfill
- Locally owned and operated

At the bottom right is the "ACRES of glass" logo and the text "Glass to Sand Recycling".

From the ACLU American Civil Liberties Union

1. We're calling on the Supreme Court to give guidance to lower courts on President Trump's misuse of the Alien Enemies Act – an archaic wartime law that he's abusing to deport hundreds without due process. The administration has continued to rip families apart and has sent hundreds to El Salvador without a fair hearing or chance in court. While we work to block these deportations, [call on Congress to pressure the White House to comply with court orders and return the people deported to El Salvador to their families.](#)
2. The ACLU and ACLU of Vermont just joined Mohsen Mahdawi's legal team. Mohsen Mahdawi, a Palestinian Columbia University student and long-term lawful permanent resident of Vermont, had just completed his citizenship interview – where he signed a pledge to "defend the constitution" – when ICE illegally detained him for his advocacy in support of Palestinian rights. As with Mahmoud Khalil and Rümeyşa Öztürk, the government tried to ship him thousands of miles away to Louisiana, but his lawyers acted fast and got a temporary restraining order to keep him in Vermont. [As we continue this fight in court, join us in action: Tell Congress that they must protect everyone in America's First Amendment rights.](#)
3. DOGE's unchecked access to our private data threatens all of us – and could be illegal. We filed over 40 FOIA requests with different agencies to get real answers about what sensitive information DOGE has its hands on. But some agencies continue to ignore us or slow-walk their response, so we're suing – taking two different agencies to court to stop the government from dodging the American people's demands for transparency. [Join us in calling for an end to DOGE's invasion of privacy – demand Congressional oversight now.](#)

With our most fundamental freedoms under attack, your action has never been more important. Side by side, we can take on these critical battles for our rights – and win.

Thanks for being in this fight with us,

The ACLU Team

From The Guardian, April 22, 2025

More than 150 presidents of US colleges and universities have signed a statement denouncing the Trump administration’s “unprecedented government overreach and political interference” with higher education – the strongest sign yet that US educational institutions are forming a unified front against the government’s extraordinary attack on their independence.

 Citrus County Sheriff's Office  1h ·  ... 

Yesterday, we were proud to stand with Mrs. Lahera as the **Deputy Andy Lahera Act** (SB 1160) unanimously passed through the Senate.

"Yesterday marked ... See more



   You and 553 others 44  49 



Peg Primeau, 2nd President, Reproductive Rights Chair

LWVCC Consensus Meeting on LWVUS Federal Judiciary Study

The meeting was held from 7 pm until 8 pm on April 9, 2025 to complete survey questions for a study by the LWVUS on the Federal Judiciary. LWVUS will develop a position to guide their advocacy and litigation. The study's scope includes Supreme Court Justices and 94 Federal District Court Judges.

The group conducted a straw poll on specific issues. The group was unanimous on first issue, the implementation of binding universal standards of conduct for judges and justices at all levels of Federal courts. The second issue was about making court hearings, documents filed in the court, and rulings for all Federal cases open and available to the public. Some members expressed concerns about privacy and the potential misuse of the information. The vote was 75% in favor of making the information public.

The group unanimously agreed on the need for an effective enforcement mechanism for the SCOTUS Code of Ethics, a process for judges to recuse themselves in cases of potential bias, public disclosure of recusal decisions, rigorous financial disclosure requirements, and the importance of transparency, accountability, independence and ethics in the judiciary. The

group also discussed some of the complexities around Supreme Court recusals and the stability of law.

The participants discussed the need for accountability and potential term limits for judges. They also discussed the challenges of enforcing integrity and the impact of partisan appointments on the judiciary. The idea of rotating judges and the potential for changing the number of judges on the Supreme Court came up. The participants agreed that the current system needs to be reevaluated and that there should be a way to enforce integrity among judges.

The group also discussed the use of polls and breakout rooms for future zoom meetings. They considered inviting a judge to discuss judicial reform in a future meeting.

Subsequently, Peg Primeau submitted the results to LWVUS on April 12, 2025.

Hosts: *Peg Primeau and Vicky Iozzia*

Summary: *AI Companion edited by Peg Primeau*

CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE



Founded by Albert M. Williamson

EDITORIAL BOARD

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Jim Gouvelliseditor
Tiarra Alexandercitizen member
Curt Ebitzcitizen member
Mac Harriscitizen member
Rebecca Martincitizen member
Don Hierscitizen member
Roger B. Kriegercitizen member
Peggy Primeaucitizen member
Trish Thomascitizen member

“You may differ with my choice, but not my right to choose.”
 — **David S. Arthurs** publisher emeritus
Gerard “Gerry” Mulligan publisher emeritus

The opinions expressed in Chronicle editorials are the opinions of the newspaper’s editorial board.

Yes, we are so proud that our Peg is on the editorial staff of the Citrus County Chronicle!

Reproductive Health & Justice Earth Day Edition

A new phase of opposition to women's reproductive autonomy is about protecting...the fish.

A year ago, the news reported that "legislators, including two from Florida" (Sen. Rubio and Rep. Bilirakis), claimed mifepristone has a "potential negative environmental impact." They were demanding a federal review of the medicine by the EPA because it might pose a threat to wildlife.

