



DECEMBER 2025

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CITRUS COUNTY,
FLORIDA

Vicky Iozzia is the Editor of this newsletter. Our mailing address is
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lwvcitrus.org

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Our December 10 meeting is a double-header featuring **Sheriff David Vincent** and **Superintendent of Schools Scott Hebert**. It will be at **Glory Days Restaurant** in Lecanto. To register, pick out your meal, and pay, go to **lwvcitrus.org**, click on **Upcoming Events**, and scroll down below the calendar.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS DEC 8! See Page 4

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Our January 14, 2026 Guest Speaker will be Damaris Allen and Ami Marie Granger Welch of **Families for Strong Public Schools**. It will be at the Coastal Region Library, 10 am. See page 5

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

HAPPY DECEMBER EVERYONE!



◀ Nov 2025		December 2025					Jan 2026 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1 Cyber Monday World AIDS Day	2 Giving Tuesday Int'l. Day for Abolition of Slavery	3 Int'l. Day of Persons with Disabilities	4 Nat'l. Cookie Day	5 Int'l. Volunteer Day Nat'l. Repeal Day World Soil Day	6 St Nicholas Day Finland Indep. Day	
7 2nd Sunday of Advent Int'l. Civil Aviation Day Pearl Harbor Remembrance	8 Immaculate Conception Green Monday	9 Genocide Prevention Day Anti-Corruption Day	10 Human Rights Day	11 Int'l. Mountain Day	12 Billboard Awards Int'l. Day of Neutrality Int'l. Universal Health Coverage Day	13 Nat'l. Cocoa Day Nat'l. Day Of The Horse	
14 Hanukkah (Begins) 3rd Sunday of Advent	15 Hanukkah (Cont.) Bill of Rights Day	16 Hanukkah (Cont.)	17 Hanukkah (Cont.) Nat'l. Maple Syrup Day Wright Brothers Day	18 Hanukkah (Cont.) Arabic Language Day Int'l. Migrants Day	19 Hanukkah (Cont.)	20 Hanukkah (Cont.) Int'l. Human Solidarity Day Super Saturday	
21 Start of Winter (Winter Solstice) 4th Sunday of Advent Hanukkah (Cont.)	22 Hanukkah (End)	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Boxing Day Kwanzaa (Start)	27 St John	
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve				

Events in December 2025									
Grid	List	Month	Week	Day	December	2025	Go	< Previous	Today
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
	1	2	3	4	5	6			
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
		9:00 am: Library Advisory Board 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting 4:00 pm: Citrus County School Board meeting	9:30 am: Glory Days Luncheon with Scott Hebert and David Vincent						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
28	29	30	31						

This calendar is from our website:
Lwvcitrus.org

**The League of Women Voters of Citrus County
December 10, 2025 Luncheon, 9:30 am
With Guest Speakers
Citrus County Sheriff David Vincent and
Dr. Scott Hebert, Superintendent of Citrus County
Schools
Held at**



Please choose from:

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 Sandwich

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

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.

Vegetarian GDG Crave A' Bowl

Basmati rice, broccoli, tomato and cucumber, hummus, Feta, garlic aioli and lemon wedge.

\$25 per person includes meal, soft drink, and tip

Pay online, You must pay in advance. lwvcitrus.org, click on Upcoming Events. Scroll down to below the menu options. Choose your lunch from the drop-down menu. Submit, and click on the green events button to pay. Doors open 9:30, program begins at 10 promptly, lunch at 11:00
Questions? Contact Devora Stager, (207) 323-8246, or email at devorastager@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS DEC 8!

Make your reservation early, because we are expecting a large attendance.

League of Women Voters of Citrus County invites the public to join us for a discussion about public education.

***Why Public
Schools Matter:
A Look at
Florida's School
Choice Options***



Wed. January 14, 2026, 10:00 AM

Coastal Region Library
8619 W Crystal St., Crystal River, 34428

Presented by

Families for Strong Public Schools

Our Speakers:



Damaris Allen,
Executive Director



Ami-Marie Granger Welch,
Deputy Director

Presenters will offer a closer look at the role of public schools, Florida's many options for school choice, and how these options impact funding and resources for our neighborhood public schools.

There will be time for Q & A.

For more information, contact lwcc2013@gmail.com

League of Women Voters of Citrus County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. LWV does not support or oppose candidates and/or political parties.



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Linda Abels, Membership Chair

Happy Holidays! I wish you all a very Happy, and Healthy Holiday Season.

Please extend a welcome to two new members, **Jamie Hobba** and **Heather Wolfertz**. Make sure you introduce yourself at our next meeting.

Jamie and Heather are two of the seventeen new members that joined our league this year. As of this writing, we have 69 members. We are one of the smaller local league chapters in Florida, but that doesn't mean that we don't work hard educating our residents about the various issues facing our community and our state. Please think about what you like to do, for example, write letters, talk to groups of people, gather signatures, etc. and let us know if you would like to help us using the skills you have. We always need extra hands.

If you have friends that may be interested in joining the LWV Citrus County or just interested in what the LWV is all about please suggest that they go to our website and learn about the league and can sign up there. Our website is: [www: lwvcitrus.org](http://www.lwvcitrus.org).



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

Once again, like clockwork, the Holidays will be upon us. Whether it is Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza, it is a time of peace. That is, it should be a time of peace. Usually we feel sad because so many people from all over the world are at war, or starving. This year is different.

Yes, we feel for the people who are starving, but more are starving because the American budget was cut with a chain saw. People who can't help themselves will starve, and so will their children.

This year, we do not have peace in this country. Immigrants are being terrorized, arrested, and are disappearing. Imagine someone whom you love being taken away in an unmarked car by people with masks. Taken to God knows where, and you will never see them again. I can't imagine the pain.

It is not only American citizens, but also Americans being threatened. Anyone who does not agree with the current administration in Washington has to be afraid.

Many family celebrations may not happen because relatives can't be in the same room without fighting. People are so polarized, more polarized than I have ever witnessed. I thought the time during Vietnam was bad, I thought McCarthyism was bad. This is worse.

Christmas is also a time of hope. Can we hope? We had better. When I was at Crystal River High School for an Advisory Committee meeting, I saw a sign that said, "Bullies need Victims." That intrigued me, and I am glad that bullying is being addressed in our District.

Bullies want us to be afraid. Having experienced bullying myself, right in my family of origin, I can tell you that they will prey upon you until and unless you stand your ground and refuse to take it.

I am going to have a wonderful Christmas. That's my goal. I am not going to let anything or anyone stand in my way. I am going to be hopeful that there will be ways to stop the unconstitutional, immoral, and illegal things that are being done in our state and in our country.

I will be listening and watching for ways to get involved so that we can have a free country and state again, not where "some of us are more equal than others of us." Kindly do the same thing and we can make and have a better world.

No Kings Protest in Inverness on Saturday, November 22, 2025

It was a much smaller crowd of protesters, only 85, down from 1250 in October, but the people who were there were just as passionate.

I would like to know, where are all the young people???????





Zoom meeting from November 5, 2025: **BE SURE TO VOTE!**

On Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 7pm, the League of Women Voters of Citrus County and the League of Women Voters of the Villages held a Zoom meeting with the candidates for Florida State Senator, Ash Marwah and Ralph Massullo.

