



**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 December 11, 2024 meeting at 11:30 am will be our luncheon, at Glory Days restaurant in the Walmart shopping center in Lecanto. Our guest speaker will be Trina Murphy, Publisher of the Citrus County Chronicle

Our January 8, 2025 meeting will be at 10 am at the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River. Our speaker will be Mary Darling, who will speak about the Seniors vs Crime unit of the Sheriff Department

Please visit our Facebook page and "like" us!

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

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO READ THE NEWSLETTER AND ATTEND OUR MEETINGS, THERE WILL BE TWO QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE NEWSLETTER. IF YOU KNOW THE ANSWER AND ARE CALLED ON, YOU WILL WIN A PRIZE! STUDY FOR THE NEWSLETTER QUIZ!

.....

Merry
Happy
Happy



Christmas,
Hanukkah
Kwanza!

Events in December 2024									
Grid	List	Month	Week	Day	December ▾	2024 ▾	Go	< Previous	Today
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
1	2	3	4 9:00 am: LWV of Citrus County Board meeting on zoom	5	6	7			
8	9	10 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting 4:00 pm: Citrus County School Board meeting	11 11:30 am: LWV General Meeting – Luncheon with guest speaker Trina Murphy	12	13	14			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21			
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Time to Make Your Reservation

For the LWVCC Holiday Luncheon

Wednesday, December 11, at Glory Days Grill 11:30 AM

3248 W. Norvell Bryant Highway, Lecanto

Guest Speaker: Trina Murphy, Publisher of The Citrus Chronicle



We are collecting items for CASA, for those who would like to donate requested items.
Coffee, creamer, toilet paper, shampoo, conditioner, body wash and lotion, hair products, hair-spray, mousse, brushes, combs, dish soap, Zip-locs, ethnic hair products, bags-gallon, baby wipes, children's toys and DVDs, sheet sets and blankets, canned goods, wrapping paper, tissue, tape, gift tags, stocking stuffers. Check the CASA website for a list of other current needs.

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.

MENU OPTIONS

All American Burger
Served with lettuce, tomatoes, onions and topped with Cheddar cheese. Served with a side of crispy seasoned fries or steamed broccoli

GDG's Big Fabulous Fish Fry
Wild, line-caught Haddock, beer battered with Stella Artois, served with crispy seasoned fries and tartar sauce.

Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad
Fire-grilled chicken, romaine lettuce, shaved Parmesan mixed with classic Caesar dressing and topped with homemade croutons.

GDG's Crave A' Bowl
Basmati rice, broccoli, tomato and cucumber, hummus, Feta, garlic aioli and lemon wedge. Topped with Fire-grilled chicken.

Grilled Chicken Sandwich
Bacon, Swiss cheese, lettuce, tomato, onion and honey mustard on a toasted brioche bun. Served with crispy seasoned fries or steamed broccoli.

Vegetarian GDG Crave A' Bowl
Basmati rice, broccoli, tomato and cucumber, hummus, Feta, garlic aioli and lemon wedge.

Vegetarian Caesar Salad
Romaine lettuce, shaved Parmesan mixed with classic Caesar dressing and topped with homemade croutons

All options are \$20, including soft drinks, appetizers, tax, and tips. Call or email Jan Hall to make reservation.
352 637 9623 .
janhalldesigns@yahoo.com
Payment may be made at event cash, check or credit card. Or may be prepaid online at lwvcitrus.org.
Click on EVENTS BUTTON
DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1 ST

League of Women Voters of Citrus County

When: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 at 10:00 AM

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



Seniors are all too often targeted by scammers and con artists, thinking they have easy prey. With the appropriate information, we can foil their plans.

Mary Darling, of the Citrus County Sheriff's Office, Seniors vs. Crime will be addressing these issues at the League of Women Voters meeting on Wednesday, January 8. It will be held at 10:00 AM at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W Crystal St., Crystal River, FL 34428.

Maxine Connor, League Environmental Chair, will give an update on the controversial Cabot Land Swap deal.

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.



