



JULY, 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 July 9 meeting features the Girl Scouts. The League is
committed to nonpartisan education about democratic principles. It is
at the Coastal Region Library at 10 am. See Page 4

We will not have an August meeting.

.....

Our September meeting will feature Supervisor of Elections Mo Baird.
Details will follow.

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Please visit our Facebook page and "like" us!

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

We want to thank the following businesses for their cooperation: FGE Printing, Glory Days Restaurant, Citrus County Chronicle, Pinnacle Printing

Events in July 2025



List

Month

Week

Day

July



2025



Go

< Previous Today Next >

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting 4:00 pm: Citrus County School Board meeting	9 10:00 am: LWV meeting - The Girl Scouts in Citrus County	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting	30 4:00 pm: LWV Social at the Cattle Dog Restaurant in Inverness	31		

This calendar is from our website:

Lwvcitrus.org

HAPPY



JULY

EVERYONE!

July 2025 Holidays and National Days

1 Tue	World Bronchiectasis Day	16 Wed	National Cherry Day
1 Tue	Canada Day	16 Wed	World Snake Day
1 Tue	International Joke Day	17 Thu	National Lottery Day
1 Tue	Battle of Gettysburg	17 Thu	World Emoji Day
1 Tue	National Postal Worker Day	18 Fri	Nelson Mandela International Day
1 Tue	Bobby Bonilla Day	18 Fri	World Listening Day
2 Wed	Civil Rights Act	19 Sat	Seneca Falls Convention
2 Wed	World UFO Day	20 Sun	National Moon Day
2 Wed	National Wildland Firefighter Day	20 Sun	Moon Landing Anniversary
2 Wed	I Forgot Day	20 Sun	National Ice Cream Day
3 Thu	National Stay Out of the Sun Day	20 Sun	International Chess Day
3 Thu	International Plastic Bag Free Day	20 Sun	World Jump Day
3 Thu	National Compliment Your Mirror Day	21 Mon	National Junk Food Day
3 Thu	St Thomas Day	22 Tue	National Hammock Day

3 Thu	St Thomas Day	22 Tue	National Hammock Day
4 Fri	Independence Day	23 Wed	National Gorgeous Grandma Day
4 Fri	National Sidewalk Egg Frying Day	24 Thu	National Tequila Day
5 Sat	National Bikini Day	24 Thu	Pioneer Day
5 Sat	National Workaholics Day	24 Thu	Cousins Day
5 Sat	International Day of Cooperatives	24 Thu	National Drive-Thru Day
6 Sun	International Kissing Day	24 Thu	International Self Care Day
6 Sun	National Fried Chicken Day	25 Fri	National Hire A Veteran Day
6 Sun	Ashura	25 Fri	Christmas In July

League of Women Voters of Citrus County

When: Wednesday, July 9 at 10:00 AM

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



Heather Wolfertz and her daughter, Jessica



Photo display of Citrus west side troop members

When you think of the Girl Scouts, does the word "democracy" come to mind? Probably not. Please join the League of Women Voters of Citrus County on July 9 and learn some interesting and important facts about our local Girl Scouts. You will be surprised at these dedicated young women's unique achievements and generous community involvement.

There will be a presentation about the Girl Scout movement in Citrus County, some of the most important facts from the FL report on the effects of Girl Scouts, and the democracy/government/voting badge work for the different levels of Girl Scouting. Heather Wolfertz, leader for Troop 14114, and her daughter Jessica will be speaking.

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.

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Welcome to our New member

Phyllis Dixon

and thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership!





I had a horrible dream one night recently. I dreamed that my country had changed so much. Suddenly everything was ugly, scary, and unrecognizable.

People of different political persuasions were laughing at each other, each saying that the other was crazy. They refused to listen to anything that did not fit their mindset.

Someone was breaking all the laws. Why shouldn't he? He broke them all of his life and got away with it. He declared himself King. All he did was play golf and sign Executive Orders with his sharpie.

People were given powerful cabinet positions who had no qualifications to do so. The only criteria was that they were rich and donated money to the campaign.

Medical research was halted and destroyed. God help us in the next pandemic, or if we want to get vaccinations. Hospitals were defunded; people would die unnecessarily, and the cruel response of the administration was "we are all going to die".

People were being kidnapped by ICE agents wearing masks – no uniforms, no marked vehicles. There was no due process for those taken, no opportunity for them to defend themselves. They just disappeared. Some were sent to notoriously horrible prisons in other countries, paid by our tax dollars. Immigrants – oh my God, many of them were afraid to go outside for fear of being captured and deported. It didn't matter whether they were "legal" or not. They would be gone. Families separated. Spouses not knowing where their spouse was taken, if they were ok, or even if they were alive.

The administration openly declared war on DEI, banning even the use of the term. Poof, civil rights gains from the past 50 years were gone.

The richest of the rich were getting an extension of the tax cuts, as if they needed more money. The deficit was just getting bigger.

Budgets were slashed, leaving services for Americans gone, people unemployed. NPR funds cut, forget about clean energy, leaving people starving all over the world.

A pre-emptive strike was done on Iran, to destroy their nuclear facilities. This went on while there were active negotiations. Sounded like what the Japanese did to us in World War I.

Veterans, disabled, children – programs for them were severely cut, disqualifying many people and making red tape difficult for others to get benefits.

Congress was rendered impotent, not even being consulted on issues. The country had become, for all intents and purposes, a monarchy.

The National Guard had already taken over one big city, and others were being threatened too.

And then I woke up.

Our June 11 meeting with Dr. Scott Hebert

Dr. Scott Hebert, Superintendent of Citrus County Schools, spoke at our June 11 meeting, along with Director of Special Academic Programs Darrick Beuttner.

Superintendent Hebert shared the things that are being planned. He had a transition period of time with retired Superintendent Sam Himmel. and then he began with a 100-school day “listening tour,” where he listened to the community, staff, parents, and students.

Instead of paying for an expensive logo for a new beginning, he charged his staff with designing one. It is “hot off the presses” and shown at the end of this article. Take a minute to read it. It shows a well thought out representation of the plan.

Dr. Hebert’s presentation was direct and easy to understand. His goal is to have one hundred percent of our students graduate from high school. He says, “every student should have pathways, options, or choices.”

He has improved communication with one (less expensive) software implementation that replaces three different ones. Messages can be shared instantaneously with staff, parents, and the community.

He spoke about his experiences as Florida Teacher of the Year in 1999. (Autumn Crabtree, a culinary teacher from our district, is a finalist for this year’s award.)

Mr. Beuttner collected information cards he had handed out to find out what we think the children should know and be able to do when they join the workforce.

Superintendent Hebert said they do not have a budget yet, because the legislature hasn’t passed one. He discussed pre-emption, where the State makes decisions instead of the local districts. He told about the courses and tests he is taking as a new Superintendent to become certified.

To find out about the Summer Rise Program, how he is working to recruit and retain teachers, his ideas on testing, portfolios, vouchers, cursive writing, and critical thinking, leadership, collaboration with businesses, and helping all students with career options, you can view the presentation at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xZ2DQcnD6A>



Pictured are 1st President Vicky Iozzia, Superintendent of Citrus County Public Schools Scott Hebert, and Director of Special Academic Programs Darrick Beuttner.