Now eight states have introduced bills that mandate environmental review and/or testing of wastewater for mifepristone and hormones associated with contraceptives.

Not only is this unscientific and irrational, it's also SO two-faced. What about the millions of men who partake of testosterone and Viagra every day? And yes, those also get into the water system where the fish live. (Is that what is meant by "toxic masculinity"?)

These politicians are also preoccupied with detecting human embryonic or fetal tissue in the water system, because it might... harm the fish. Again, this is completely irrational. Don't they know that Nature *all by herself* discards 40% of human embryos? They are passed in menstrual blood which, yes, often goes down the toilet. Nothing new about that.

You're wondering where this is coming from. The right-to-life movements want to win over young people, but see that they are strongly pro-choice. Realizing that young people are also strongly pro-environment, their solution was to try to connect an assault on contraception with saving the earth.

It is definitely not about the fish.

Rosemary Nilles, 1st Vice President, Gun Safety Chair, Education Chair

Citrus County Chronicle

We have a right to clean water, don't we?

What do manatees, fish, clean water and petitions have in common?

Yes, you guessed it. Right now, we're witnessing unexplained deaths of manatees and catfish in the Homosassa and Halls rivers. We're right to be alarmed! Our county commissioners are working with the Fish and Wildlife Commission and other state agencies to test our water and identify what has poisoned the mammals and fish.

This is where the Right to Clean and Healthy Waters amendment comes in. If water isn't good for fish and manatees, it can't be good for us humans!

Florida has passed important environmental laws. This proposed amendment merely requires agencies to enforce them. Citizen initiatives, via the petition process, are our only recourse when the government does not respond.

What's the Right to Clean and Healthy Waters petition?

The Right to Clean and Healthy Waters citizen initiative is an all-volunteer, nonpartisan, grassroots effort to amend the Florida Constitution with a fundamental, enforceable right to clean water.

If passed by 60 percent of voters in 2026, the new constitutional amendment would benefit everyone who drinks water or eats fish or food caught or grown locally. It would benefit everyone who fishes, boats or swims in our waters. Those who live or work near the water, those who grow food or raise livestock, and anyone who makes their living in water-related activities would also benefit. Of course, wildlife will also benefit!



It would permit activities unless they harm or threaten water quality. Any lawsuits would simply allow the courts to ensure that state agencies do their jobs.

Can this petition help our water?

It surely can! But time is running out! The Florida Legislature is pushing bills that would severely hobble citizen-led ballot initiatives. Florida's laws are already the strictest in the nation! The House has already passed HB 1205. By the time you read this column, the Senate will likely have passed SB 7016. These bills aim to strip away our right to bring amendments to the ballot. How?

Timelines for submission will be drastically shortened, with hefty penalties imposed for late submissions. Petition sponsors and gatherers face expensive fines and possible criminal charges for errors of any kind. Politicians will have new tools to stop citizen-led amendments in the courts, in committee rooms, even after the citizens have passed the amendment.

A final version will likely be signed into law. After that, initiatives will have to meet the new stringent requirements, which means it will be much harder to make it to the ballot. The process already requires gathering nearly 900,000 verified signatures by Feb. 1, 2026.

These proposals are very unpopular! 75 percent of Floridians, regardless of party, oppose them. Despite calls and emails and in-person lobbying against them, the bills keep moving.

What can concerned citizens do?

Securing the Right to Clean and Healthy Waters in the constitution will benefit people as well as wildlife. The League of Women Voters of Citrus County (LWVCC) is among many organizations who support this petition and process.

Voters registered in Florida can sign petitions and, until the law changes, interested groups can collect them. You can sign your petition at our meeting (May 14, 10 a.m., Coastal Region Library). LWVCC will submit it quickly to the Supervisor of Elections for verification. Download and sign a petition – or even sign a pre-filled petition here: www.floridairighttocleanwater.org. You can mail it or contact citrus.petitions@gmail.com for pick up.

The people and wildlife of Florida deserve clean and healthy waters! Time is of the essence!

Contact our legislators and our governor with your input:

■ Sen. Blaise Ingoglia: 352-666-5707 or 850-487-5011. Email : Ingoglia.Blaise.web@flsenate.gov.

■ Rep. JJ Grow: 352-560-6075 or 850-717-5023. Email : jj.grow@flhouse.gov.

■ Gov. Ron DeSantis: 850-488-7146. Email : GovernorRon.DeSantis@eog.myflorida.com.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, never endorsing candidates or parties. We work to educate voters on issues of importance to them and take positions only after careful study and consensus.

LWV Citrus Supports Gun Violence Prevention

Last week's shooting at FSU brought gun violence into focus. A 20 year-old student with a history of instability combined with political extremism used his mother's gun to kill two, injure five, and terrorize an entire campus.

Gun violence simmers in the background of our everyday lives. We

hear of crime, domestic shootings, the periodic headlines of local murders. About thirty times each year, we witness unintentional deaths and injuries by Florida toddlers and teens who find unsecured guns. Recall the five year-old Levy County child who recently killed a two year-old and critically injured a caregiver when the toddlers found a loaded gun while playing.