The following questions were presented to the candidates:

1. What would your top two priorities be if you were elected as Senator?
2. There is considerable development planned for the Nature Coast in the coming years. What can be done on the State level to ensure that the rights of businesses are balanced with local control to protect the environment?
3. Florida is considering redrawing their congressional maps ahead of the 2026 elections. What is your opinion and its justification on this issue?
4. Homeowners insurance rates are skyrocketing in Florida. What would you do to relieve homeowners faced with higher rates?
5. What are your opinions on immigration and what do you think the legislature should do in the future?
6. How should the Florida legislature address the budget shortfalls experienced by local school districts in 2025?

Do you want to know what their answers were? You are in luck! We aim to please! You can watch it on youtube.

<https://youtu.be/06h0mb-6muo>

Candidates present contrasting visions for Florida's future

Massullo, Marwah speak at League of Women Voters forum

By MIKE ARNOLD
Chronicle Reporter

Candidates for Florida Senate District 11 shared contrasting views on insurance reform, education, growth and environmental policy, redistricting, taxes and immigration during a Nov. 5 virtual forum jointly hosted by the Citrus County and Tri-County (The Villages) Leagues of Women Voters.

Republican Rep. Ralph Massullo and Democrat Ash Marwah each delivered three-minute opening and closing statements and answered questions submitted by the League and by online viewers. The special election will be Dec. 9, with early voting Nov. 29-Dec. 6.

Opening statements: Cost of living, education and environment

Marwah said he is running "to make life a

little bit better for Floridians," citing rising prices and stagnant wages. "More than half the families in the district are living paycheck to paycheck or from Social Security check to Social Security check," he said. He highlighted reducing homeowners' insurance premiums, expanding Medicaid, raising teacher pay and protecting Florida's natural resources as his core goals.

Massullo pointed to his eight years in the Florida House, where he chaired committees on state affairs, education and environment. He emphasized environmental legislation he sponsored involving seagrass protection, the wildlife corridor and rural lands conservation. Calling fatherhood his "highest priority," Massullo said Florida "now leads the nation in educational freedom," and said the state must continue preparing students for a rapidly changing world. He also pledged to strengthen the economy by "recruiting

clean industry" and reducing taxes where possible.

Growth & environment

MARWAH: Restore DEP independence, let science drive decisions

Marwah said the state must "allow independence" for the Department of Environmental Protection. He criticized what he views as routine disregard for environmental laws, pointing to the now-abandoned Northern Turnpike Extension and current work on the Suncoast Parkway.

"They had to bring a crane to get their own equipment out of the water," he said of a recent construction incident near Kings Bay. "We really have to be careful not to disturb the ecology."

MASSULLO: Counties must manage development; state investment working

Massullo said development pressure reflects desirability but requires careful planning.



MARWAH



MASSULLO

"A lot of the problem has to be handled at the county level," he said, calling for updated comprehensive plans and balanced drainage and infrastructure planning. He cited state investments in springs restoration, river cleanup and seagrass recovery. Highways, he said, are "vital to growth" and to evacuation in emergencies.

Redistricting

MASSULLO: Support accurate population representation

Massullo said he had not reviewed details of the proposal but supports maps that reflect population without gerrymandering. He added he does not believe race should be used "to justify particular areas" and said representation should count "U.S. citizens and not necessarily those ... here illegally."

See CANDIDATES, page A5

CANDIDATES

From page A1

MARWAH: No need to redraw; calls proposal political

Marwah said redrawing congressional districts only three years after the 2022 maps is unnecessary.

"There is no need to waste this money," he said, pointing to a projected state budget shortfall. He called the effort "just a political game ... to gain power in the next election" and said revisiting maps undermines "decades of progress in civil rights."

Homeowners' insurance

MARWAH: Repeal 2022 laws, create nonprofit hurricane insurer

Marwah said major insurance laws passed in 2022 "have given extremely high power to insurance companies" and weakened homeowners' rights. He cited unpaid claims and high executive compensation.

He again called for a statewide nonprofit hurricane insurer so private carriers only write theft and fire coverage.

MASSULLO: Liability reforms beginning to work

Massullo said the Legislature has already tackled the main cost drivers. "The biggest thing ... is remove the largest cost driver ... and that's liability," he said, noting reforms to assignment of benefits and attorney fees. He said that Citizens'

standards were updated to attract private insurers and that competition should help rates over time.

"We've seen the rate of increase go down," he said, hoping calmer hurricane seasons continue.

Property taxes

MASSULLO: Supports concept but says funding government is key

Massullo said he "philosophically" supports reducing or eliminating taxes on homesteaded property, calling property taxes "a horrible cost to homeowners." But he said the state must still fund essential services and may need to improve efficiency or shift revenues, including tourism taxes.

MARWAH: Calls proposal political, unworkable

Marwah argued the governor's proposal is "just another game," saying property taxes are local and counties - not the state - should set them.

"There is no way that the governor can cut property taxes and not have layoffs of police officers and first responders and firefighters," he said.

Immigration

MARWAH: Penalize employers, stop state spending on detention

Marwah, an immigrant himself, said he supports preventing undocumented migration but opposes Florida's spending on state-run detention initiatives.

"We should not be wasting state dollars," he said, calling it "waste-

ful spending" that will stress future budgets. He said the Legislature should instead "punish employers who employ undocumented workers," arguing migrants "won't come here" if the jobs disappear.

MASSULLO: Enforce law, push for federal reform

Massullo said the U.S. is "a nation of immigrants" but must stop illegal immigration, citing crime and drug trafficking tied to border failures. He supports assisting federal enforcement efforts in Florida. "I also believe ... at some point ... we need comprehensive immigration reform," he said, though he acknowledged it "will not be easy."

Mike Arnold can be reached at mike.arnold@chronicleonline.com or 352-564-2929, ext. 429.



Rosemary Nilles

Our **November 12, 2025** meeting was supposed to feature retired Judge Trish Thomas. Due to a family emergency she was unable to attend. We wish her well and will reschedule her speaking for next year.

Up to the plate came Rosemary Nilles. She has recently volunteered to be Co-Chair for the Florida League of Women Voters Speakers Bureau. Hot off the presses, she presented her recently penned powerpoint on Redistricting.

She explained the history of redistricting in the United States. Then she focused on Florida and how redistricting now would go against the Florida Constitution. Redistricting is supposed to happen every ten years, after the Census is done. Not in-between years.

She explained that redistricting in a time other than every ten years enables the politicians to pick the voters, instead of the voters picking the politicians in a free in fair vote.

The League's position, quoting League of Women Voters of the United States CEO Celina Stewart, Esq, is that mid-decade redistricting "erodes public trust in democracy, is a disservice to the people, and that the voters deserve fair representation."

To view the presentation in its entirety, go to <https://youtu.be/bRtj3kT2oPU>

NEWS FLASH!

One of the hot topics, one of the most important issues, in Citrus County is roads. Everyone, including me, wants to know when our roads will be repaved. I live on a road in Pine Ridge that looks like land mines have exploded.

I recently went to houses in my neighborhood to try to get them to work with me to get two roads repaved. Many were supportive but did not want to get involved. Some were resigned to never getting the roads fixed.

I attended the Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday, November 18, and saw a presentation which explained the present situation and gave recommendations for future activities. Our present circumstance is much more complex than meets the eye.

Commissioner Jeff Kinnard helped me to get an appointment with Citrus County Administrator Steve Howard. I tried to get some neighbors to come with me, but they were busy. We met in a big conference room, and Walt Eastmond, Director of Technical Services, and Carlton Hall, Acting Director of Public Works, joined us.

We have scheduled a Zoom meeting on January 14, 2026, at 7 PM where Steve Howard will give a presentation and answer questions. Registration is required.