If you are interested in joining the League of Women Voters of Citrus County,

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at
LWVCC, P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Individual \$65 _____

Household \$90

Student Free

Susan B. Anthony \$105*

Household \$150*

*Includes \$40 donation

Credit card name _____

Credit card number _____

Expiration Date, month and year _____

TIME SENSITIVE INFORMATION – Mark your calendar

LWV Citrus Members: Setting our League Legislative Priorities

The League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVFL) will select four legislative priority issue areas for the 2025 Florida legislative session.

“Voting & Election Reform” will remain our number one priority. The other three priorities will be determined by submissions from local Leagues, coupled with input from LWVFL’s Board of Directors. LWVFL will host two all-member Listening Sessions prior to the legislative priority submittal deadline for local Leagues to hear from our state members on the issues they see as important.

Wed. December 4, 5:00 PM

Mon, December 9, 12:00 PM

Members, these meetings are your opportunity to learn more about these issues and have an informed vote. Watch for an email from Vicky on Tuesday, Dec 3, with registration links for Listening Sessions.

During the listening sessions, all League members are welcome to discuss the issue areas and make cases for actions within a specific issue utilizing a pro-con format. LWVFL’s current issue areas (excluding voting rights & election reform) are listed in alphabetical order:

- Clean Energy
- Education
- Gun Violence Prevention
- Health Care
- Home Rule/Preemption
- Juvenile Justice
- National Popular Vote
- Natural Resources
- Poverty & Affordable Housing
- Reproductive Health & Justice

The meetings will allow each current Issue Chair to speak briefly, with up to three pro speakers & three con speakers. No votes will be taken or decisions made during either listening event, as they are both forums for individual members’ voices to be heard.

Local Leagues must submit their top four rankings of issue areas (after voting rights and election reform) by **December 15th**. Leagues can also submit their own issues should membership or leadership deem it as important.

Members, LWV Citrus will announce our local process via an email from Vicky.

We will gather member input after the Dec. 9 listening session, but before the Dec. 15 deadline. After all League submissions are in (or the deadline elapses), the issue areas ranked highest in a plurality of Leagues will advance to the LWVFL Board of Directors for final approval.



Vicky Iozzia, 1st President, Speakers Bureau Chair, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster

In last month's column I talked about the stupidest thing I ever heard. It was that nothing that happens in an election will ever affect us.

We have just seen an election that will have massive consequences for our community, our country, and the rest of the world.

The first election for which I volunteered made an impression on my life that lasted for decades. My candidate lost massively, and I swore I would never get involved in politics again.

I spent many decades with my teaching career on the sidelines of anything political, but I continued to be informed. When I retired, I once again started to get involved in politics, volunteering in two winning campaigns.

With the results of the election, many of my preferences, hopes, and dreams have been shattered. I actually felt depressed, with anxiety and sleeping problems, and loss of appetite. For any of you who know me, that's not me. Especially the appetite.

The following is a quote from Trevor Mallory, the President of the Black Caucus of Florida.

"As we reflect on the results of this election, it is clear that it did not go as we had hoped, both here in Florida and across the Nation. However, I encourage you to hold

your heads high, for you stood on the correct side of history—a side that believes in equality, justice, and a better future for all.”

I understand that many of you are grappling with feelings of shock, anger, and fear in this moment. There are no easy answers to the challenges we face, and it is important to take the time to be with family, to rest, and to prioritize your emotional and physical well-being. Please know that your feelings are valid, and you are not alone.

You are not alone, we are not alone, unless we choose to be.

The day after the election we had a League Board meeting, and we discussed our personal views and how to best continue with our activities in the League.

I am writing this before our November 13 meeting to brainstorm what we should do in the future. My vision is that we have many people who come to learn, express themselves, and get involved in our community to bring about positive changes.

Now it is November 14, after our meeting titled, “Next”. What a meeting it was! We sang, we danced, we played kazoos! Devora Stager and Peg Primeau then led the groups to brainstorm what we should be doing in the next year.

What followed was an informed, stimulating, and uplifting discussion. Below is the summary of what we want to consider planning for the next year. The Board is ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work with our members to continue to work to benefit our community.

I was excited and exhausted when we were done. Happy that 29 people came, and many of them want to get involved.

If you want to get involved, don’t stand on the sidelines. We need to work with each other to have any chance of achieving our goals.

Here are the photos from the November 13, 2024 meeting of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County. 29 people participated.