Firearms are regularly found at Florida high schools, prompting the question, How did the students access them?

There are the quieter forms of gun violence. The ever-rising rate of teen suicide, the suicides that take our own veterans. Access to a firearm increases the likelihood that a suicide attempt will be lethal, regardless of age.

Americans continue to live with an epidemic of gun violence.

No two stories are the same, but there's a common thread - unsecured guns.

Unsecured guns are a major factor in gun injury and death. Further, unsecured guns are frequently stolen, often from cars, and then used to commit crimes. In January, CCSO reported that 100% of firearms stolen in

2024 were taken from unlocked cars.

Gun Violence Prevention (GVP) is one of the top four legislative priorities of League of Women Voters of Florida and League of Women Voters of Citrus County (LWVCC). We take seriously our role of educating voters and advocating for the well-being of all of our citizens.

Education: Safe Storage Saves Lives

- **LWV Citrus will continue to share a simple, non-controversial message: Safe Storage saves lives. We'll keep working with law enforcement and community entities and agencies to educate our community members.**

- **Keeping our firearms locked and unloaded not only helps to prevent injury and death, but it also helps to prevent gun theft.**
- **LWVCC offers tabling and presentations about safe storage at community events. We speak to parents and caregivers about how to secure their own firearms and how to normalize conversations about guns in other homes.**
- **At our tabling events, we provide parents and caregivers with free cable gun locks, courtesy of the Veterans Administration Suicide Prevention Outreach. We offer print materials with a friendly chat to those interested.**

- **Please contact lwvcc2013@gmail.com for more information or to book a speaker.**

Advocacy: Sensible Laws

LWV Citrus will continue to advocate for gun violence prevention laws that respect our Second Amendment rights. We do this on multiple fronts:

- **We opposed HB 759, which would undo some of the protections**

created by the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas Act of 2018, following the Parkland shootings. This bill to lower the age for purchasing long guns from 21 to 18 was already passed in the Florida House in March. But similar bills have stalled in the Florida Senate, perhaps signaling less appetite for removing protections that are working for Floridians. The 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the current law in March.

- We've advocated that lawmakers refuse pressure to allow open carry in Florida.

- And although the 2025 Florida legislative session ends soon, we will continue to request that our state legislators:

- Provide funding for public awareness/education on secure firearm storage.

- Provide incentives for buying gun locks and safes.
- Strengthen laws regarding firearm storage in vehicles.
- Strengthen Florida's current "Red Flag" law to prevent purchase

and possession of firearms by persons judged to be a danger to themselves or others.

LWV Citrus supports a community united around promoting the well-being of our citizens and communities. By working together to prevent gun violence, we can make our homes and communities safer and stronger.

Contact our legislators with your input:

Sen. Blaise Ingoglia: 352-666-5707 or 850-487-5011.

Email : Ingoglia.Blaise.web@flsenate.gov.

Rep. JJ Grow: 352-560-6075 or 850-717-5023.

Email : jj.grow@flhouse.gov .

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, never endorsing candidates or parties. We work to educate voters on issues of importance to them and take positions only after careful study and consensus.



Wanda Brown

Postcards Initiative

The project for sending postcards to nonviolent felons after they are released from prison is now active again.

A “card-party” was held on the 10th of April at the Nature Coast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Holder, FL. Thanks to LWV FL and UU members, 500 postcards were addressed, stamped, and sent to help nonviolent felons who have completed their sentences to start the process to regain their ability to vote.



FROM THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT:



*We can help **YOU** take **CONTROL** of your diabetes!*

Program Goals Include:

- Enhance and maintain your quality of life.
- Prevent complications.
- Learn mindful choices for proper nutrition.
- Enhance physical activity.
- Strengthen personal support systems.
- Foster relationships with healthcare providers.

Lakes Region Library

 1511 Druid Rd,
Inverness, FL, 34452

Dates: 6/17/2025-8/5/2025

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 2PM-4PM

*This is a **FREE** 8 week workshop.*

Registration is Required

Contact:

Kathryn DeFranco
Kathryn.DeFranco@flhealth.gov

OR

Mark Pagan
Mark.Pagan@flhealth.gov

Scan QR code:





Tai Chi for Arthritis



Elder Options & The Citrus County Health Department is offering a FREE Tai Chi for Arthritis workshop.

Citrus County Department of Health

3700 West Sovereign Path

Lecanto, FL 34461

6/17/25 - 8/7/25

Tuesdays & Thursdays

12pm-1pm

This is an 8 week workshop

Registration paperwork will be completed during the first class.

Please wear comfortable clothing and non slip closed toe shoes.