To register, go to:

lwvcitrus.org

Click on Upcoming Events

Click on the link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/0Zs4B7TFRAKvPHBoCHuPLw>

Fill in your information and you will receive an email with the information you will need to attend.

I would strongly suggest that you watch the following video to prepare for this meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9AfP4Qd9Acw>
This video, from September 2024, describes what the County is facing, and what has been done in resurfacing.

If you have not heard me say or write it before, **We Need Your Help**.

I am proud of what our Board and members have been doing, but there are many more things we can do. Below are the areas where we need volunteers:

Fund raiser – to develop a plan to raise money for our League and implement it, recruiting other volunteers to help you.

Voter services chair – **TAKEN** – Thank you **Wanda Brown!** Wanda has been working on informing nonviolent felons that they can get their voting rights back. She has a team to work with her and is writing a grant to get the money to educate the people who deserve to get their voting right back, even though the present administration is slow-walking applications and making it difficult.

People to attend community meetings – Attend Board of County Commissioners, Library Board, and School Board meetings. Vicky and Peg have been attending as much as possible. If you won't go to the meeting, it is available on youtube. If we can get several members to do this it will only require a few hours per month.

The present political situation can make us feel helpless, but we will not let that happen. Working together as League members, we can make a difference. If you have any questions, send us an email at lwwcc2013@gmail.com

From Rosemary Nilles, 1st Vice President and Florida League co-chair for the LWV Speakers Bureau:

Gov. DeSantis also is looking towards mid-decade redistricting in Florida. The Florida House Speaker has already set up a committee to study and plan.

Florida also has a committee in place to study mid-decade redistricting. **LWV and LWVFL oppose mid- decade redistricting! In Florida, our state Constitution prohibits it!** Members, watch for more information from LWVFL on ways to speak out.

For groups who are interested in learning more, LWVFL Speakers Bureau has prepared two presentations on this topic:

“Understanding Mid-Decade Redistricting” is strictly educational with no positions offered.

“Say No to Mid-Decade Redistricting” explains the process but also offers LWV Florida’s position against it.

Check our website to request a speaker.
<https://www.lwvcitrus.org/speakers-bureau/>

County Meetings

YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

- District 1 (Crystal River, Ozello, Citronelle, Red Level): Jeff Kinnard, jeff.kinnard@citrusbocc.com
- District 2 (Homosassa, Sugarmill Woods): Diana Finegan, diana.finegan@citrusbocc.com
- District 3 (Beverly Hills, Pine Ridge, Citrus Springs): Janet Barek, janet.barek@citrusbocc.com
- District 4 (Floral City, part of Inverness): Rebecca Bays, rebecca.bays@citrusbocc.com
- District 5 (part of Inverness, Hernando, Arrowhead): Holly L. Davis, holly.davis@citrusbocc.com

NOTE: Correspondences, including email, are public records once received by commissioners or county staff.

Community Meetings October - December 2025

<p>Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) 1:00 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays: Oct. 7, Oct. 28, Nov. 4, Nov. 18, Dec. 9, Jan. 6 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</p>
<p>Citrus County Library Advisory Board 9:00 AM, 4th Tuesdays: Oct. 28, Dec. 9 Lecanto Gov't Bldg., 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto 34461 For more information: Citrus County/BOCC/Special Library Board https://citrusclerk.org/calendar.aspx</p>
<p>Citrus County Schools District (CCSD) School Board 4:00 PM, 2nd Tuesdays, Oct. 14, Nov. 11, Dec. 9 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</p>

From our Supervisor of Elections, Maureen “Mo” Baird

ELECTION DATES

2025 ELECTIONS
Special Primary Election - September 30th, 2025
Last Day to Register or Change your Party - Sept. 2nd, 2025
Special General Election - December 9th, 2025
Last Day to Register - November 10th, 2025

2026 ELECTIONS
Primary Election - August 18, 2026
Last Day to Register or Change your Party - July 20, 2026
General Election - November 3, 2026
Last Day to Register - October 5, 2026

VOTE BY MAIL
When returning your ballot by U.S. Mail, please allow at least 7 days for delivery. The return postage is prepaid.

POLLS OPEN
7am - 7pm Election Day



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.

58107067

The Deadline for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot is 5 pm local time on the 12th day prior to each election, per F.S. 101.62

Vote by Mail Requests cover all elections for one General Election Cycle.



**League of Women Voters Social At Cattle Dog Restaurant in
Inverness, November 2025**

Come, join us! Have a cup of something or a
meal. Join the conversation or listen.
Our next meeting is at the Cattle Dog Restaurant
in Inverness, 4:00,
Wednesday, January 21, 2026

From the new League of Women Voters Impact on Issue

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

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

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

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

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

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

The League turned its attention to election administration and supported the drafting of the Help America Vote Act (HAVA). Following HAVA's passage, the League began a fight against voter photo ID requirements. In the second half of the 2000s, the League supported legislation to reform the lobbying process and rebuild public confidence in Congress. In 2008, the House passed new ethics guidelines, including new ethics rules, disclosure requirements for campaign contributions "bundled" by lobbyists, and a new ethics enforcement process. The League also continued its work seeking full enforcement of the NVRA.

In the 2010s, the League and coalition partners urged the Speaker to preserve and strengthen House ethics rules and standards of conduct. The League continued fighting for the expansion of the NVRA through inclusion of voter



registration in the federal health care exchange on [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). The League also continued supporting state Leagues to fight against voter suppression measures at the state and local level like voter photo ID requirements, rollbacks to early voting, restrictions on absentee ballots, and other anti-voter measures through its Public Advocacy for Voter Protection (PAVP) project.

The League joined coalition partners to find common ground to strengthen the VRA following the 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* decision by supporting the *Voting Rights Advancement Act* and later the *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*. The League also fought to pass the *For the People Act* and the *Freedom to Vote Act* in the 116th (2019 – 2021), 117th (2021 – 2023), and 118th (2023 – 2025) Congresses.

Following the January 6 attack on the US Capitol, the LWVUS Board of Directors met and voted unanimously to call for the immediate removal of President Donald J. Trump from office via any legal means, including and in order of preference: impeachment with disqualification, the invocation of the 25th Amendment, or resignation. The League was clear that President Trump had instigated a terrorist attack on the nation and had violated his oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.

In the 118th Congress (2023 – 2025), the League called for passage of four core democracy bills including the *Freedom to Vote Act*, *John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act*, *Native American Voting Rights Act*, and the *Washington, DC Admission Act*. LWVUS also worked on additional democracy and voting rights legislation like the *DISCLOSE Act*, legislation to restore voting rights for formerly incarcerated individuals, and other election administration issues. After a decade of advocacy, the League and partners finally persuaded the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to add a voter registration question to the [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) application.

The League launched the People Powered Fair Maps™ campaign in 2019 to aid states in their redistricting efforts. In 2024, LWVUS launched its "moonshot" campaign: One Person, One Vote – an effort to finally abolish the Electoral College and establish direct election of the President of the United States.



Peg Primeau, 2nd President, Reproductive Health & Justice Chair

Sex Education in Florida

Last year, the Florida Department of Education told schools to focus sex-ed programs on abstinence-only education.

The national nonprofit SIECUS, formerly the Sexuality Information & Education Council of the United States, gave Florida an F in sex ed. “Florida has more laws *prohibiting* topics from being taught in sex education than laws *requiring* topics to be taught.”

Imagine the content if Driver’s Ed were taught like Sex Ed in Florida.