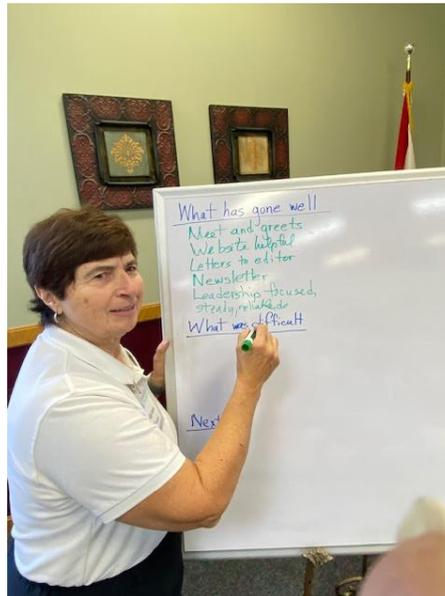


Such serious Kazoo players!

Learned about our team members,



Did a jig saw puzzle as a group, and then we brainstormed!



Here is what the group wants to work on for our next year:

Our General Meeting, “Next”, League of Women Voters of Citrus County, November 13, 2024

WHAT HAS GONE WELL

Meet and greets Website is helpful Letters to editor
 Newsletters Amendment 4 volunteers Postcards
 Team work – Board Focus on local issues
 Taking on tough topics Locations accessible
 Working with Chronicle-forum, advertising
 Leadership is focused, steady, reliable, and dedicated

WHAT WAS DIFFICULT

Assaults on environment Hands tied-voter registration
 Speaking to uninformed, disagreeable people
 Meeting location changes Learning de-escalation
 Stronger presence Reacting instead of proactive
 Money controls political system
 How to communicate better across the county – tik tok, instagram

NEXT

Pre-emption Local issues Book banning
 Liaison to students HS Medicare and Medicaid expansion
 County growth- Howard Title 9 Education Postcards
 Expanding membership-people new to county, conservatives
 Watchdogs at meetings – BOCC, school board, library advisory
 Speakers bureau – outreach to newcomers
 Training on how to represent League

Lunch and Learn – Florida League

Communicate needs, ask for assistance

Field trips

National Popular Vote

Oppose open carry

Have fun!

Getting back to amendment 4

Identify topics that affect everyone

Now the challenge is to get our members involved and do some good work in 2025!

We had a special Board meeting to structure and plan our activities, and all members received an email with an invitation to join us.

More plans will follow!

From the book “LWV Impact on Issues: A guide to public policy positions of the League of Women Voters”

The League of Women Voters is nonpartisan but political.

In the next few newsletters I will include excerpts from the LWV Impact on Issues: A guide to public policy positions of the League of Women Voters.

Since 1920, the League of Women Voters has been an activist, grassroots organization whose leaders believed that people should play a critical role in democracy. The League of Women Voters was founded by Carrie Chapman Catt in 1920, just six months before the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution was ratified, giving women the right to vote.

Throughout the years, the League has continued its dual purposes of education and advocacy, engaging in studies on representative government, international relations, natural resources, and social policy. Although our history of advocacy goes back to our beginnings, this version of Impact on Issues covers our advocacy efforts beginning in the 1960s.

Impact on Issues is an indispensable resource for League members. A clear understanding of LWVUS positions, how they interrelate, and how they can complement and reinforce state, local, and regional Inter-League Organization (ILO) positions, strengthens the League’s impact on issues at all levels of government. In applying LWVUS positions to national, state, local, and regional issues, each appropriate League board — depending on the level of action — is responsible for determining whether member understanding and agreement exists and whether the action makes sense in terms of timing, need, and effectiveness.

If you can find it in your heart and your purse, please give a donation to the League of Women Voters of Citrus County.

You can write a check to LWVCC and mail to: LWVCC, PO Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460-1903 OR go to lwvcitrus.org Then go to the membership section and press “donation” and fill in your info for payment by card.

IN THE NEWS: from Floridarighttocleanwater.org

Ready to do this?

Everything is getting into place to accomplish the mission, but we need you to help spread these simple messages:



- Floridians do not have a right to clean water.
- Current laws and politics are obviously not enough.
- Powerful profit interests are calling the shots, not us.
- We need a constitutional right to hold agencies accountable.
- We need your help to qualify for the 2026 ballot.