SCAN ME



To reserve your place please contact:

Mark Pagan

352-513-6071





Maxine Connor, Natural Resources Chair

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FROM NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR
MAY, 2025

2025 CITRUS EARTH DAY EXPO WAS A SUCCESS– LWVCC Table and LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Electric Vehicle/Solar Show

it was held Saturday, APRIL 26 – 10 TO 1

UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County – 3650 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto

LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team had an Electric Vehicle (EV) Car Show – including Cadillac Lyriq – Ford Mustang Mach E and Plug-in Hybrid Chevy Volt and Solar Educational Trailer Staffed by a Solar Expert Who Answered Questions about Solar – Live Demonstration of Charging a Battery from Solar Panels

Table Neighbors were Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group and Citrus County Audubon Society

UF/IFAS Featured: Trash to Treasure Recycled Art Contest Display Winners – Activities for the Whole Family – Music – Food Trucks – “Ask a Master Gardener.” Yearly event.

TELL CONGRESS: PROTECT FUNDING FOR CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES!

LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team obtained LWVFL permission to assist Southern Alliance for Clean Energy in this:

CALL TO ACTION:

Tell Congress to keep the Clean School Bus Program in the budget package and demand the Trump administration release frozen clean school bus funds. Our kids deserve a clean ride to school. Click on the following link to complete the online form that will send your email to your own members of Congress. https://secure.everyaction.com/d3QQ5dSZo0ODKm5F_t3ruw2

PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE WITH YOUR NETWORK.

Read the background information here:

Trump Throws the Electric School Bus Transition Into Chaos

By Zahra Hirji | April 21, 2025

<https://www.claimsjournal.com/news/national/2025/04/21/330117.htm>

SOUTHERN ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY (SACE) POSTCARD CAMPAIGN TO TELL CONGRESS TO PROTECT FUNDING FOR CLEAN SCHOOL BUSES

The LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team assisted SACE in this campaign by getting signatures to be delivered to your Congressional representatives and senators. On Earth Day in Citrus County we also collected postcards to be delivered to Senator Rick Scott on World Asthmas Day, May 6. These are being collected at Earth Day and other events across Florida. The postcards will be delivered to Senator Rick Scott’s St. Peterburg, FL office on May 6th, World Asthma Day, by SACE.

CALL TO ACTION: KEEP THE FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVES FOR NEW AND USED ELECTRIC VEHICLES, HOME CHARGING STATIONS, AND HOME SOLAR INSTALLATIONS

WRITE YOUR CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVE AND CONGRESS PERSON

Request that the federal tax incentives for home charging equipment, new and used electric vehicles, and rooftop solar panels stay in place and do not get clawed back by the federal government.

<https://bilirakis.house.gov/contact/email>

<https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact/contact>

<https://www.congress.gov/member/ashley-moody/M001244>

NEXT LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA (LWVFL) CLEAN ENERGY ACTION TEAM MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL ZOOM MEETING – WED., MAY 21, 5-6 PM

GUEST SPEAKER TO BE DETERMINED & ANNOUNCED

Email maxineconnor@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

LOCAL SIERRA CLUB ADVENTURE COAST GROUP SCHEDULED CITRUS FERTILIZER SUMMIT (A SPRINGS EDUCATIONAL EVENT) AT THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE IN INVERNESS FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 10-1

This will be a hybrid event – in person and on Zoom. Guest speakers will educate the public on how excess nutrient pollution washes into our local waterways in the rainy season from June 1 to September 30. Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group is approaching Citrus County and Crystal River asking them to strengthen their current fertilizer ordinances to reduce the nutrient pollution entering our local waterways. The excess nutrient pollution causes algal blooms that crowd out native vegetation that is food for manatees. Also, the Basin Management Action Plans required by Florida law require local governments to have projects to reduce nitrate pollution to our waterways. Strengthening the fertilizer ordinances already in place will help meet that mandate. More details forthcoming on the Citrus Fertilizer educational Summit.

Letter to the editor of the Citrus County Chronicle asking that the county strengthen the fertilizer ordinance.

https://www.chronicleonline.com/opinion/letters_to_editor/strengthen-the-fertilizer-ordinance/article_ea009c38-27a9-55db-988f-2bb9a41cdca2.html

STATE LEGISLATION FILED TO DEFINE USES OF FLORIDA **STATE PARKS AND WHAT WILL BE PROHIBITED**

Update from the Florida Springs Council's website on 2025 Bill Tracking

<https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/legislativesession>

[SB 80: State Land Management \(Harrell\)](#)

[HB 209: State Land Management \(Snyder\)](#)

The State Parks Protection bills!

Description: SB 80 and HB 209, known as the "State Park Preservation Act," were filed in response to last year's proposals by FDEP to develop State Parks into hotels, golf courses and pickle ball courts.

At this writing, SB 80 passed its committees, but still contained vague and bad wording that would not prevent development in our state parks. The wording in the companion bill HB 209 was "fixed" and we amplified an action alert asking that the House version be passed on the floor. Over 80 conservation organizations, including the Florida Springs Council, sent a letter to Senator Harrell and Representative Snyder requesting they strengthen the bills to ensure that no inappropriate developments or uses are allowed in our world class State Parks. Read more here:

<https://www.miamiherald.com/opinion/editorials/article300079479.html>

FROM THE FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL

Become an informed member – sign up for free for their email list to get action alerts to your Inbox.