Part of the audience listening attentively.



The School District's New Logo

Introducing Our New District Logo

A Fresh Look for Citrus County Schools



CITRUS COUNTY SCHOOLS

Dr. Scott Hebert, Superintendent

Colors and Their Meaning

Every school in Citrus County — from elementary through high school — is represented by one of the four colors in our new logo.

Each pathway is a nod to our graduating schools and their unique identities:

- **Blue** - Crystal River High School and CREST
- **Green** - Lecanto High School and Withlacoochee Technical College (WTC)
- **Black** - Citrus High School

And the **Gold** cap that brings all of our schools together.

The vibrant orange outlines and leaf tie us proudly to our name and our roots — Citrus County. The colors also extend beyond our schools and represent attributes of our county, such as our abundant waterways, our state forest, and our renowned Rails to Trails.

The Logo Design

At the heart of the logo is a graduation cap — a symbol of academic achievement and success.

The three pathways flowing downward represent the possible futures we help our students prepare for:

- Career
- College
- Military

The colors are arranged to represent the flow of our county from west to east — CRHS, LHS, and CHS.

Superintendent's Message

"This logo captures the spirit of our district — proud, purposeful, and student-centered. It's a visual commitment to preparing every student for life beyond high school."

— Dr. Scott Hebert, Superintendent

This logo reinforces our district's commitment to all students, no matter which path they choose after graduation. It symbolizes how every journey begins here, in Citrus County Schools, with strong support and high expectations

Member survey

Below is a survey which will help us to get our members involved in the League. You can print it from the newsletter, or Vicky will have copies at all coming events.



League of Women Voters of Citrus County (LWVCC)
GETTING TO KNOW YOU! GETTING TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOU!!

Date: _____
First Name: _____ MI: _____ Last Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Additional Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____
E-Mail: _____

I would like to contribute my expertise in the following area(s):

- Lead: Vicky Iozzia Website Monthly Newsletter Speakers Bureau Technology
- Lead: Maxine Connor Natural Resources and Environment
- Lead: Linda Abels & Devora Stager Membership ChapterSpot *[official portal to view, update, join, and renew memberships]*
- Lead: Peg Primeau Attend County Meetings *[Community Watch]* Reproductive Rights
- Lead: Jan Hall & Dr BJ Ezell FL Dept of Health Citrus County
- Lead: Jan Hall Events Planning Flyers
- Lead: Rosemary Nilles Education Gun Safety Tabling at Community Events Legislation Federal & State
- Lead: Jan Publicity Historian
- General Interests: Educational Public Relations Planning Financial Management Legal
 Government Fundraising Marketing Webmaster Administration/Business Management
 Other: _____

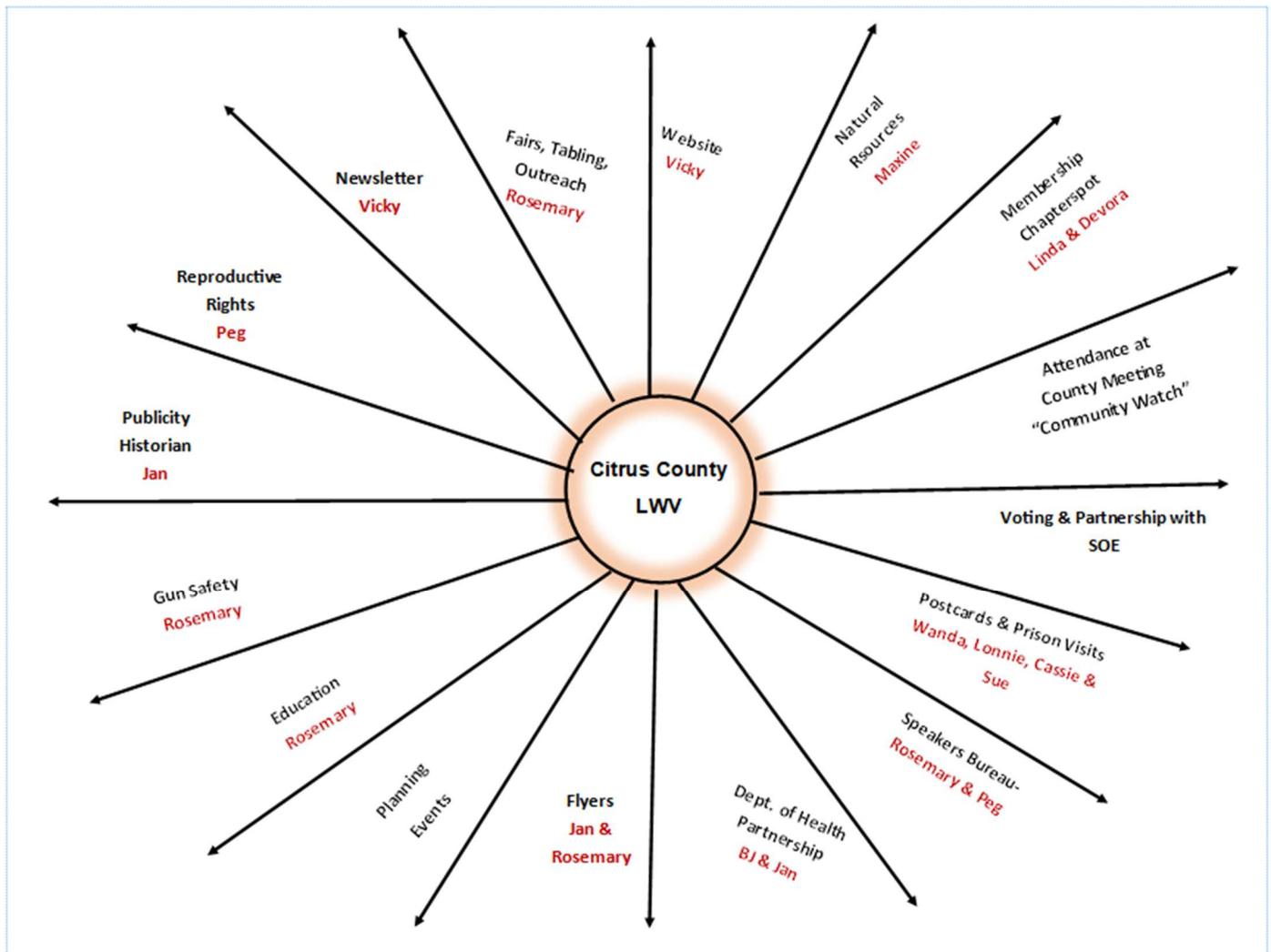
I am willing to help with Fundraising:
 Secure resources (teams and/or people) for events Secure event sponsorships
 Recruit friends to attend events and other donor cultivation initiatives.

Signature: _____

Please complete and submit to: Vicky Iozzia, vickyiozzia@gmail.com

Contact: LWVCC, P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460 **Website:** <http://lwvcitrus.org>

Member involvement



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

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!

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

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.