- The user’s manual and the diagram of parts are not available.
- Keep the windows closed at all times.
- When you navigate, just set the route to straight.
- Do not look under the hood.
- Do not touch the defrost button.
- In the event of an accident, you must leave the state.

If you surveyed parents, they would probably say they are really good at providing sex ed to their children. But when education about reproductive biology, sexual health, and healthy relationships is elective, censored, or hit-or-miss, what is at stake?



On **November 15, Rosemary** spoke at the Coffee Coalition meeting at the Central Ridge Library. She delivered the PowerPoint presentation that she authored as the Chair of the Speakers Bureau of the League of Women Voters of Florida. It was very well received by the audience.

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

The Update You Don't Want to Hear by Rosemary Nilles
Wait, what? Florida's school voucher system is a mess, with millions in taxpayer funds missing? Whoever could have predicted that??

Yes, those who warned that this could happen are proved to be right:



“Florida's public school financing has been a mess since 2023, when the Legislature and Gov. DeSantis began funneling taxpayer-paid vouchers to cover tuition in private and home schools, even to wealthy people.”

<https://tinyurl.com/2b9bpmpe>

Now, no one is sure exactly how much money is missing, or where the money is. The Florida Senate now has filed a proposal to sort this out, chiefly by setting up separate accounts to hold voucher money versus that for traditional public schools. Hopefully each student will be given an ID number that can only be used in one location. Expect some major debate during the legislative session when it opens in January.

If only that was all! Then we have the new Schools of Hope law, passed without debate as part of last June's budget debacle. Now, if a so-called underperforming public school has extra space, charter schools may move in. What's an underperforming school? The criteria were changed as part of the law, with many more schools labeled that way this year. Hundreds of out-of-state, for-profit charter corporations have made clear their intent to take over public school space in districts across Florida. Taxpayers foot the bill. Critics describe the program as an unfunded mandate that forces public schools to subsidize private operations and drains resources from neighborhood schools.

This has NOT happened in Citrus County... but it could. LWV opposes this erosion of local control. You'd almost think there's a movement to undermine our public schools.... and you'd be right.

Our partners at *Families for Strong Public Schools* work tirelessly to educate the public about these education debacles. They offer many online and in-person workshops. Find

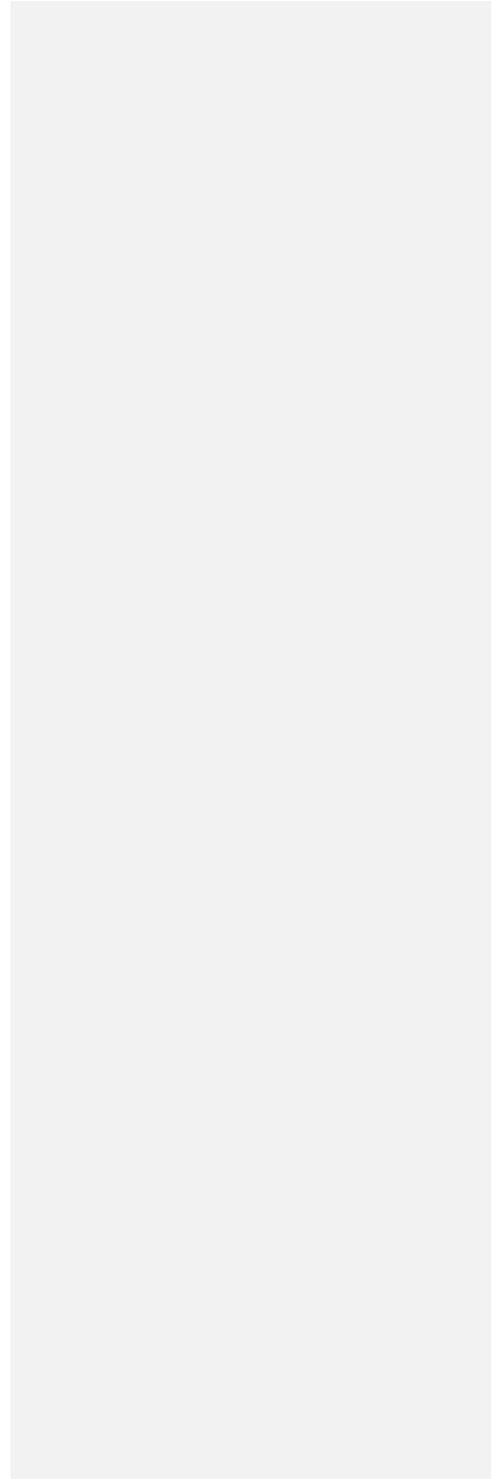
them here: <https://strongflschools.com/>. Social media users can see nearly daily posts, many interactive. Look for Families for Strong Public Schools.

Don't forget, another way to support our local schools is to attend and speak out at our Citrus County School Board meeting on the second Tuesday of each month. Next meeting is Dec. 9, 4:00 PM, at the District Office, 1007 Main St. Inverness.

Stay tuned... we will keep you up to date.

And mark your calendars for Wednesday, January 14, at 10:00 AM at the Coastal Region Library, when Damaris Allen and Ami-Marie Granger Welch from Families for Strong Public Schools will be our featured speakers. See the full-sized flyer at the beginning of this newsletter.

The flyer is titled "Why Public Schools Matter: A Look at Florida's School Choice Options". It is presented by Families for Strong Public Schools. The event is on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 10:00 AM at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W Crystal St., Crystal River, 34428. The speakers are Damaris Allen, Executive Director, and Ami-Marie Granger Welch, Deputy Director. The flyer includes a logo for "EMILIE'S CHOICE" and a small map of Florida. At the bottom, it states: "Presenters will offer a closer look at the role of public schools, Florida's many options for school choice, and how these options impact funding and resources for our neighborhood public schools. There will be time for Q & A. For more information, contact lwvcc2013@gmail.com. League of Women Voters of Citrus County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. LWV does not support or oppose candidates and/or political parties." There is a small LWV logo at the bottom.



IN THE NEWS

10/01/25 11:19 AM

To the Honorable J.J. Grow ;

Honorable Representative J.J. Grow,
Thank you for your service to your constituents.

As you are aware, President Donald Trump has requested that Florida legislature find more Republican seats by changing redistricting to favor more Republican seats in our representative democracy. According to the Supreme Court of Florida, it is illegal to redistrict so as to favor one party over another. Legally, redistricting occurs every 10 years to reflect the changes in the census information, not at the request of the President in power at the time.

I graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor of Science Degree and ran a horticultural business. I saw the workings of a power grab by the large business over the small business, not for the purpose of better service to their customers. In fact the opposite.

This is a power grab, pure and simple. It is unconstitutional. Someone in power seems to fear fair competition for the upcoming elections. Let the people, not special interests decide not the current President.

"It's a democracy, if you can keep it". It is a representative democracy and we the people will keep it.