<https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/>

LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR FLORIDA

Florida lawmakers at an impasse — legislative session will not end as scheduled next week

By: [Mitch Perry](#) - April 24, 2025

<https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/04/24/florida-lawmakers-at-an-impasse-legislative-session-will-not-end-as-scheduled-next-week/>

Judge finds manatee die-off proves Florida broke endangered species law

Article by Craig Pittman of the Florida Phoenix

https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/04/24/judge-finds-manatee-die-off-proves-florida-broke-endangered-species-law/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ4xnFleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBicmlkETFjd09nN3B3Mld3YXNydzFmAR6JoueMQQl2LBYmy01qKTPi2ZuJgg2ulytCCR1Dafs78dsws5yCMj2zNUWXQA_aem_xtjJkTpE72XQygfWZ-1MaQ

Track Bills in Florida Legislature – Committee meetings done

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Calendar/2025/Session%20Dates%202024-11-20%20161138.PDF>

Look up bills, sign up for tracking, find out anything to you need to know about session here at Online Sunshine Florida website:

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/Welcome/index.cfm?CFID=105593493&CFTOKEN=34086e5b94b9fbd6-E019D5ED-BC6C-833C-5D954449DEBE3327>

FLORIDA RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR THE 2026 ELECTION – HOW TO VOLUNTEER AND GET INVOLVED

IMPORTANT NOTE: THE FIRST INITIATIVE PETITION DID NOT MEET THE THRESHOLD CRITERIA TO MAKE THE BALLOT – THIS IS A NEW UPDATED PETITION – DATE APPROVED 03/08/2024, SERIAL NUMBER 2403 – DESTROY PRIOR DATED PETITIONS – USE THE PETITIONS THAT SAY “VOLUNTEER” AT THE TOP

Florida Right To Clean Water.org is a grassroots, volunteer, nonpartisan organization formed to place an amendment to the [state constitution](#) on the November 3, 2026 ballot by citizens before the voters of the [U.S. state of Florida](#), using a [direct initiative](#) petition that will give citizens of the state a right to clean and healthy waters.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florida_Right_to_Clean_Water#:~:text=Florida%20Right%20To%20Clean%20Water.org%20is%20a%20grassroots%2C%20volunteer,to%20clean%20and%20healthy%20waters

Go here to learn about the campaign, sign up for email notifications, and print the petitions:

<https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>

HOW TO VOLUNTEER: We are in the West Central Region. See the following link to contact our regional coordinator.

<https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/regions>

Regional Coordinators support County Captains and other key ambassadors to ensure everyone has what they need (which includes recruiting, training, resourcing, and organizing support) to accomplish the mission. **The League of Women Voters of Florida supports this initiative and encourages local leagues to participate.**

TUSCANY RANCH SUBMITTED REVISED PLANS TO THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE ON APRIL 17th – UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED BY PDC

UPDATE: NEW HEARING DATE: 5:01 AND 5:05 PM MAY 13 AT THE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

PUD2663 & DA2024-00002 Atty. Batsel for Beverly Hills Development LLC and Tuscany Ranch 491, LLC

The original development of regional impact (DRI) includes 2,233 acres and 2,400 dwelling units already constructed. It was amended 23 times since it started in 1981, most recently in 2021. Metro is proposing to use 1,070 of the 2,233 acres. Of the 4,933 housing units, 1,250 would be duplex, condo, townhouse or apartment units and the rest would be single-family houses. A town center with commerce and administrative offices would use 120 acres with 20 acres put aside for recreational use. The project includes an optional 400 life care center units. The plans show a man-made lagoon.

The site is located on the east side of County Road 491, just north of Forest Ridge Boulevard, and extends to the east and north, bordering the northern edge of the Beverly Hills community and surrounding the Twisted Oaks Golf Course. The developer is considering building a manmade inland lagoon, featuring a sandy beach, shops, children’s water activities, rental facilities and other amenities. This amenity would be accessible to both homeowners and the public. Some residents have pushed back on the proposed project, citing adverse environmental impacts and congestion generated from so many new homeowners. There is also concern about the chemicals in a man-made lagoon, the amount of water to keep the lagoon full, and the weight of water in a karst geology with an existing sinkhole on the property.

The development is expected to be completed in phases over the next 25 to 30 years.

https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/planners-on-thursday-to-discuss-tuscany-ranch-proposal/article_db1af6a4-ade1-58df-b0c2-083f96d0ac1c.html

CITRUS COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT APPLICATION NO. - CPA-2024-00005 ROBERT BATSEL, JR. for 1728 INVESTMENTS, LLC – REVISION TO CHAPTER 13 – MANATEE PROTECTION ELEMENT

This application would amend the objectives and policies associated with residential dock densities in the Manatee Protection Element of the Comprehensive Plan. The concern is will this result in more docks and boats and will it be more dangerous for manatees? This application was scheduled to have its final hearing before the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners at 5:05 pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, but this Item I. The 12/10 Public hearing to approve CPA-2024-00005 Comprehensive Plan Manatee Element Changes: was **removed from the agenda**. Instead, the applicant for the amendment has **requested a 180-day extension** for approval while trying to work out concerns with FWC and US Fish and Wildlife.