League members are attending County meetings, County Commissioners, Library Board, and School Board. We wear our big League of Women Voters pins so they know who we are. We are not there to intimidate, just to listen.

On June 23 I went to the BOCC workshop on Port Citrus. Small crowd, only about 20 people.

I read in Sound Off in the Chronicle, "Get rid of the Commissioners! They are not doing anything!". I'll bet those people who call in have not been to a meeting.

There was a presentation by the Economic Development Director, Steven Baham. I am not going to go into the details of this issue, because it would take too long. The Commissioners asked him many questions. Every issue is more complicated than it appears, and so is this issue. After due consideration, the Commissioners voted to revisit this issue at another time, but for now to have Director Baham go forward with the opportunity to swap land for a possible Port Citrus. They did not feel that investing the taxpayers' money in this project at this time was appropriate.

We are looking for people in our League to attend these meetings. You don't have to do anything but listen and let us know any urgent or important things that happen. You will get a League pin to wear, and help us with being a respected organization in the community. The list of meetings follows. If you can do this, please contact Peg Primeau, 2nd President, pegprimeau@gmail.com

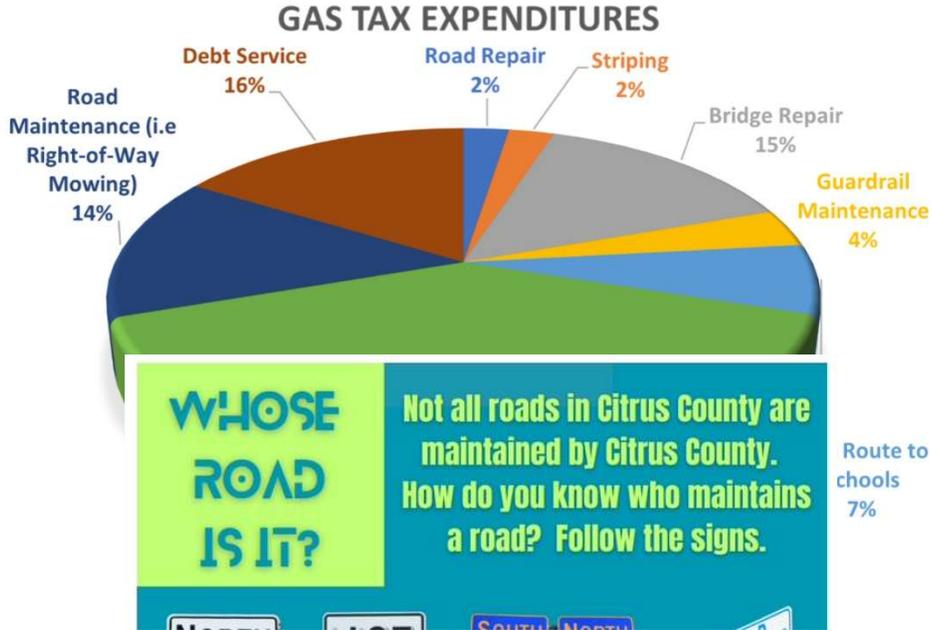
On June 24 I attended the 1 cent sales tax meeting at the Citrus Springs Community Center. It was poorly attended. In that big area, only about 30 people were there. I thought, "Did the public know about this? Were they too busy? Do they not care? Do they trust the Commissioners?"

To summarize, this was facilitated by the Chamber of Commerce. They will tabulate the information and present to the BOCC in August. If approved by the Commissioners, the 1% proposed sales tax would go on the November 2026 ballot. If passed it would go into effect in January of 2028.

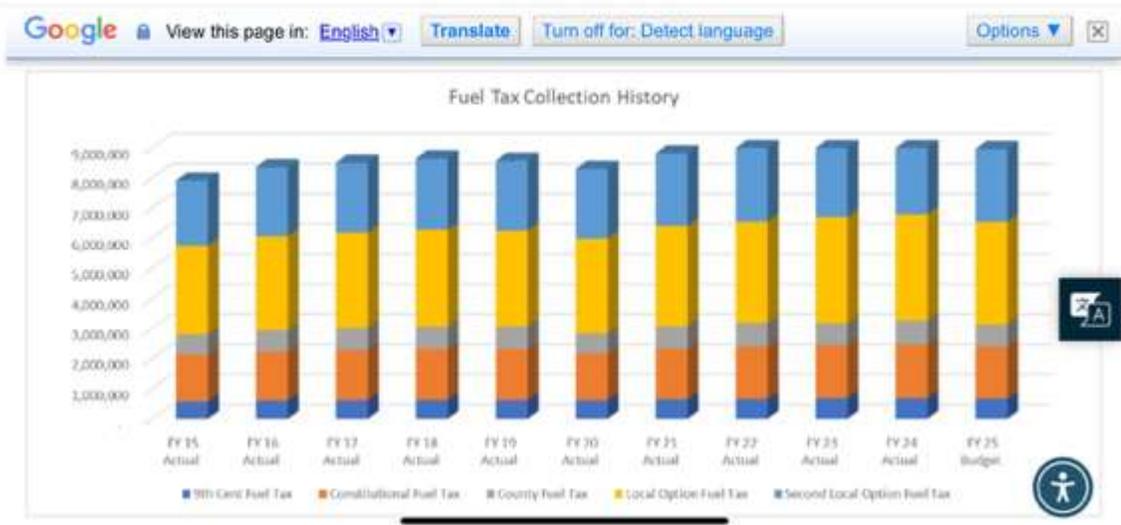
One interesting fact is to pave one mile of a one lane road takes \$173,000

They said that there was a lot of information on the BOCC website, so here are a few visuals that I took off of the website:

RESTRICTIONS ON USES OF REVENUE



citrusbocc.com



I also attended the protest in Crystal River on May 28. It gave me the opportunity to speak to some interesting people. The possible rain must have deterred many people, because there were only about 80 of us. (Maureen, I hope you are very happy in your upcoming move.)

I continue to be struck by how some people, mostly in big trucks, become so angry when they see protesters. Some make sure we have to breathe their exhaust. On the other hand, many others were beeping their horns in agreement and giving us the thumbs up.

Community Meetings June – August 2025

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

1:00 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays:

June 10, June 23, July 8, July 22, Aug. 12, Aug. 16

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

Find all county meeting dates:

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

Citrus County Library Advisory Board

9:00 AM, 4th Tuesdays: June 24, Aug. 26

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, May 13, June 10

1007 Main St. Inverness 34450

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Citrus County School District/School Board tab/ Board Agenda
and Minutes:

<https://go.boarddocs.com/fl/citrus/Board.nsf/Public>

View School Board Meetings:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/CitrusSchools>

**League of Women Voters Social at
Cattle Dog Restaurant in Inverness,
June 18, 2025**

What we lacked in quantity we made up in quality.



Our

next

meeting is at the Cattle Dog Restaurant in
Inverness, 4:00,
Wednesday, July 30.



What is Juneteenth? This summary is from the Citrus County Chronicle:

“Juneteenth is not just a commemoration of the end of slavery,” said Doug Wright, one of the people who spoke at the George Washington Carver Community Center in Crystal River on Thursday, where the first of two Juneteenth events took place. “It is a celebration of freedom, resilience and ongoing fight for racial justice.”