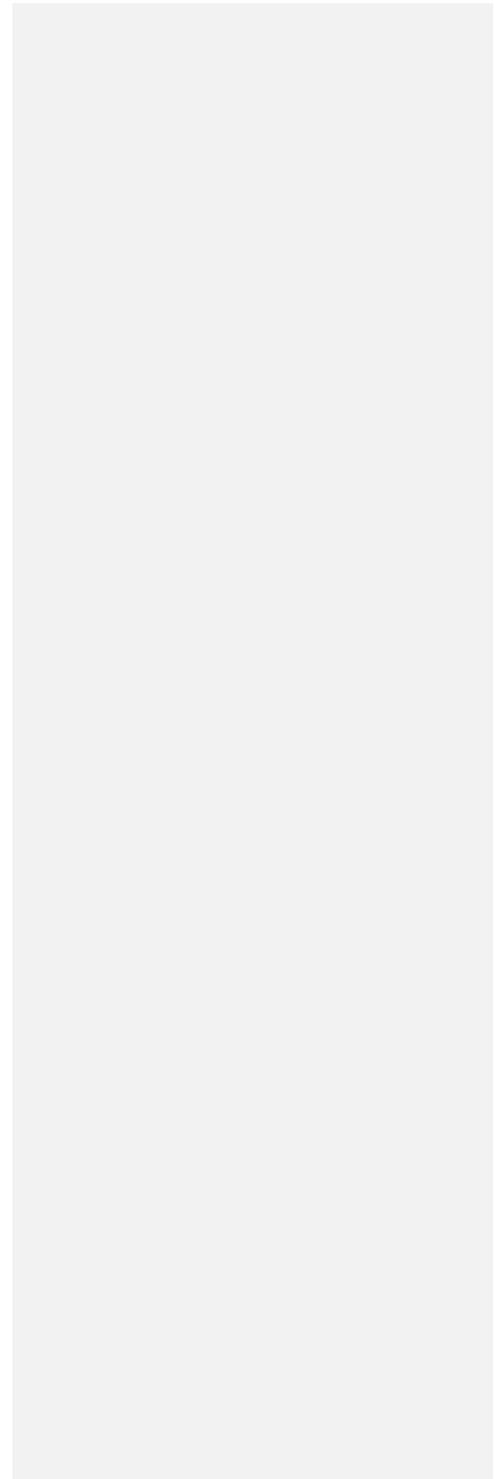
Sheila K. Woods

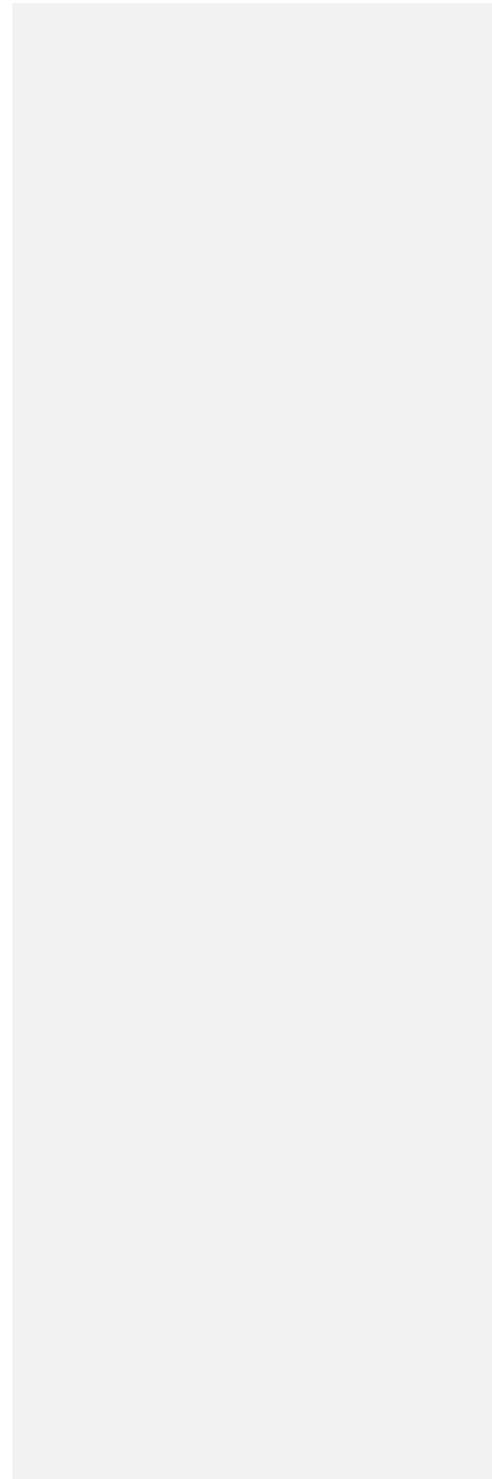
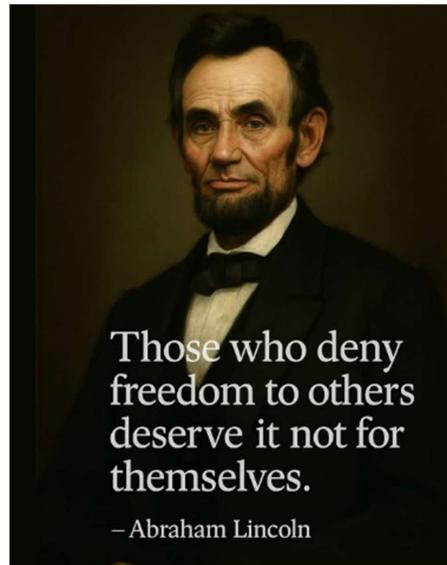
WE THE PEOPLE

must never accept government threats to our freedom of speech. Efforts by leaders to pressure artists, journalists, and companies with retaliation for their speech strike at the heart of what it means to live in a free country.



Sesame Street is now on Netflix! Yay!





"What did liberals do that was so offensive to the Republican Party? I'll tell you what they did:

- Liberals got women the right to vote.
- Liberals got African-Americans the right to vote.
- Liberals created Social Security and lifted millions of elderly people out of poverty.
- Liberals ended segregation.
- Liberals passed the Civil Rights Act.
- Liberals passed the Voting Rights Act.
- Liberals created Medicare.
- Liberals passed the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water act.

What did conservatives do? They opposed them on every one of those things. So when you try to hurl the label at my feet, 'liberal,' as if it were something to be ashamed of... it won't work, because I will pick up that label and I will wear it as a badge of honor."

- LAWRENCE O'DONNELL



IN BRIEF

Abuse shelter seeks specific items

The Citrus County Abuse Shelter Association (CASA) needs help with donations of daily items to keep its pantry stocked.

- High-priority needs: laundry detergent.
- Household and cleaning supplies: HE laundry detergent, paper towels, disinfectant wipes, Lysol spray.
- Personal care needs: baby wipes, diapers sizes 4, 5, 6.
- Pantry and food needs: fresh fruits and veggies, milk, chicken broth, snacks for kids, lunch meats, bacon, chicken/ground chicken, beef/ground beef, pork/ground pork, chicken and beef broths.

To make it easier to donate, CASA now has an Amazon Wishlist: [a.co/c6Wobgs](https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/a.co/c6Wobgs).

Drop items off at the CASA Outreach office between 9:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 1100 E. Turner Camp Road, Inverness. Shelter needs can also be dropped off at their alternative drop off location, Carol's Interiors and Floors, 6410 S. Suncoast Blvd. in Homosassa.

For more information, contact Rane Herzek at 352-344-8111 or email rherzek@casaff.org.

If interested in volunteering, call 352-344-8111 or download the Volunteer Application at casaff.org. Completed applications can be emailed to mari-lynn@casaff.org.



From the ACLU

Below you will see what the ACLU has been doing.

EOY Action Call

A Year of People Power: What We've Built

Mass Mobilization

- 7 million people across 2,700 events attended No Kings rallies in November, one of the largest demonstrations in American history!
- 25,000 of you joined ACLU Know Your Rights and Protester Safety Trainings
- Together we distributed 3 million Know Your Protest Rights Cards

ACLU

Thank you.
Just last month, 7 million people took to the streets in one of the biggest mass mobilizations in American history. We came together from 2700 individual events.