The link to that specific agenda item **E 13** on 12/10/24 is here:

<https://citrusclerk.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8431/files/report/7585>

BMAPS (BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS) MEETINGS FOR FINAL BMAPS FOR WEEKI WACHEE, CHASSAHOWITZKA, HOMOSASSA, AND CRYSTAL RIVER/KINGS BAY WERE HELD VIRTUALLY BY FDEP ON APRIL 16

Background:

The Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, which was passed in 2016, requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) to develop Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPS), which are recovery plans for Florida's nitrate-impaired springs. The Florida Springs Council took legal action against the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in 2019 because it noticed gaps in the BMAPS. After four years, in 2023, the 1st District Court of Appeals ruled that **FDEP must rewrite the BMAPS by July 2025**.

FINAL BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS - PUBLIC COMMENTS DUE BY MAY 2

To view the Draft BMAP Documents for HOMOSASSA, CHASSAHOWITZKA, CRYSTAL RIVER/KINGS BAY AND WEEKI WACHEE

Go to this link:

<https://floridadep.gov/dear/water-quality-restoration/content/bmap-public-meetings>

and click on the Draft BMAP Document link for each springs group.

The Weeki Wachee Basin Management Action Plan (BMAP) public meeting was held on April 16, 2025, and the [meeting materials](#) are now available.

Please email comments on the draft [Weeki Wachee BMAP](#) to [Moira Homann](#) by May 2, 2025.

The Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs Groups and Crystal River/Kings Bay BMAPS public meeting was held on April 16, 2025, and the [meeting materials](#) are now available.

Please email comments on the draft [Homosassa and Chassahowitzka Springs Groups](#) and [Crystal River/Kings Bay](#) BMAPS to [Moira Homann](#) by May 2, 2025.

<https://naturecoaster.com/florida-dep-bmap-action-plans-public-comments-due-by-may-2/>

BMAPS EXPLAINED: <https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/springsbmaps>

THE NONPROFIT FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL TOOK LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP) RE: THE HARM RULE

There are 30 Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS). The Florida Springs Council (FSC) took legal action alleging that these springs have been harmed because the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) has delayed in adopting a "harm rule." This rule was mandated by the State Legislature via a 2016 law (SB 552) ordering FDEP to adopt rules to better protect Outstanding Florida Springs against water withdrawals that reduce water flows and thereby harm springs. (Pollution makes it worse.)

Such a rule should define the meaning of "harmful" to prevent harmful groundwater withdrawals from OFS and spring runs. Meanwhile, the Water Management Districts have continued to issue water use permits, harming OFS. Read this great article covering the story to that point by WUFT, PBS, NPR:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/120QwOJKmLxx4zxXWMBwhGID4EUAhNz2N/view>

UPDATE:

FDEP has finally released another draft of proposed “harm” rules: 62-41.400 - 62-41.403, on August 29, 2024, which will not adequately protect springs.

<https://naturecoaster.com/under-court-pressure-fdep-finally-proposes-springs-harm-rule/#:~:text=On%20Dec.,Springs%20from%20harmful%20water%20withdrawals.>

A rule hearing was held for the above-referenced proposed rules, on **Jan. 6, 2025** starting at 9:00 a.m. at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building, Room 137, 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL, 32399-3000.

Listen to this update from Florida Springs Council on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1098016581630099>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=903168978650451&set=pcb.903169071983775>

Florida Springs Council has gone back to litigate on this matter. See all the details on the Florida Springs Council website:

<https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/springsharmrule>

UPDATE ON LAND SWAP DEAL TO OBTAIN **STATE FOREST LAND IN HERNANDO COUNTY FOR GOLF NO ACTION AS OF 4/25/25**

According to the 2025 Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) calendar for 2025, the next meeting is scheduled for June 13, 2025, at the DEP in Tallahassee; agenda not available yet. The item of the land swap deal has not been on the Acquisition and Restoration Council (ARC) agenda since the issue came up.

https://publicfiles.dep.state.fl.us/DSL/OES/ARC/Calendars/2025_ARC_Calendar.pdf

People and many organizations have been watching the ARC agendas to see if the proposed land swap deal will show up on the agenda.

See the expanded article giving the background on this issue in the January 2025 Newsletter on the website of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County.

<https://www.lwvcitrus.org/lwvcc-monthly-newsletter/>

HEAT ILLNESS AND LEGISLATION

During the 2024 Florida legislative session, Governor DeSantis signed a bill HB 433 Employment Regulations, that prevented local governments in Florida from requiring heat protection for outdoor workers other than their own employees. National Public Radio pointed out that roughly two million people in Florida, from construction to agriculture, work outside as of Apr 15, 2024. Workers continue to suffer from heat illness and some have died from it.

OSHA (the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration) wrote and published a Rule on Heat Illness. The comment period was extended and expired on January 14, 2025. An informal public hearing on the proposed rule will be held virtually and will begin on June 16, 2025. Get the facts and all the details here: <https://www.osha.gov/heat-exposure/rulemaking>



Member Samantha Carter

This article was published in the Citrus County Chronicle

on April 25, 2025

Imagine our county facing an issue – maybe it’s fixing local roads, supporting small businesses, or ensuring affordable housing. Now imagine our city councils or County Commission trying to act on that issue, only to be told, “You can’t. Tallahassee has already decided for you.”