Wright said Juneteenth is also known as Freedom Day, or Emancipation Day. The holiday has only been a federal holiday for a few years, but its beginnings were sparked after the end of the Civil War.

“It specifically marks the day, June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas,” Wright told the crowd that packed the community center. “This event effectively ended slavery in Texas, the last stronghold of slavery in the Confederacy.”

While President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, it did not immediately free all enslaved people.

It wasn’t until June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, that the proclamation was officially enforced in Texas.



Our own Dr. BJ Ezell spoke at the event at the George Washington Carver Community Center on Thursday, June 19.

In a celebration of Juneteenth on June 10, 2024, Vice President Kamala Harris noted: "Across our nation, we witness a full-on attack on hard-fought, hard-won freedoms and rights, including the freedom of a woman to make decisions about her own body; the freedom to be who you are and love who you love openly and with pride; the freedom from fear of bigotry and hate; the freedom to learn and acknowledge our nation's true and full history; and the freedom that unlocks all others: the freedom to vote."



VOTE-BY-MAIL REQUESTS HAVE EXPIRED

FLORIDA STATUTE §101.62(1)a

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW: Supervisor of Elections, Maureen “Mo” Baird, reminds voters that Vote-by-Mail requests expire on December 31st after each election cycle.

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



If you have not already requested a Vote-by-Mail ballot after January 1, 2025, you may do so today by scanning the QR code below.



Or visit the Supervisor of Elections website at www.votecitrus.gov and select “Request a Vote by Mail Ballot” under the “Vote by Mail” tab.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS: Maureen “Mo” Baird

ELECTIONS OFFICE: The Supervisor of Elections Office is located at 1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd, Crystal River, in the West Citrus Government Center.

QUESTIONS: Call 352-564-7120.

From the League of Women Voters Impact on Issues

Privatization

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Privatization as announced by the national board in June 2012:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the League believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

The League believes that some government-provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation,

The decision to privatize a public service should be made only after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets, and functions to the private sector:

- Ongoing and timely communication with stakeholders and the public.
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained.
- Definition of the quality, level, and cost of service expected.
- Assessment of the private market— whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized (e.g., high-tech, airports).
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short- and long-term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight.
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment, and public employees.
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor.
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform.
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being.
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract.
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner.
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project.
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private entity (beyond the lowest-cost bid).
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy.
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity.
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration.
- Provision for employment, benefits, and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

League History

Convention 2010 delegates voted to undertake a study of the issue of privatization. Local and state Leagues across the country participated in the study and the League announced its position in June 2012.





Peg Primeau, 2nd President, Reproductive Rights Chair

Our League meeting on July 9 features the Girl Scouts of Citrus County. You won't want to miss this!

You may remember that last year the US League announced a partnership with Girl Scouts USA for getting out the vote. Our chapter was immersed in Meet and Greets with candidates, and I was late to try to connect. I finally met Scout leader Heather Wolfertz when I bought my Thin Mints in front of Publix. Then, thinking that waiting until school was out would work better, we scheduled Girl Scouts of Citrus for our July meeting.

What is the special affinity between LWVUS and Girl Scouts of America? Both groups promote the well-being of girls and women in society. Both groups promote full civic participation for all. Both groups are committed to nonpartisan education about democratic principles and action. (Yes, there are merit badges for that, and Heather will explain.)

The connection actually goes way back to the women's suffrage movement a century ago. You can find their toolkit about the centennial of the 19th amendment by searching online for "Girl Scouts suffrage."

Fast forward to the present. One thread in our list of speakers this year is youth—local concerns and how to help. The Girl Scouts commissioned a study called the State of the Florida Girl Report that was published in 2024.

It is about all Florida girls. Their exposure to adversity is out of proportion. From housing to healthcare to safety and mental health, FL girls are having a hard time compared to boys and to US youth in general. Our July guests will discuss this report as well as the positive impact that the Scouting experience has on these challenges



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



Education Roundup

by Rosemary Nilles, LWV Citrus Education Chair

The much-discussed Florida budget was finally passed weeks after it was due in early May. It's full of drama and surprise moves. Here's a quick recap of some education issues with credit to our colleagues at Families for Strong Public Schools.

- **Charter Schools:** In a late-night session, Florida lawmakers quietly passed a bill allowing charter schools to co-locate—rent-free—inside traditional public schools. This move could strain resources, increase competition for space, and undermine local control of public schools.
- The original bill had failed in the Senate. But this surprise package in the budget was slipped into the budget with no public debate, no transparency. It was backed by hedge fund billionaire Ken Griffin. It opens the door for more “Schools of Hope” to take over under-enrolled public school buildings. This is not school choice. It's a hostile takeover of public education.
- **Teacher Salary “Increases”:** Lawmakers finally agreed on \$101 million in new funding—which amounts to about \$20 more per paycheck for teachers. Recall that Florida still ranks 50th in the states for teacher pay. This token increase isn't fair to our educators or our students. Our educators deserve respect, support, and decent pay.
- **Secondary Programs:** The huge public outcry worked! The original budget called for huge cuts to Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE), and Career & Technical Education (CTE). Current funding levels are restored.
- **Book Bans - Software:** Buried in Florida's budget is over \$15 million for software designed to help extremists remove books from school libraries. It's  labeled as a “transparency tool” but actually used to restrict access to materials- and funded by Florida

Taxpayers! Education should expand minds, not censor them. Read more:

<https://open.substack.com/.../the-florida-crusades-funded...>

- **Short sightedness?** Florida Policy Institute says Florida legislators “ignored the potential loss of billions of dollars in federal funding for health care and food assistance under the president’s Big, Beautiful Bill.”
- **Read more about the state budget here:**
 - <https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/06/17/state-budget-recap-a-closer-look-at-general-revenue-and-staff-cuts/>
 - <https://www.wlrn.org/government-politics/2025-06-23/florida-policy-institute-state-budget-will-do-little-to-help-most-floridians>
- **Federal Budget:** Our partners at Florida Policy Institute Blog offer these analyses of the proposed Big Beautiful Budge, currently awaiting Senate action:
 - Education: [Federal Voucher System — Like Florida’s — Would Divert Funding to Private Schools and Home-Schoolers](#)
 - Health Care & Food Assistance: [4 Things That Floridians Should Know About the US House Reconciliation Bill](#)
- **Book Bans & State Preemption:** The Florida Department of Education and Attorney General James Uthmeier have demanded that Hillsborough County School District remove hundreds of books the state deems to be “pornographic” without public input. This preempts the community-based book review process established by law in 2023. Other districts are following for fear of repercussions to media specialists. Stay tuned for more in a coming newsletter.