EOY Action Call

A Year of People Power: What We've Built

Grassroots Training Programs

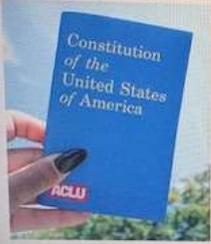
- 53,000 activists across the country trained on Know Your Rights
- Nearly 1,000 people joined our full day Power & Purpose training – building critical organizing skills to combat the rise of authoritarianism
- 13,000 of you joined our People Power Action Calls to learn how you can take leadership in this work

ACLU

Next slide, please.
We also heavily invested in grassroots training initiatives, empowering tens of thousands of you, part of ACLU People Power.

EOY Action Call

A Year of People Power: What We've Built



Defending Democracy

- Thousands took to the streets of D.C., Portland, L.A., Chicago, Memphis, and other major cities to protest the Trump Administration's deployment of military troops in their communities
- Over 5,466 veterans took action with ACLU – 37 trained in storytelling, 188 attending a recent town hall, and 40 RSVP'd for our November Veteran's Lobby Day

ACLU also did hundreds of hours of work across your fight areas and recruited hundreds of new activists onsite.

In Portland, over 500 people stood shoulder to shoulder in a mass protest to resist President Trump's domestic deployment threats.

EOY Action Call

A Year of People Power: What We've Built

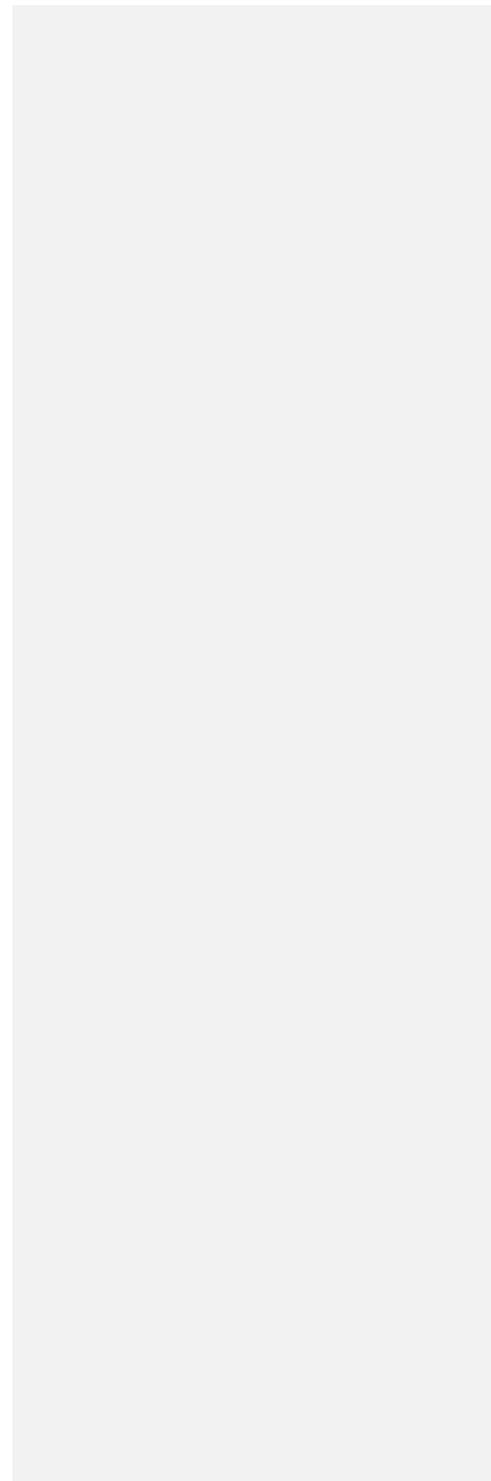
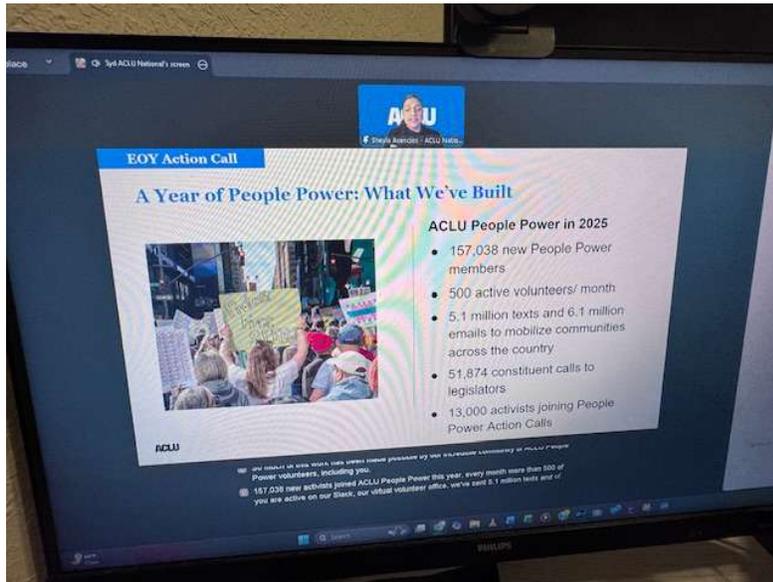


Protecting Healthcare

When Congress moved to slash Medicaid and leave millions at risk, organizers targeted more than 30 congressional districts with rapid response town halls, hearings, and 24-hour vigils to dial up the pressure on lawmakers and uplift the voices of directly-impacted constituents

Events targeted efforts to keep millions and more insured at risk, pressure lawmakers with 24-hour vigils and all night hearings dialing up pressure on lawmakers.

After the so-called Big Ugly Bill passed, activists targeted more than 30 Congressional districts with rapid response actions and planned local town halls where we amplified story





Maxine Connor, Natural Resources Chair

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FROM LWVCC NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR
DECEMBER, 2025

Citrus County Adopts Rainy Season Fertilizer Ban, Crystal River Ban Passed
Inverness asked to Consider Passing Fertilizer Ordinance with Rainy Season Ban

Commented [mc1]:



On September 23rd, the Citrus County Commission discussed and then voted unanimously to add a rainy season fertilizer ban to its current fertilizer ordinance. The rainy season ban will protect our local springs, rivers, aquifer, and Gulf from nutrient pollution during the months of highest rainfall: June to September. The county is planning an educational outreach campaign, and Adventure Coast Group is collaborating with them. Studies show that once made aware of the rainy season rules, landscapers and residents alike usually follow them.

On October 13th, Crystal River's City Council discussed and approved the introduction of Ordinance 25-O-14, amending their current ordinance to incorporate a similar rainy season ban to that in Citrus and set a public hearing on the matter for October 27th - where the City Council voted unanimously to pass a rainy season ban! Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group leaders attended and spoke out in support of this low-to-no-cost way of protecting our springs.

The Citrus County adopted ordinance, effective immediately, will:

- *Add a rainy season ban on nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) fertilizer from June 1 through September 30 (in the current fertilizer ordinance, there is already a dormant season ban on N fertilizer from November through March).
- *Add phosphorus to the nitrogen ban during the dormant season (November through March).
- *Require at least 65% of applied nitrogen to be slow release.
- *Cap total annual nitrogen use at 4 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
- *Cap application of nitrogen at ½ of one pound of readily available nitrogen per one thousand square feet of area.
- *Maintain the existing 25-foot fertilizer-free buffer zones near waterways and wetlands (updated to include fertilizer containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus).
- *Remove the commercial applicator exemption.
- *The existing ordinance already restricts applying fertilizer to newly laid sod for thirty days, as is included in most other fertilizer bans statewide.
- *Adds a restriction to not allow phosphorus application without a soil test for deficiency.
- *Adds fruit trees and vegetable gardens to exemptions.