This isn’t a hypothetical scenario. Right now, Florida’s state government is pushing more than 50 bills aimed at stripping power away from cities and counties, centralizing decision-making in Tallahassee. These bills cover everything from zoning and business regulations to environmental protections and law enforcement policies.

For a small county like ours, this should be a wake-up call. When state politicians override local governments, they aren’t just changing policies – they’re taking away our ability to shape our own future.

50 bills that could change everything

In this year's legislative session alone, state lawmakers have introduced more than 50 bills that would prevent local governments from making decisions for their own communities. Here are just a few examples of what's at stake:

Zoning & Housing: New state laws could limit our ability to regulate short-term rentals and control new developments, forcing cities to accept state-mandated rules that might not fit our needs.

Business & Local Economy: Local business regulations, from worker protections to small-business incentives, could be overridden by state policies designed to benefit large corporations.

Environmental Policies: Efforts to ban single-use plastics, regulate water quality or address pollution would be shut down if they don't align with Tallahassee's agenda.

Law Enforcement & Public Safety: The state is moving to prevent local governments from making independent decisions about policing, crime prevention and cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

But it's not just city governments losing power – our county government is also under attack.

Counties are losing control, too

County governments, which provide essential services beyond city limits, are facing the same power grabs from the state:

Tax & Budget Authority: The state is restricting how counties can raise and spend money, limiting funding for roads, emergency services and public projects.

Land Use & Development: Counties are losing control over zoning and development rules, meaning local officials may no longer be able to regulate things like housing density or environmental conservation.

Law Enforcement & Public Safety: The state is forcing counties to comply with new policing mandates, including requiring cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

Public Health & Social Services: Counties are being blocked from enacting their own public health measures or addressing homelessness and drug treatment programs based on local needs.

If all these bills pass, what will be left for local governments to actually govern?

Why should we care?

Some may argue that state control brings consistency. But what works for Miami or Tampa doesn't always work for a city of 8,000 people. Local leaders – whether on city councils or county commissions – understand our community's needs better than politicians hundreds of miles away. By centralizing power, the state is essentially saying that our voices, our votes and our local concerns don't matter as much as their political agenda.

This isn't about partisanship – it's about self-governance. Whether you're a Republican, Democrat or independent, we should all agree that decisions affecting our daily lives should be made by the people closest to the community, not a one-size-fits-all mandate from Tallahassee.

What can we do?

Right now, this issue isn't even being talked about in our local government. That needs to change. Residents should start asking questions:

Why aren't our local leaders discussing this?

How much power will our city and county lose if these state laws keep passing?



Member Nora Cloud

This letter was published in the Citrus County Chronicle on April 29, 2025

Let's pass this voting rights act

It is time to acknowledge the injustice that has prevented many Floridians from casting their votes.

Florida has a history of racial bullying and creating obstacles for working and disabled people that kept them from the ballot box. The Florida Voting Rights Act will right the wrongs by making the right to vote available to all Floridians. Creating an Election Day Holiday while

expanding the registration and voting process represents true liberty and justice for all! Please encourage our legislature to support this bill.

**Nora Cloud
Homosassa**



Jan Hall, 2nd Vice President, Publicity chair, Program Planner, Postcard chair, does flyers for publicity



Who can name these lovely women?

From the League of Women Voters of Florida

ACTION ALERT



Take Action Now!

Florida lawmakers are pushing a dangerous agenda through a trio of bills that undermine public education, promote censorship, and inject disinformation into the classroom.

House Bill 1539 – Banning More Books

This bill makes it easier to remove books from school libraries using vague and overly broad language around “harmful to minors.” Serious, educational texts—like the Bible, theology works, and classic literature—could be lumped in with explicit materials and pulled from shelves.

What's at stake:

- Librarians could face legal risk, creating a chilling effect on the availability of educational content
- Students could fall behind peers in other states due to restricted access to

- challenging and diverse literature
- Censorship replaces curiosity—and Florida’s children suffer

House Bill 1267 – Forced Co-location of Charter Schools

This bill allows politically favored “Schools of Hope” to co-locate on public school campuses, creating conflict and chaos.

What this could lead to:

- Confusion and resentment from vastly different school cultures sharing one campus
- Safety and liability issues if incidents occur in shared spaces
- Logistical challenges around visitor access, security, and staffing
- Increased wear and tear on public school facilities without compensation
- Resource competition in libraries, gyms, and cafeterias—all while public schools face budget shortfalls

House Bill 1255 – Disinformation in Sex Ed Classrooms

All students deserve accurate, science-based sex education. But House Bill 1255 would allow medically misleading and ideologically driven content—like the AI-generated “Baby Olivia” video—into Florida’s classrooms.