Gun Violence Prevention (GVP):

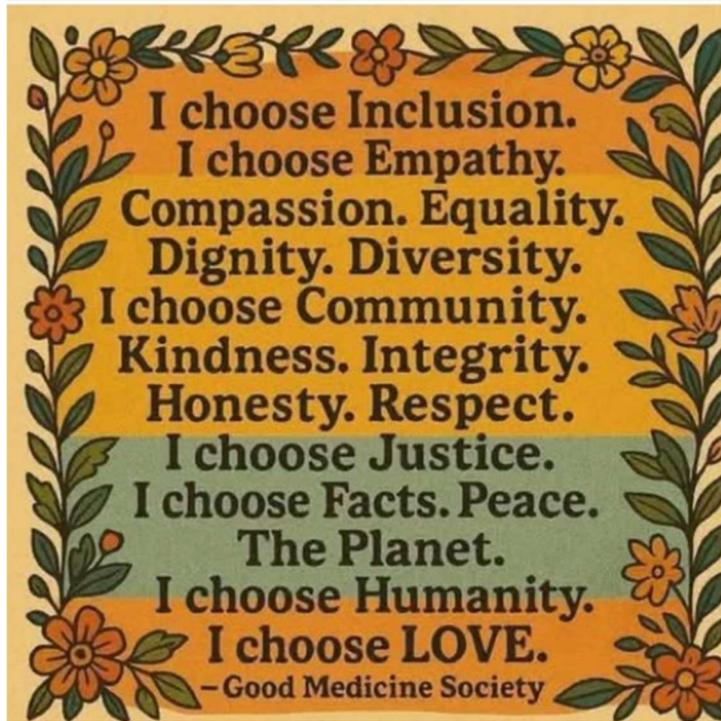
- **Concealed Carry Reciprocity:** Over 200 lawmakers in Congress have already signed onto a bill that would gut state concealed carry laws. It would create a new federal mandate that would force states to allow people with dangerous histories to carry hidden, loaded guns in states that wouldn't otherwise let them. In other words, even if one state requires a permit for concealed carry, folks from other states could still bring their concealed weapons in. So much for states’ rights! More to follow in upcoming newsletters.

IN THE NEWS

Over 100 new laws go into effect in Florida on July 1. To see all of them go to the following link:

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/florida/2025/06/02/here-are-all-the-new-florida-laws-taking-effect-next-month/>





ACLU

The ACLU blocked bills that would have:

- **Censored the press** (SB 752 / HB 667)
- **Gutted DEI programs in government and healthcare** (HB 731 / SB 1710, HB 1571 / SB 420)
- **Expanded book bans and silenced educators and artists** (HB 1539 / SB 1692, SB 1524 / HB 1011)
- **Chilled student speech and silenced political and social activism** (HB 1255 / SB 1618)
- **Allowed abusers to sue those who help someone access abortion care** (SB 1284 / HB 1517)
- **Blocked youth access to birth control and STI care** (SB 1288 / HB 1505)
- **Rolled back child labor protections** (HB 1225 / SB 918)
- **Undermined the minimum wage** (SB 676 / HB 541)

Still, [some damaging bills did pass](#) – including **HB 1205**, which makes it harder for citizens to put amendments on the ballot, and **SB 2C / 4C**, which ramps up anti-immigrant fear tactics and diverts millions in taxpayer money.

This session was defined by government overreach, censorship, and an open assault on Floridians' rights. But the story doesn't end there – because you didn't stay silent.

You showed up at the Capitol. You raised your voice in the streets, the press, and the courts. And together, we stopped many of the worst attacks in their tracks.

We're not done. Next session, these bills could come back – repackaged and buried in budget language. These challenges will return. But so will we.

Thank you for standing with us. Let's keep going. Democracy depends on it.

In solidarity,

HUFFPOST PERSONAL

How to Stop a Narcissist

Authoritarian leaders, like narcissistic family members, rely on well-worn tactics to manufacture a psychological state of volatile uncertainty — where outcomes aren't just unknown, but constantly shifting and unpredictable. This overwhelms the brain's ability to anticipate and prepare, keeping people mentally off-balance and easier to control. The good news: Awareness works like a vaccine, gradually building psychological immunity against further harm.

One technique I teach is called “gray rocking”: refusing to feed the narcissist's need for drama, attention or emotional reactivity. Gray rocking means becoming sturdy and repetitive — not reactive or maximalist — a boring target for someone addicted to power. Reacting with hyperbole or hysteria only emboldens narcissists. Deny them the fuel they seek. This is hard work. But it's how an abuser loses power.

Then: Set boundaries. In therapy, that might mean saying no repeatedly, like a broken record, and building the support system to stay safe. On a national scale, it means working together to reestablish constitutional guardrails such as due process, checks and balances, and freedom of speech. By using loopholes — [like invoking 18th century wartime laws](#) — to expand his power, Trump has exposed the weak spots in American democracy. As [our founding documents remind us](#): “A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People.” The Constitution is not just a legal structure — it's psychological scaffolding against narcissistic control.

Build resilience. Narcissistic abuse isn't just dangerous and dysregulating — it feeds on the very distress and isolation it creates to sustain itself. To interrupt the cycle, we need practices that restore regulation and reinforce community power. Collective care and self-care are not luxuries — they are revolutionary acts in times of oppression. Rest is not retreat; it's how we recover the clarity and cohesion needed to mobilize and rebuild. Join hands. There is strength in numbers and safety in solidarity.

And above all, keep faith in the long game. While narcissistic dynamics rely on urgency and alarm, deep change comes from staying calm, clear and connected. In defending against narcissistic control, the answer is never to mimic harmful tactics — it is to recognize them, grieve their damage, stop enabling them and break out of reactivity. Boundaries, civic mobilization and long-haul strategy are how we begin to heal the democratic spirit. In both therapy and democracy, healing begins the moment we stop reacting and start remembering who we are.

Oppose H.R. 1: the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act"



Rick Scott
US Senator FL

202-224-5274 ☎

Hi, my name is **[NAME]** and I'm a constituent from Crystal River.

I'm calling to urge Senator Rick Scott to oppose H.R. 1, the budget reconciliation bill, and its harmful cuts to vital government programs.

[OPTIONAL]: Specifically, I'm very concerned about... **[PICK 1-3 budget provisions]**

- the massive increase to the federal deficit, (and)
- the devastating cuts to Medicaid, (and)
- the restrictions on Medicare eligibility and increased cost burden for Medicare-Medicaid dual enrollees, (and)
- the funding increase for ICE and Trump's mass deportation operation, (and)
- the sale of millions of acres of public lands to private buyers and fossil fuel companies, (and)

- the widespread roll back of clean energy tax incentives and climate protections, (and)
- the unprecedented funding cuts to SNAP, (and)
- the unconstitutional limits on a court's ability to issue certain rulings, (and)
- the funding cuts to gender-affirming care for patients of all ages, (and)
- the funding cuts to Planned Parenthood clinical care, (and)
- the 10-year ban on state AI regulation, (and)
- the private school voucher program that pulls money from public schools, (and)
- the increased tax on college endowments, (and)
- the changes to student loan access and repayment options, (and)
- the changes to federal worker pay and benefits, (and)
- the defunding of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, (and)
- the elimination of gun silencer taxes.