Clean water was not at the top of everyone's minds this election, but that is exactly why we need the constitutional right to clean and healthy waters -- To take it out of the winds of power politics and anchor it safely to the law of the land.

Clean water is not something to play around with. Full stop.

We're gearing up for the 2025 Plan, and here's how you can help.

Word of the day: COMMITMENT. Everyone can do something, and many can do much more. What has been missing is the ability for everyone to see what everyone else is doing, so we can naturally help fill the gaps and avoid redundancies. Here's our chance to become a real-time, formidable force of grassroots grit and hard work to do what's right:



Register for the statewide meeting on *THE PLAN: How Floridians Will Save Our Waters in 2025* (Facebook's [event link](#))
Thurs, Dec 12th, 6pm EST

Register here



Help us contact (phone or email) leaders / influencers and organizations to invite them to join in as well!
Just sign up with our marketing team!

Sign up here



Spoiler alert! Part of THE PLAN will be based on massive, statewide participation in this organizational tool -- *Signing in the name of...*

Check it out

Now is the time to move from **whether** we support to **WHAT* we will do to accomplish this shared mission together.*

Can't help collect signatures? Donate!



Peg Primeau, 2nd President, Reproductive Rights Chair

Dear Friends,

Our lively "What Next" meeting on Nov. 13 gave me much needed spirit. I am proud of the programming we offered in 2024, and glad we have so many ideas for 2025.

I am also proud of and grateful for all of your support for Amendment 4: all of you who signed and collected petitions, talked up the amendment to friends and neighbors, gave out literature, spoke up about disinformation, donated to the campaign, wrote postcards, and crowd-canvassed. And a special shout-out to Jean McCauley for running the Yes on 4 Hub, Elizabeth Orsay for her bold LTE from a physician's perspective, and Rosemary and Vicky for voter education on the six amendments.

It's cool to know that 6,068,933 Floridians did vote YES. As you know, that was 57.2% of voters, short of the 60% bar. Believe it or not, many voters did not know that FL had (and now will continue to have) a near-total abortion ban....It is very frightening for women and girls and their families in the Southeast.

What next? I've attached the initial message from Floridians Protecting Freedom ("FPF") Campaign Director Lauren Brenzel with some immediate actions. Full analysis of the Yes on 4 campaign will be shared soon. Please consider donating to regional abortion funds and FL Planned Parenthood.

In addition, keep in mind that the organization Floridians for Reproductive Freedom ("FRF") was hard at work well before Amendment 4 was created, and will continue to be a very important resource for all of us.

Again, I truly appreciate your support and actions for this powerful citizen initiative. It was an uphill challenge: in any other state, 57.2% would have succeeded.

Peggy

From: Lauren Brenzel lauren@floridiansprotectingfreedom.com

Subject: Thank You

Date: November 6, 2024 at 4:24PM

To: undisclosed-recipients::;

Bcc: pegprimeau@gmail.com

Hello All,

For almost two years, Floridians and national allies have put up one hell of a fight to end Florida's six-week abortion ban. I've been honored to work with you all since the beginning of this campaign. Yesterday, a minority of voters decided Florida's abortion ban would stay in place. I know so many of us are heartbroken. We worked so hard to come this far, we trusted one another and fought like hell through petition collection, dishonest opposition, and fascist attacks from Florida's government. I believe that this work matters and shows just how far we can push for change.

We ran the largest campaign for reproductive rights in the nation. During what was a historically high turnout year for Republicans (experts were predicting a 9% advantage between Republicans and Democrats and the night ended a 12% advantage), we got the majority vote in favor of Amendment 4 at 57%. We didn't get what we needed to win, but we worked together to run a campaign I am honored to have been a part of with you. We have to keep fighting because there is too much on the line not to. We have to keep fighting because there is too much on the line not to. I'll be writing about the work partners are doing in the upcoming days, but I didn't want to.

I'll be writing about the work partners are doing in the upcoming days, but I didn't want to let the day go by without expressing immense gratitude to this coalition of amazing partners. Right now, you can email your legislator and ask them to repeal Florida's 6-week ban themselves (lots of them promised to do so while campaigning sooooo)

In the meantime, abortion patients and providers need support.