This material:

- Is not aligned with National Sex Education Standards
- Was created by an extremist anti-abortion organization
- Spreads medical disinformation and ignores best practices in education
- Does a disservice to students, parents, and educators by putting ideology above science

Good afternoon League Leaders,

As you are already aware, LWWUS and LWWFL are staunchly opposed to newly proposed statutory limits on people's ability to register to vote created by the federal SAVE Act and the Presidential Executive Order that tries to implement the SAVE Act. Both of these federal efforts would require citizenship documentation to register to vote even though voters in every state are already required to affirm or verify their citizenship status when registering to vote. The *SAVE Act* would create serious barriers to the voting process, as more than 50% eligible voters do not have passports and many do not have easy access to the certified birth certificates. In addition, we have our own Florida copy cat of the SAVE Act in the form of SB 1381. At this point, we do not know the outcome of SB 1381, but we want to be prepared in case we have to start trying to block the state law if it is passed also.

We have some questions that we would like you to answer after you ask your members some of these questions:

We are looking for stories of League members who could be impacted by the SAVE Act. Their stories can help us show how this law would harm voters.

We want to hear from any member (or voter) who is a US Citizen and fits the following criteria:

- 1. They lack easy access to documentary proof of citizenship (valid passport or birth certificate) OR**
 1. Married/divorced women whose documents do not reflect correct current names
 2. Older people who don't have access to citizenship documents. (Some elderly African Americans were not given state-sanctioned birth certificates.)
 3. Lower income people who can't pay for citizenship documents. (The average cost of a passport is \$165.00)
 4. People who may have lost documents in floods or fires. (Many of our Florida residents have endured floods, hurricanes and tornadoes.)
- 2. They have a physical limitation that will make it challenging to travel and present documentary proof of citizenship to their local election office in person.** (This required for all that want a new or updated voter registration application)
 1. Someone homebound or with a physical disability
 2. Someone in a care facility

In addition to meeting 1 or 2, the person is either:

- 1. Not yet registered to vote OR needs to renew or change their voter registration**
 1. High school students
 2. Young voters
 3. New Americans
 4. Want to change their party affiliation. (In Florida, NPA's are the fastest growing party affiliation and are now at about a third of all registered voters.)
- 2. Likely to (or could) move in the near future.**

1. Renters
2. College Students
3. Retirees
4. Low Income voters
5. Federal Workers

Please reach out to your members by email and and or at meetings and inquire about these matters. Then contact us with the names and contact numbers of any league members that meet any of these criteria.

Thank you so much for helping us to defend democracy and continue to empower voters. We would appreciate a response by next Monday, 28 April, if possible. Please remember when you respond, **ONLY REPLY** to Debbie and I. We are also sending this message to your Voter Services Chairs.

Thank you,

Cecile and Debbie

Cecile/s/

Cecile M. Scoon, Esq.

Co-President

League of Women Voters of Florida

P.O. Box 1911, Orlando, FL 32801

League of Women Voters Urges Legislative Action in Aftermath of FSU Campus Shooting

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The League of Women Voters of Tallahassee and the League of Women Voters of Florida are grief-stricken by the tragic events that unfolded earlier today on Florida State University’s campus. **This senseless act of violence was another painful reminder of the urgent need for stronger life-saving legislation that can work to prevent gun violence.**

We cannot continue to look the other way while lives are shattered by policies that prioritize access to deadly weapons over public safety. Enough is enough. As the Florida Legislature continues to meet in its annual session, it’s unconscionable that lawmakers are pushing dangerous bills that repeal provisions put into places following the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting, like House Bill 759, that would lower the age to purchase shotguns and rifles from 21 to 18.

Since 1990, the League of Women Voters of Florida has recognized the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic weapons as a critical public health crisis. We will maintain our firm commitment to protecting our families, our campuses, and our communities. **The League will continue to use its voice, its platform, and its power to demand change. Now, let's honor the victims not just with words—but with action to pass laws that support gun violence prevention.**

From the League of Women Voters National Democracy Newsletter

Taking Anti-Voter Actors (Including the Trump Administration) to Court

- LWV and fellow voting rights organizations [filed a lawsuit](#) challenging President Trump's anti-voter executive order, which could disenfranchise millions of eligible voters. On April 25, a federal court judge issued a ruling [temporarily blocking](#) the administration from implementing a provision of the order.
- LWV and partners [filed an amicus brief](#) urging federal courts to invalidate an executive order that seeks to revoke birthright citizenship for the children of undocumented persons or temporary legal residents; and
- Leagues in [Arkansas](#), [California](#), [Florida](#), [New York](#), and [North Carolina](#) filed lawsuits to protect voters in their states.

Taking Action to Defend Democracy

- LWV declared the US to be in a Constitutional Crisis and is launching a new initiative, [Unite and Rise 8.5](#), to fight anti-democratic forces;
- The League and the National Partnership for New Americans collaborated on a [guide to supporting the immigrant community](#); and
- LWV's CEO Celina Stewart [responded](#) to the arrest of Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan.

Dangerous Bills Pass the House

- The House [passed the SAVE Act](#), a dangerous bill that would threaten millions of voters, particularly married women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community; and
- The House [also passed the No Rogue Rulings Act](#), an attack on our system of checks and balances.