Congress should pass a fair and responsible budget that helps working families and communities, not one that slashes our benefits to fund tax cuts for the wealthy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

IF LEAVING VOICEMAIL: Please leave your full street address to ensure your call is



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
JULY, 2025

The following article is used with permission of the Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group and Colleen Farmer.

Citrus County Sand Mine Proposed

Stop the Sand Mine



Image compliments of Colleen Farmer

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group has concerns regarding an application to mine for sand on 336 acres of land in the Pine Ridge community of Crystal River. It was filed by George Southworth, Trustee, and Citrus County held a special master hearing on June 27th on the request to change the land use designation from agricultural to extractive. Since this is a large-scale Comprehensive Plan Amendment, it will also be forwarded to state agencies for review and permitting. It may be scheduled for hearing before the Citrus County Commission in July or August.

One side of the parcel abuts the Pine Ridge residential area and a bridle path for horseback riding with rural acreage farmlands on other sides. The land has scattered wetlands onsite and a biological survey found gopher tortoises and Shermans fox squirrels, which the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission must address, if approved. The Species Inventory Report notes "According to Florida Land Cover Classification System, over 80% of the property is a sandhill, currently used for Pine production onsite. The property as a whole is a fairly intact example of the native Florida sandhill habitat type as well as the minor component of emergent and forested wetlands." Yet the applicant claims the land has been "cleared".

The neighbors have organized to oppose the project and launched a petition drive that states: "*Please let's encourage our Citrus County Board to look more closely at the requested land use change from AGR to EXT as it does not align with the overall comprehensive plan for our area. It is the water and our beautiful Springs that drive the economy in this area.*" There

are 10 private residential wells within 1,000 feet of the proposed mine. See petition at: <https://stopthesandminecc.wixsite.com/stopthesandmine/english-privacy-policy>

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group submitted comments on the application and Citrus Conservation Committee Member Robin Orlandi attended the hearing and asked that it be denied. Multiple inconsistencies within the application create an unreliable and contradictory narrative. These include assertions in the Petitioner's Narrative, the Land Development Code Amendment Application, and Application Summary that conflict with the findings of the Geotechnical Summary, Hydrological Summary, Groundwater Mitigation Plan and Listed Species Survey reports.

For example, the application fails to assess potential impacts to the aquifer and "Outstanding Florida Springs" complex at Crystal River by denying that here is a surficial aquifer on the project as indicated in the hydrogeological survey. The proposed mining site is within the "Springs Priority Focus Area" (PFA) of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (FL-DEP) Basin Management Action Plan for Crystal River/Kings Bay. A PFA is "where the Floridan aquifer is generally most vulnerable to pollutant inputs and there is a known connectivity between ground water pathways and an outstanding Florida spring."

In addition, the application states, "Sand will be extracted below the water table of the surficial aquifer. The clay aquitard below the surficial aquifer and above the Floridan aquifer will not be breached." The Geotechnical Summary, Hydrological Summary, and Groundwater Mitigation Plan contradicts this narrative stating that the two aquifers "may be separated by the low permeability clays, though usually they are in direct hydraulic communications because the clays are discontinuous." Description of core samples taken on site confirm, "that in some cases sand was underlain with dolomitic limestone (with no intervening clay)."

The hydrological plan identifies the direction of groundwater flow as southwest, towards the First Magnitude Crystal River/Kings Bay springs. The potential for contamination from the mine is likely. The application asserts that all site drainage will be contained within the mine pit but does not address the pit capacity nor calculate potential volume of drainage from dewatering of excavated materials, storms, seasonal high water table flooding, or unexpected flow from surficial aquifer, likely connected to the Floridan aquifer.

Conversely, potential impacts of site drainage are overlooked. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) Crystal River Unincorporated Watershed Study indicates the site is within multiple 100-year, 24-hour floodplains. The applicant's Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan states that "no dewatering will be conducted." SWFWMD replied that "It appears that dewatering may be required during the construction activities... Please submit a dewatering plan." The SWFWMD Request for Additional Information noted, "Since the project is located in a sensitive karst area and a historic sinkhole is located onsite, please provide a detail for an emergency chimney sink repair should one occur in a pond." Runoff into the mine pit and likely draining to groundwater increases water quality risks to the King's Bay springs and the aquifer.

Declining water quality in Florida springs due to surficial contamination is a statewide concern. This proposed sand mine undermines years of community efforts to improve water quality, protect the area's marine life, support the local economy of fishing, aquaculture and recreational tourism, and the quality of life and property values of residents. To risk harming impaired springs to mine for construction sand is unjustified, particularly when other active, open pit mineral mines already exist within Citrus and adjacent counties.

UPDATE FROM LWVCC NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR ON THE STATUS OF CPA/AA/PUD-2025-00001 – Atty Darryl W. Johnston for George L. Southworth, Trustee, of the George L. Southworth Revocable Trust dated 2/17/06

On June 27, 2025 the Special Master denied the application. This matter will now come before the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners at the Inverness Courthouse on August 12, 2025 at 5:01 pm.

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

EMAIL 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://www.rickscott.senate.gov/contact/contact>

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

CLEAN ENERGY REPEAL BILL THREATENS \$73 BILLION IN SOUTHEAST INVESTMENT

Article by Southern Alliance for Clean Energy

A sweeping House Republican bill (“Big, Beautiful Bill”) guts clean energy tax credits, threatening Southeast jobs, raising energy costs, and reversing climate progress—putting over \$73 billion in regional investment and U.S. competitiveness at risk.

[Stephen Smith](#), Executive Director of Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, and [Chris Carnevale](#) | May 22, 2025 | [Energy Policy, Southeast, Utilities](#)

Read the entire article here:

<https://www.cleanenergy.org/blog/clean-energy-repeal-bill-threatens-73-billion-in-southeast-investment/>

ACTION ALERT FROM SOUTHERN ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY: “””””

Tell Congress: Support Local Clean Energy and Jobs

Clean energy policy is under attack - NOW is the time to act: Tell your members of Congress to protect clean energy tax credits that lower energy costs for us all.

Right now, Congress is poised to axe some of our nation's most important climate and clean energy policies in their “one big bill,” passed by the US House on May 22. The bill would eliminate the tax credits that have been saving American households billions of dollars, fueling a national manufacturing boom, and increasing energy reliability. Please send an email to your members of Congress as soon as possible, asking them to protect our federal clean energy programs and incentives.

TAKE ACTION here:

<https://secure.everyaction.com/-evbUSpJ2keh2J9uTLVmhA2>

ACTION ALERT FROM SOUTHERN ALLIANCE FOR CLEAN ENERGY

Tell Congress: Protect Funding for Clean School Buses!



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. Complete the form below to submit an email to your own members of Congress.

Continue Funding the Clean School Bus Program

Click on the link to send an email to your legislators in the US Congress:

https://secure.everyaction.com/d3QQ5dSZo0ODKm5F_t3ruw2

ACTION ALERT FROM SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS ACTION:

KEEP THE FEDERAL TAX INCENTIVES FOR SOLAR – MAKE A PHONE CALL

Tell your Senators you support solar!

Members of Congress want to repeal successful policies that help more Americans benefit from solar energy. Congress needs to hear from solar energy supporters like you.