- Please consider donating and asking others to donate to help patients travel out of state to access abortion and to support abortions in Florida. You can use this link to help fill the funding gap for abortion funds:
<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/fundabortionfl>
- Please consider donating and asking others to donate to the two Planned Parenthood affiliates in the state
- PPSWCF: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-southwest-centralflorida/donate> PPSSENF: <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-south-east-northflorida/donate-locally>

Lauren



For photo above: LWV Citrus offered 6 very successful Candidate Meet & Greet meetings from April - September. The staff of Coastal Region Library went above and beyond to help us with logistics, meeting overflow, relocating when needed, seating, A/V issues, etc. Our own 2nd President Peggy Primeau brought the Coastal Region staff a special lunch to show them our appreciation. Devora Stager made the beautiful pressed flower card. We are so proud of our amazing library system and the great folks who make it all happen! Pictured L-R are Hannah - Instruction & Research Librarian; Danielle - Branch Supervisor; Diana - Youth Librarian.

Below is the letter to the editor published in the Citrus County Chronicle on November 12, 2024.

Mo Baird did a great job

We would like to thank Mo Baird for her work as Supervisor of Elections. She and her team work all year, doing countless outreaches to register voters. The League and other organizations have had their ability to register voters restricted, so her work is all the more important to us.

Mo always responds quickly to answer questions and her mastery of the information is obvious. If you have not checked out the Supervisor of Elections of Citrus County website, you should, because the vast amount of information on it speaks to her expertise.

In this past election, where people who are working to keep our elections safe and efficient have been threatened and criticized, we are glad that we have Mo Baird taking care of our precious right to vote. Integrity is everything, and she has it. Citrus County is lucky to have her.

**Board of the Citrus County
League of Women Voters**

I received this response on November 14.

Good morning Vicky,

Please share with the others from the league.

First and foremost, I want to thank the League of Women Voters for their continued support through the entire 2024 election cycle. You have been my support team the entire time. I am forever grateful for your trust and support as I serve as your supervisor of elections. The article in chronicle yesterday that you all posted was amazing. Thank you again!

I wanted to take a moment and thank you for your continued support of the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections office. We had a very busy year with three elections, but no election ever compares to a Presidential General Election. They are my favorite! The support from my staff, poll workers, poll watchers, party, organizations, community, and voters made for a well-oiled election, for which I am thankful and grateful.

While this is still an extremely busy time in elections for us, the staff and I make time to meet and discuss the elections in detail. We get feedback and discuss things that worked, things didn't work, changes we want to make, and solutions brought to the table.

I am reaching out for feedback that you may have regarding elections.

Thank you again and I would love the feedback. It was a pleasure working with you through the 2024 elections.

Blessings,
Mo

Contact Mo at:

Physical Address: 1500 N Meadowcrest Blvd Crystal River, FL 34429

Mailing Address: PO Box 1870 Lecanto, FL 34460

Phone: 352-564-7120

Fax: 352-564-7121

Website: www.votecitrus.gov

Email: mbaird@votecitrus.gov



Linda Abels, Membership Chair

Happy Holiday! I wish each and every one of you a happy and joyous season.

First I want to welcome new members **Susan Bonard-Bygrave** and **Mary Stansfield**, and returning member **Sheila Woods**. We look forward to meeting you at our Holiday Luncheon. Please make sure to introduce yourself to the Board Members.

In last month's newsletter article I explained that changes to membership were coming in the new year. I want to go into more detail so you will be prepared when it comes time for you to renew your membership or if you have friends that want to join the League of Women Voters Citrus County (LWVCC).

1. Beginning in January, each member will receive an email from the League of Women Voters US (LWVUS) asking them to sign on to the new ChapterSpot Portal and establish an account. You will be asked to verify your name, address, etc. that is already in the portal. This will also allow you to update any changes to your basic information. If, by the end of January, you do not receive an email, please email us at LWVCC2013@gmail.com.

2. You will receive an email from LWVUS approximately 90 days prior to your membership expiration date reminding you that your dues will be due in 90 days. If you pay early, it will not change your membership date. You will have a grace period of 60 days after your membership expiration date to renew or you will be dropped from

the active membership list.