The Crystal River ordinance is similar.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Basin Management Action Plans for Citrus County predicts that the rainy season ban would reduce nutrients by 146,796 pounds of nitrogen a year of a total of 448,323 pounds of nitrogen pollution a year from various inputs. The BMAP plans for Crystal River/Kings Bay indicate that urban fertilizer contributes 22.3% of the nitrogen pollution, so reducing the inputs from the county and city of Crystal River will make a big difference in meeting goals to improve water quality.

On November 18, Sierra Club Adventure Coast leaders spoke during public input and requested the Inverness City Council to consider passing a fertilizer ordinance with a rainy season ban. Inverness does not currently have a fertilizer ordinance.

Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

**Paradise Meadows RV Park
Land Use Change Denied at BOCC Meeting on November 4th**



Image by Wendy Melnik

At the November 4th Citrus County Commission meeting, the land use change requested by Paradise RV Park was unanimously denied. The number of RV stations in the request had been reduced, and other changes were made. In September, the Citrus County Planning and Development Board denied this application to develop 49 wooded acres on CR 39 (1135 E. Withlacoochee Trail) in Dunnellon into a 230-unit RV park bordering the Withlacoochee River that is designated an "Outstanding Florida Water." Local Sierra Club leaders spoke at the PDC and BOCC meetings, raising our concern about the impacts of proposed on-site wastewater treatment since this property is within a coastal lakes flood zone and has flooded in the recent past.

Local residents organized "Save Our Withlacoochee River" and attended the PDC and BOCC meetings to oppose the project. They objected to the intensity and environmental impacts of this large-scale development on the area's wildlife corridors and the Withlacoochee River. Concerns were also raised about increased traffic on County Road 39 and noise disturbances in the surrounding communities.

Sierra Club Adventure Coast is concerned with the impacts of the proposed on-site wastewater treatment since this property is within a coastal flood zone that has flooded in past storms. On-site drain fields here would not adequately contain waste generated by the RV's, clubhouse, bath houses, restaurant and other facilities to prevent impacts to groundwater and river water quality. Concentrated RV holding tank blackwater is overlooked as a hazard.

Article courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Chronicle article from November 5, updated November 12, 2025:

https://www.chronicleonline.com/weeklies/riverland_news/county-commissioners-reject-paradise-meadows-rv-park-proposal/article_b58646ea-30dd-5356-a687-3500f605f8f6.html

Newsletter Article Update as of 11/27/25

Stop the Sand Mine



Image compliments of Colleen Farmer

George Southworth submitted a land use change application to Citrus County seeking approval to mine for sand on about 320 acres of land in Citrus County of which he was trustee and that is adjacent to the Suncoast Parkway Extension. The application was denied at the June 27th Citrus County Special Master hearing because it failed to meet the final site restoration requirements of the comprehensive land use plan. A subsequent hearing before the Citrus Board of County Commissioners set for August 12th was cancelled at the request of the applicant. On August 6th, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) deposited \$2.2 million into the Citrus County Registry to acquire about 50 acres of the parcel bordering the Suncoast Highway extension by eminent domain – possibly to mine for sand for the Suncoast Parkway. According to an August 11th article in the Citrus County Chronicle, the ownership of the remaining property has transferred from the previous applicant, George Southworth, to 3KS Family Limited Liability Partnership.

FDOT held an Open House on the Suncoast Parkway Extension in Citrus County on Thursday, October 9 in Lecanto. Sierra Club Adventure Coast's Citrus Conservation Committee leaders Maxine Connor and Robin Orlandi attended the open house and asked questions about the Citrus Sand Mine issue. The Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) is processing the Environmental Resource Permit, and FDOT is evaluating the property. FDOT staff were cordial but made no specific commitment on how they would handle this issue. Learn more at the website: www.SuncoastParkwayPDE.com.

Please send in your concerns to FDOT to: Anil J. Sharma, P.E. Consultant to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise, at Anil.Sharma@dot.state.fl.us, via mail to P.O. Box 613069, Ocoee, Florida 34761-3069, or call (407) 264-3041. Adventure Coast Group is concerned about the applicant's failure to assess the potential on-site impacts to the aquifer due to the proximity of the interconnected surficial and Floridan aquifer identified in the hydrogeological survey. Crystal River Springs Complex is a designated Outstanding Florida Spring that is located within the Springs Priority Focus Area for the FLDEP Basin Management Action Plan. We will continue to seek protection for our springs and aquifer. Local citizens have organized Stop the Sand Mine and are concerned that the public is being denied a voice in the matter. Visit StoptheSandMine.com. Contact them at stopthesandminecc@gmail.com.

Article courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Update as of 11/27/25:

Chronicle Article: 11/7/25:

"A Florida Turnpike contractor operating an excavator at a proposed sand mine site in north Citrus County was suddenly inundated with water last week, forcing the operator to swim to safety, according to witnesses and local residents. The heavy equipment, which became submerged during excavation, was removed several days later by a crane. No injuries were reported.

The Florida Turnpike Authority issued the following statement:

"The photos ... are from the current Suncoast Parkway Phase 3A construction project, specifically showing the stormwater pond being built near Gum Street. On October 24, 2025, while excavation activities were underway, a piece of equipment slid into the excavation area." Read more:

https://www.chronicleonline.com/news/local/update-excavator-floods-at-unpermitted-sand-mine-groundwater-concerns-raised/article_e0a5495a-0a63-5c01-adeb-ac0660f3eb64.html

Florida Phoenix Article: 11/13/25: <https://floridaphoenix.com/2025/11/13/sand-mine-situation-gives-everyone-a-sinking-sensation-about-floridas-aquifer/>

SIGN UP TO BE A SPRINGS ADVOCATE:



Sign up [here](#) for updates on threats, victories, and ways to defend our waterways. To act fast when it's time to make a difference, opt in for text alerts too. No spam, no fundraising, just urgent alerts delivered straight to your phone when it matters most.

Check the Florida Springs Council's [website](#) for updates on current issues and legislative session:
<https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/>

Check the Florida Springs Council's [Facebook page](#) for updates:
Watch for Springs Advocacy Facebook/YouTube learning sessions. View past recordings.
<https://www.facebook.com/floridaspringscouncil>

Watch this full discussion on Springs Advocacy on YouTube: "Springs Advocacy 101: Making an Impact in the Capitol"
<https://www.facebook.com/share/r/1Cp98DBLTm/>

UPDATE ON THE NONPROFIT FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL TAKING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (FDEP) RE: THE SPRINGS HARM RULE **SPRINGS HARM RULE LEGAL CHALLENGE**

FSC is taking legal action to Protect Springs from Over-Pumping

FSC (Florida Springs Council) staff and our attorneys have been hard at work on the appeal, and we'll continue to provide updates as this moves forward.

Read the rest of the history on this issue here:
<https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/springsharmrule>

RESTORE COMMUNITY PLANNING – FIX SENATE BILL 180 – ACTION ALERT - ACT NOW – TELL YOUR LEGISLATORS TO FIX SB 180 – THERE IS A PRE-WORDED MESSAGE WHICH YOU CAN SEND AS IS, CUSTOMIZE TO YOUR LIKING, OR DELETE AND WRITE YOUR OWN MESSAGE

Click on the link to the 1000 Friends of Florida Website to learn about SB 180 and its damaging impacts. Read the legal analysis.