Solar investments are on the line. Here's what's at risk:

- the 30% Investment Tax Credit (ITC) for residential and commercial rooftop solar systems;
- Direct pay for schools, faith institutions, local governments, and other non-profits;
- the Solar For All program to make solar more accessible to lower income families; and
- the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) which awards grants and loans for rural small businesses to invest in solar and other clean energy technologies.

Together, we can stop this attack of solar energy head on. We need your help to ensure your Senators restore solar investments!

Click on this link to use the form to receive call instructions and script:

<https://act.solarunitedneighbors.org/a/save-solar-calls-thirdact>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF THE CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE ASKING THAT THE COUNTY STRENGTHEN THE FERTILIZER ORDINANCE

Strengthen the fertilizer ordinance

- **Apr 22, 2025**

Citrus County's springs and rivers are more than just beautiful — they're the backbone of our local economy, a big reason so many of us chose to live and retire here, and why so many more come to visit. Our aim is to protect that legacy. The County Commission has the opportunity to strengthen its existing fertilizer ordinance by adding a strict rainy season ban. This isn't a radical idea. Over 100 Florida communities have already passed similar rainy season application restrictions. They work. Alternatives like iron-rich, "summer-safe" products keep lawns green without polluting our precious water resources. Landscapers and residents alike adapt quickly once they know the rules — and education, not heavy-handed enforcement, is the key. We've seen it work across the state. It has become apparent that this isn't about government overreach or micromanaging anyone's lawn — it's about protecting what makes Citrus County special, in a way that's smart, affordable, and proven to work. Fertilizing in the rainy season is a waste. Heavy summer rains don't feed your lawn — they wash fertilizer into our waterways, where excess nitrogen and phosphorus trigger toxic algae blooms, choke out sea grasses and kill wildlife. One bad algae outbreak or fish kill can wreck a tourism season of manatee viewing or scalloping and damage our county's reputation for years. And it's not just about tourists: Clean water keeps property values strong and supports the tax base that funds everything from emergency services to road repairs. If we let our water quality slide into slime, we're risking far more than just a weekend paddle down the Chazz or a boating adventure out on the Homosassa or Ozello.

Compared to expensive sewer upgrades and restoration projects, this is low-hanging fruit. It's a simple step with a big payoff: low-cost, high-impact, and it helps our local governments meet the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Secretarial Order (mandate) to reduce nutrient pollution through Basin Management Action Plans to restore our springs. Let's not wait to clean up our act until the damage is already done. Let's take action now to keep our springs blue and our grass green — together.

Maxine Connor

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Citrus County

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

LOCAL SIERRA CLUB ADVENTURE COAST GROUP HELD A FLORIDA SMART FERTILIZING AND LANDSCAPING WORKSHOP (A SPRINGS EDUCATIONAL EVENT) AT THE HISTORIC COURTHOUSE IN INVERNESS ON SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 10-1

Guest speakers educated the public and local officials 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 that washes into our waterways during the summer rainy season (June through September) 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 by adding a rainy season ban on Nitrogen and Phosphorus fertilizer will help meet that mandate. There are plenty of other products that can be applied to lawns in summer. The summer rainy season ban does not harm the businesses of commercial applicators because they can continue to service their customers with the summer waterway friendly products that are good for the lawn. This was a family friendly workshop focused on springs-friendly living and sustainable landscaping.

Sponsors were League of Women Voters of Citrus County, Sierra Club Florida Chapter, Linda Wilinski Photography, Citrus County Audubon Society, Citrus Chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society, Save the Manatee Club, and UF/IFAS Florida Friendly Landscaping Program.

Speakers were: Eugene Kelly of Florida Native Plant Society on springs health, Tiare Fridrich of Save the Manatee Club on efforts to protect manatees, Sierra Club Florida's Michael McGrath on the benefits of urban turf fertilizer restrictions during the rainy season, and IFAS's Florida Friendly Landscaping Program's Claire Lewis on Florida Friendly Landscaping and resources.

SB 492 MITIGATION BANKS

Swamps and other wetlands are absolutely integral to clean water. Wetlands filter out pollutants, provide habitat for native wildlife, and absorb water during flood events. **Senate Bill 492 / House Bill 1175 will make it easier for developers to destroy these important ecosystems.**

Unfortunately, this bill was approved by the Governor on 6/26/25 and will become law on 7/1/25.

Currently if a developer wants to destroy wetlands, they are required to purchase credits from a wetland mitigation bank to offset the harm that they are doing. These credits essentially represent improvements to wetlands located on property other than the property that is being developed, and are intended to offset the harm to the watershed. Generally, credits are required to be located in the same watershed as the wetlands to be impacted.

This bill would allow credits for wetland destruction to be purchased from wetland mitigation banks located outside of the watershed where the harm is occurring. This runs the risk of creating pollution hotspots where wetlands will be destroyed in one place and credits will be purchased in an area far away with little to no ecological connection.

Bottom Line: These bills will lead to more wetland destruction across the state.

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/>

TUSCANY RANCH BOCC HEARING OF MAY 13, 2025 POSTPONED AT REQUEST OF APPLICANT

The Tuscan Ranch project is not scheduled to come before the Citrus County BOCC on a specific date. The initial hearing scheduled for May 13, 2025, was postponed at the request of the applicant, Metro Development Group. A new date for the BOCC hearing has not been set, and the County is awaiting further information from the applicant. The postponement was to allow the company to consider upcoming discussions on responsible growth and potential regulations.

https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/rebecca-bays-moratorium-likely-delayed-tuscany-ranch/article_3664fb36-8b49-54f1-a517-dceacec8a92b.html

https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/tuscany-ranch-project-pulled-from-tuesday-s-bocc-agenda/article_dcf13ddc-21b8-538a-800b-5d5ecde6e51a.html

UPDATED BASIN MANAGEMENT ACTION PLANS WERE FINALIZED ON 6/27/25

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 27, 2025

CONTACT: DEP Press Office, 850-245-2112, DEPNews@FloridaDEP.gov

DEP Advances Statewide Water Quality Protections with Updated Restoration Plans

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. – The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has adopted 28 updated nutrient Basin Management Action Plans (BMAPs), marking a major advancement in Florida’s commitment to improving water quality and fulfilling the requirements of the [Clean Waterways Act](#).

These BMAPs provide a science-driven, adaptive framework for reducing nutrient pollution in Florida’s rivers, lakes, estuaries, springs and aquifers. Developed in collaboration with local governments, state agencies, utilities and other key stakeholders, each plan sets clear pollution reduction goals and identifies targeted projects and strategies to improve the health of Florida’s waterbodies over the long-term.

“For years, DEP has worked closely with stakeholders across Florida to assess water quality, establish pollution reduction goals and identify projects and strategies to achieve meaningful, measurable improvements,” said DEP Secretary Alexis A. Lambert. “Today’s adoption of these plans is a significant milestone made possible through input, collaboration and dedication.”

Stakeholder engagement played a key role in reaching this milestone. DEP hosted more than 60 public meetings and held over 100 one-on-one meetings with regulated entities. DEP will continue this collaboration as projects are implemented, progress is evaluated and plans are updated to reflect changing conditions and shared goals.