3. When it comes time to renew your membership you have to go on to the LWVCC website (LWVCitrus.org) and click on the membership button. You will have a choice of which dues amount you want to pay. The recommended amount is \$75. You can pay more than that or as little as \$20. The dues you pay will be split up between the LWVUS (33%), LWV Florida (47%) and LWVCC (20%). After you choose your dues amount, you can then go to the next page and it will ask you if you want to make a donation to your local league. Should you wish to make a donation, the total amount of the donation goes to the LWVCC. If you pay by credit card, your card will reflect three charges that add up to the dues amount. Each charge will reflect the amount that goes to the three entities - LWVUS, LWVFL and LWVCC. You will also be charged a fee for using a credit card.

Please note that there is no longer a household membership or a student membership. If you currently have a household membership, you will have to change to two individual (primary) memberships

We have been told that there is a way to pay by check, but we haven't received any information as yet on how that will work.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU RENEW AND OR JOIN THROUGH THE LWVCC WEBSITE (LWVCitrus.org.). IF NOT, THE LOCAL LEAGUE WILL NOT RECEIVE A PORTION OF YOUR DUES.

(from Vicky Iozzia, webmaster; the information on the new dues procedure will be added to the website, and Paypal will be removed, as soon as I get the training, which will be in December. I will let the membership know when it is on the website.)



**Rosemary Nilles, 1st Vice President, Gun Safety Chair,
Education Chair,
Getting Involved at the Local Level**

Sometimes our best work happens locally. Many of you expressed a desire for stronger League presence at local meetings.

Many local leagues do this. A subgroup of members serve as “community watchdogs.” They attend BOCC, School Board, Library Advisory Board, City Council meetings, etc. They may wear League shirts or nametags. They listen and watch. Some members who are well prepared with League talking points may comment publicly on behalf of the League.

There are many local events in which citizens can participate. Here are a few:

- **Board of County Commissioners (BOCC):** Regular meetings are the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM at 110 N. Apopka Avenue, Rm. 100, Inverness. Next meetings are Tuesday Dec. 10 and 24 , Jan. 14 and 28, Citrus County Government meetings are LIVE STREAMED on You Tube. Double click the link.
https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Bocc+citrus+county+meetings+2024

Citrus County School Board (CCSB): Meets at 4:00 PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month and additional special meetings / workshops as needed. Next meetings are Tues. Dec. 10, and Tues. Jan. 14. Meeting location: 1007 W. Main Street, Inverness, Florida 34450. All board documents are online on the board website. Live board meetings are recorded to YouTube with closed captioning. Click here to view meetings.

- **Citrus County Library Advisory Board:** Meets bimonthly on the first Tuesday, 8:00

AM, Lecanto Government Building, Room 166, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto, FL 34461.

- **Next meeting is Tuesday December 3.** Click here for more information.

Any citizen may speak at designated times at any of these meetings.

Members who wish to attend and represent LWV of Citrus County should contact Rosemary Nilles at rnilles1972@gmail.com. Want to know more? Contact me to get started. Let's get it done!

CITRUS COUNTY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Make your voices heard!

Public comments welcome at specified times at each meeting.

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1:00 PM

Citrus County Courthouse, 110 Apopka Ave. Inverness

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Go to Citrus County BOCC/Departments/Commissioners

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

Also broadcast live:

Comcast - Channel 71, Spectrum - Channel 643

Citrus County School District (CCSD) School Board

Meetings 2nd Tuesday, 4:00 PM

1007 Main St. Inverness 34450

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Go to Citrus County School District/School Board tab/ Board

Agenda and Minutes or View School Board Meetings

Citrus County Library Advisory Board

Meetings 4th Tuesday of every other month, 8:00 AM

Tues. Aug. 27, Oct. 22, Dec. 3, 2024

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

For more information:

Go to Citrus Libraries/Support/Library Advisory Board

OR Citrus County/BOCC/Special Library Board

From the Department of Health – What Does the Health Department do?

Our Mission

To protect, promote, and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county, and community efforts.

The Florida Department of Health in Citrus County (DOH-Citrus) is one of 67 county health departments responsible for promoting and administering Florida's public-health mission to local communities. DOH-Citrus offers a variety of programs and services for low or no-cost:

- Immunizations
- Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and Breastfeeding Support
- Prenatal Care and Opioid Use Disorder Treatment for Pregnant Women
- Vital Statistics (Birth and Death Certificates)
- Emergency Preparedness and Response
- Environmental Public Health
- Family Planning Services - temporary and permanent birth control methods (pill, IUD, shot, tubal ligation, vasectomy), info on abstinence and pregnancy testing
- STI Testing and Treatment
- HIV/AIDS Services and Drug Assistance Program
- Tuberculosis Testing and Treatment
- Hepatitis Program
- Epidemiology and Rabies Surveillance
- School-Based Dental Sealants
- Community Health and Wellness
- Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings
- Healthy Start

HEALTH DEPARTMENT LOCATIONS & TIMES

Lecanto Main Office
3700 W. Sovereign Path
352-527-0068
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

WIC Inverness Office
130 N. Montgomery Ave.
352-726-5222
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Environmental Public Health Lecanto Office
3600 W. Sovereign Path
352-513-6100
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To make an appointment, call
352-527-0247

Infant Feeding Line
352-513-6060
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

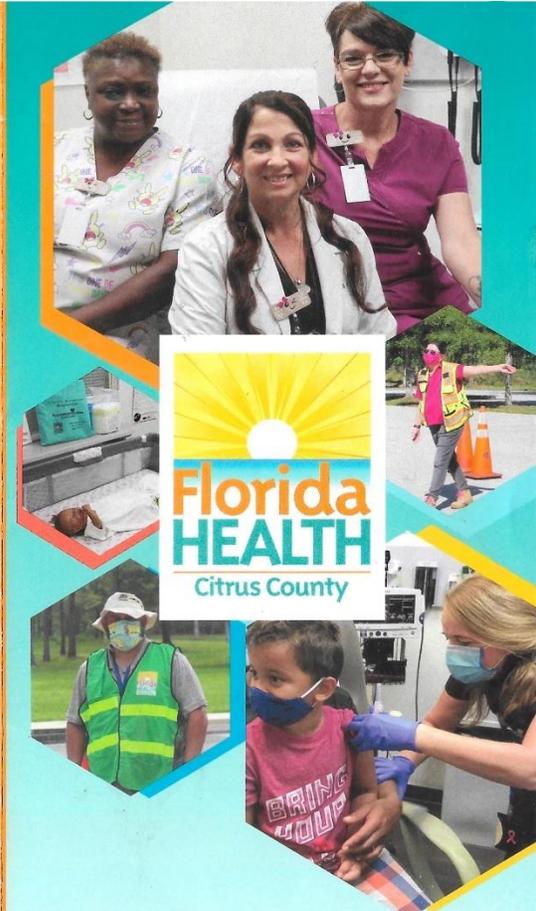
Visit our website at
www.CitrusCountyHealth.org

Follow us on Twitter at
@FLHealthCitrus



PHAB Accredited Health Department
Public Health Accreditation Board

Created: 5/2020
Updated: 4/2021



What Does Public Health Do For You?

Florida Department of Health in
Citrus County



PROTECT

Environmental Health helps protect the health and wellness of our community through routine monitoring, education, surveillance and sampling of facilities and conditions such as:

- Biomedical waste inspections
- Body piercing, tanning, tattoo and permanent cosmetic inspections
- Onsite sewage permitting programs
- Food safety inspections for schools, recreational camps, fraternal and civic organizations, detention facilities, as well as some bars and lounges
- Migrant labor housing
- Mobile home and recreational vehicle park inspections
- Petroleum tank compliance
- Public pool and spa inspections
- Beach water sampling
- Sanitary nuisances complaints

School-Based Dental Sealant Program provides no-cost dental sealants and more to Citrus children in all Title I Elementary and Middle Schools.




PROMOTE

Thanks to **immunizations**, many diseases that once killed thousands can now be prevented. The health department offers immunizations for children at no cost. Adult immunizations and travel vaccines are provided for a fee to help prevent the spread of infectious disease.

Disease Control provides services, investigation, surveillance and prevention to protect your health. When a communicable (infectious) disease is reported, staff investigate to find the source and stop the spread.