“These BMAPs reflect DEP’s commitment to making data-driven decisions and maintaining transparency in our efforts to restore Florida’s water resources,” said Florida Chief Science Officer Dr. Mark Rains. “By incorporating rigorous scientific analysis and continuous monitoring, we are ensuring that our restoration strategies are both effective and adaptable to emerging challenges.”

While each BMAP outlines localized projects, restoration activities may include wastewater treatment upgrades, stormwater projects, fertilizer ordinances and best management practices. These projects are implemented across various levels, including counties, municipalities and special districts.

The updated BMAPs feature a phased implementation, allowing for incremental project implementation while monitoring water quality changes and incorporating the latest scientific findings. These BMAPs are designed to evolve with science and conditions on the ground.

The Secretarial Orders adopting the 28 BMAPs were signed on June 27, 2025. All associated documents, including finalized BMAPs, meeting materials and recordings, are publicly available on DEP's [BMAP Documents, Meeting Materials and Recordings webpage](#). DEP's [Statewide Annual Report](#) provides additional detail on the progress across all BMAP-related projects.

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 and check for updates on the Florida Springs Council website: <https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/springsharmrule>

UPDATES FROM FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE

A win for Florida: The [#KILLTHEDRILL](#) bill (HB 1143) was just signed by the Governor, banning oil drilling in Apalachicola. Shoutout to the folks with The Downriver Project, Apalachicola Riverkeeper and all the local leaders and advocates who fought hard to protect the Forgotten Coast!

We appreciate Rep. Shoaf and Senator Simon for sponsoring the Kill the Drill bill and working hard to protect their communities!

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1143>

RESTORE THE OCKLAWAHA

Email or call Governor DeSantis: Bring back the springs of Ocklawaha. Approve funding to remove Rodman Dam and restore the Ocklawaha River. Open up critical manatee habitat. Revive Silver Springs. Restore 20 lost springs. They money is in the budget waiting for the governor's signature.

[Florida Springs Council](#)

[esordStpno1 : 0g8lgf154u9ie7hha1 8t0227ti2853JMaug38 7l40Anm](#) ·

ITS ABOUT DAM TIME TO RESTORE THE OCKLAWAHA. [Click here to send a pre-written email to Governor DeSantis asking him to approve funding for Ocklawaha River restoration: https://floridaspringscouncil.good.do/.../RestoretheOckl.../](#)



Old Florida Vibes

[esordStpno1 : 0g8l9f153u9ie7hha1 8t0227ti2853JMaug38 7l40Anm](#) ·

NOW IS THE TIME: The Florida Legislature has included \$6.25 million in the 2025-26 budget for Ocklawaha River restoration. All that's left is for Governor DeSantis to approve the funding when he signs the budget later this month. Contact the Governor asking him to approve this funding and RESTORE THE OCKLAWAHA. Call the Governor's office at 850-488-7146, ask him if he really loves Florida and follow [@floridaspringscouncil](#)

[#restoretheocklawaha](#) [#oldfloridavibes](#)

RECOMMENDED READING FROM THE FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK PAGE

[Florida Springs Council](#)

[June 18 at 3:00 PM](#) ·

Springs protectors, what Florida books are on your summer reading list? 📖 Drop your recommendations in the comments.

Our engagement director just finished *A Land Remembered* by Patrick D. Smith, the epic Florida tale recently picked up to become a television series. She is still emotionally recovering.

📖 Some recommendations:

- 📖 🏆 *Florida Springs: From Geography to Politics and Restoration* by Dr. Chris Meindl - It recently won the Gold Medal for Florida Nonfiction at the Florida Book Awards.
- 📖 *Paddler's Guide to the Sunshine State* by Sandy Huff & Lars Andersen
- 📖 *The Springs of Florida: A Natural History and Underwater Field Guide for Divers, Snorkelers, Paddlers, and Visitors* by Doug Stamm
- 📖 *Backroads of Paradise: A Journey to Rediscover Old Florida* by Cathy Salustri
- 📖 *Paving Paradise: Florida's Vanishing Wetlands and the Failure of No Net Loss* by Craig Pittman & Matthew Waite
- 📖 *Florida Is Not For Sissies: A Geography of Danger and Disaster* by Kimball Love
- 📖 *Wildlife of Florida Springs* by Sandra Poucher

[\(20+\) Facebook](#)

FLORIDA RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER

Stay tuned for updates. <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>



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

Jan has the archives of the history of our League. Here is some information from 2013, the first year of our League.





**League of Women Voters
Citrus County**

Invites You to Join Us

For a Presentation and Discussion with

Angela Vick

Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller
for Citrus County

Sponsor: League of Women Voters of Citrus County

Where: Central Ridge Library
425 W. Roosevelt Blvd.
Beverly Hills

When: Tuesday, October 8, 2013
10:15 AM

Contact: lwvcc2013@gmail.com

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

NEWSPAPER ANNOUNCEMENT for Oct. 8, 2013

Did you Ever Wonder What a County Clerk Does?

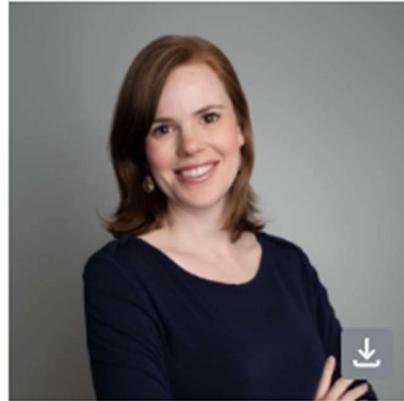
Angela Vick will be the guest speaker for the League of Women Voters of Citrus County on Tuesday October 8th, 2013 at the Central Ridge Library in Beverly Hills, at 10:15am.

Mrs. Vick has worked for the Citrus County Clerk's office for 22 years. She will be explaining the duties of her position as Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller and answering any questions pertaining to her work.

The League is a nonpartisan, educational organization which meets every second Tuesday of the month. All interested men and women are invited. Feel free to bring soft drinks. For more info call 746-xxxx

From the League of Women Voters of Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. – Elected during the League of Women Voters of Florida’s 40th biennial state convention, **Jessica Lowe-Minor**, 41, makes history as the youngest woman elected to lead the statewide organization overseeing 29 local chapters across the state. A notable milestone in an organization with more than a 100-year legacy of seasoned civic leadership.



“We at the League of Women Voters have the obligation and the opportunity to fulfill our mission of empowering our fellow citizens and defending democracy from authoritarianism. Never in my lifetime have we been in such a dire moment, but we are not alone,” said **Lowe-Minor**. “We are together, we are a network, and we are growing. People are looking for things to do and ways to help, and we have answers.”

Lowe-Minor’s journey with the League spans over a decade. She served as executive director of the League of Women Voters of Florida from 2010 to 2014, during which time the organization saw a 167% increase in revenue, a 31% boost in membership, and expanded statewide visibility. She went on to serve three terms on the League of Women Voters of the United States board, including as vice president from 2020 to 2022.