Emergency Preparedness and Response works to enhance preparedness for, and response to, public health emergencies that can affect the health and safety of our citizens and visitors.

DOH-Citrus employees staff the **Special Needs Shelter**, located at Forest Ridge Elementary School in Hernando, for residents who are medically stable but need help with basic tasks or use an electronic medical device and have no other emergency evacuation option.




IMPROVE

Heart disease and cancer are the leading causes of death in adults in our community. The good news? Many of the risk factors associated with these chronic diseases may be eliminated through living a healthier lifestyle! DOH-Citrus helps adults and children get and stay healthy, strong and safe through:

- Diabetes Empowerment Education Program
- BABY & ME – Tobacco Free Program™
- Annual Save a Heart 5K Event
- Certified Bicycle Helmet Fittings
- Age-Friendly Initiatives
- Healthiest Weight Activities and Awareness

WIC provides:

- Healthy foods
- Nutrition education and counseling
- Breastfeeding support and education
- No-cost Infant Feeding Line, available 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week at 352-513-6060

Prenatal Care Program provides high-quality care to women, with or without insurance, including pregnant mothers affected by opioid use disorder. Care is provided by a Certified Nurse Midwife and obstetrician throughout pregnancy.





Maxine Connor, Natural Resources Chair

THE NONPROFIT FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL SUES THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

There are 30 Outstanding Florida Springs (OFS). The Florida Springs Council (FSC) has just filed a new lawsuit 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 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.

Here we are almost nine years later, and FDEP has not defined the meaning of “harmful” or proposed a harm rule to prevent harmful groundwater withdrawals from OFS.

Meanwhile, the Water Management Districts continued to issue water use permits, harming OFS

Read this great article covering the story by WUFT, PBS, NPR:

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

BMAPS (BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS) MEETINGS FOR WEEKI WACHEE, CHASSAHOWITZKA, HOMOSASSA, AND CRYSTAL RIVER/KINGS BAY HELD ON NOVEMBER 7 TH IN HERNANDO COUNTY

The Springs and Aquifer Protection Act, which was passed in 2016, requires the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to develop Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPS), which are recovery plans for Florida’s nitrate-impaired springs.

The Florida Springs Council sued the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in 2019 because it noticed gaps in the BMAPs. After four years, in 2023, the 1 st District Court of Appeals ruled that FDEP must rewrite the BMAPs by July 2025.

As part of a state-wide effort, on November 7 th in Brooksville, Hernando County, Florida, the FDEP hosted a public meeting, gave a presentation on the draft BMAPS for our local springs, Weeki Wachee, Chassahowitzka, Homosassa, and Crystal River/Kings Bay Basins. They put up posters with statistics and information, and invited participants to ask questions and make comments on cards which they supplied. Those comments were to be included in FDEP's final report of the meeting. The final BMAPs will be reviewed at public hearings in December 2024 or January 2025.

FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL SPRINGS SUMMIT – RESCHEDULED TO FEBRUARY 8, 2025 AT STETSON LAW SCHOOL, GULFPORT, FLORIDA

A one-day event, has been rescheduled because of the recent hurricanes. Come and learn about Florida's iconic springs and what we can do to protect them through advocacy, policy, and law. Free to attend but you must register (don't delay as we expect a full house): <https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/>

FLORIDA RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT FOR THE 2026 ELECTION

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. Go here to get involved: <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>

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

This application will have its final hearing before the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners at 5:05 pm on Tuesday, December 10, 2024.

This application would amend the objectives and policies associated with residential dock densities in

he Manatee Protection Element of the Comprehensive Plan.

From out Florida League Co-Presidents, Cecile Scoon and Debbie Chandler



From Cecile:

As we look ahead, we will not be silenced or intimidated. Floridians are no strangers to the challenges of advocating for democracy, even when the courts, the legislature, and the governor's office are controlled by a single party. We remain resolute in our mission to protect democracy, empower voters, and build on these successes in 2025 and beyond.

From Debbie:

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time when the weather is finally getting cooler. We can look forward to wonderful meals and time with family and friends. This year, I want to wish all of you a bountiful Thanksgiving full of love, laughter and patience.