SB 180 was presented as a storm recovery measure, but it has stripped local governments of their ability to plan responsibly for growth, flooding, and disaster resilience. Communities like ours need the freedom to protect neighborhoods, natural areas, and

infrastructure -- especially as we face more intense storms and rapid development, and especially since we are a coastal community.

Ask your legislators to restore local planning authority by fixing this dangerous law. Local voices should guide local growth and development decisions -- not one-size-fits-all rules from Tallahassee.

TELL YOUR LEGISLATORS TO TAKE ACTION ON SB 180 HERE:

<https://1000fof.org/priorities/restorecommunityplanning/#/19/>

TALKING POINTS FOR SB 180: <https://1000fof.org/priorities/restorecommunityplanning/upcomingmeetings/>

OTHER UPDATES FROM FACEBOOK PAGES OF FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL'S AND OTHER PERTINENT ONES

[Florida Springs Council](#)

View the video of the live discussion, [Springs Advocacy 101](#), for a deep dive into [Minimum Flows and Levels, Recovery Strategies & Water Use Permitting](#) - PART 3 OF THE SPRINGS ADVOCACY 101 SERIES -

This LIVE DISCUSSION was hosted on the Florida Springs Council's Facebook and YouTube on Wednesday, September 24 at 6:30 p.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/floridaspringscouncil/videos/1433188544430306>

FEDERAL CLEAN ENERGY POLICY UPDATES:

Nearly all staff laid off at UCF (University of Central Florida) energy research institute

<https://www.cfpublic.org/environment/2025-11-24/nearly-all-staff-laid-off-ucf-energy-research-institute>

Central Florida Public Media | By [Molly Duerig](#)

Published November 24, 2025 at 4:54 PM EST



Nick Waters/Florida Solar Energy Center photo gallery

The state legislature designated the Florida Solar Energy Center in Cocoa as the state's energy research institute in 1975.

The University of Central Florida has laid off 57 employees at the [Florida Solar Energy Center](#), leaving seven remaining employees at the facility in Cocoa. The staffing reductions coincide with the Trump administration's ongoing efforts to strip back renewable energy programs previously enacted by the Biden administration.

The state legislature designated FSEC the state's energy research institute in 1975. This year is the center's 50th anniversary. A celebratory open house event originally scheduled for last month was later canceled due to "unforeseen circumstances," [according to FSEC's website](#).

"After a thorough review, UCF has made the difficult but necessary decision to reduce staffing at the Florida Solar Energy Center to ensure responsible stewardship of university and state resources," reads a written statement from the university. "FSEC has contributed valuable energy research and outreach for 50 years, but with shifting federal priorities and external funding for traditional energy programs declining sharply, FSEC was no longer financially sustainable in its current form."



Nick Waters/Florida Solar Energy Center photo gallery

The Florida Solar Energy Center's campus in Cocoa includes a building science laboratory. Energy-efficient buildings design is one key area of FSEC's research.

According to UCF: "In recent years, FSEC has experienced a decline in external funding, limiting its ability to sustain core research activities. This challenge was further compounded by recent shifts in federal funding priorities in energy research, including reductions and cancellations of key programs that historically supported the center's research activities."

UCF didn't immediately provide details on which key program reductions and cancellations, specifically, factored into the decision to lay off most of FSEC's staff.

Since President Donald Trump began his second presidential term earlier this year, his administration has been working to reduce or eliminate investments in clean energy programs. A slew of federal tax incentives are sunseting under a [tax-spending package](#) enacted earlier this year, including one type of [residential credit](#) that pays back homeowners 30% of the cost of installing new solar panels, or other designated clean energy equipment. That credit expires Dec. 31.

[RELATED: Judge orders Trump administration to resume distributing money for EV chargers](#)

Heaven Campbell leads Florida's chapter of [Solar United Neighbors](#) or SUN, a national nonprofit helping people, groups and local governments to use solar energy efficiently. SUN's Florida chapter has worked closely with FSEC over the years, including on workforce development programs for young people, Campbell said.

Speaking of the recent layoffs at FSEC, Campbell called them "a huge loss for our state."

"We're devastated. ... This is brain drain," Campbell said. "This is something that has such long-term ripple effects. This is just such an institution here, and it's been around for so long, and it's like, how do you rebuild that?"

FSEC helped develop the [Florida Solar Energy Apprenticeship Program](#), which provides a pathway to certification as a state-licensed solar contractor. The program is registered with the U.S. Department of Labor.

"It's the first DOL-approved solar apprenticeship in the nation," Campbell said. "That program itself is just extremely amazing, and indicative of the type of things that come out of FSEC."

Despite big changes and challenges facing the industry, Campbell said solar energy is here to stay in Florida.

"Solar is an established industry in Florida, and resilient, and inherently has worth in how economically feasible it is and accessible it is," Campbell said. "And it's gonna continue to work for Floridians while rates rise."

Clean Energy Tax Incentives Ending this year: The "Big Beautiful Bill" that was passed in July, 2025 imposes new end dates for many IRA clean energy programs & incentives including:

- Electric Vehicle Tax Rebates ENDED 9/30/25
- Solar & energy efficiency upgrades Tax Rebates END 12/31/25
- For details, see article below:

Take Advantage of Clean Energy Tax Incentives Before It's Too Late (by Serena Golden for SACE 8/19/25)

The Trump Administration's one big budget bill eliminates clean energy tax incentives on an aggressive timeline. Some tax credits that were previously scheduled to be available through 2032 are now ending as early as Sept 30, 2025. Here are the tax credits you should consider using while there's still time.

<https://cleanenergy.org/news/take-advantage-of-clean-energy-tax-incentives-before-its-too-late/>

To read more about recent federal policy changes visit the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) website:

https://cleanenergy.org/our-views/?visc-qf-news_tax_filter_topic%5B%5D=energy-policy





The "Solar in the Southeast" eighth edition report webinar was held on October 29. We invite you to watch or revisit the recording below.

[Watch the Recording](#)

The report illuminates data, trends, and industry leaders and laggards throughout the region, including Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. If you missed the webinar, we discussed highlights from the report, including:

- Solar growth continued in the Southeast, reaching nearly 28 gigawatts (GW) in 2024, adding 5 GW of new solar in that year alone
- The Southeast is projected to double the amount of solar in the region in 2030, as some utilities like Florida Power & Light and Georgia Power have made larger solar capacity deployments in shorter time frames than ever
- Florida holds the lead as the largest contributor to installed solar capacity, with nearly 13.9 GW installed in 2024
- With utilities across the region forecasting significant demand from data centers, each utility resource plan is an opportunity to add more solar to the grid, especially if it is paired with battery storage

Report resources are linked below. Please direct questions about the report, webinar, or how to use these resources in your work to info@cleanenergy.org.

RESOURCES

- ["Solar in the Southeast" Eighth Edition Report](#)
- [Webinar Recording](#)
- [Companion Article](#)

Transportation Electrification in the Southeast: Sixth Annual Report Sept 2025 (by M. Vining & M. Khatib for SACE) (45 pages)
This report discusses the progress of southern states in EV sales and charging infrastructure <https://cleanenergy.org/wp-content/uploads/Transportation%20Electrification%20in%20the%20Southeast%202025.pdf>

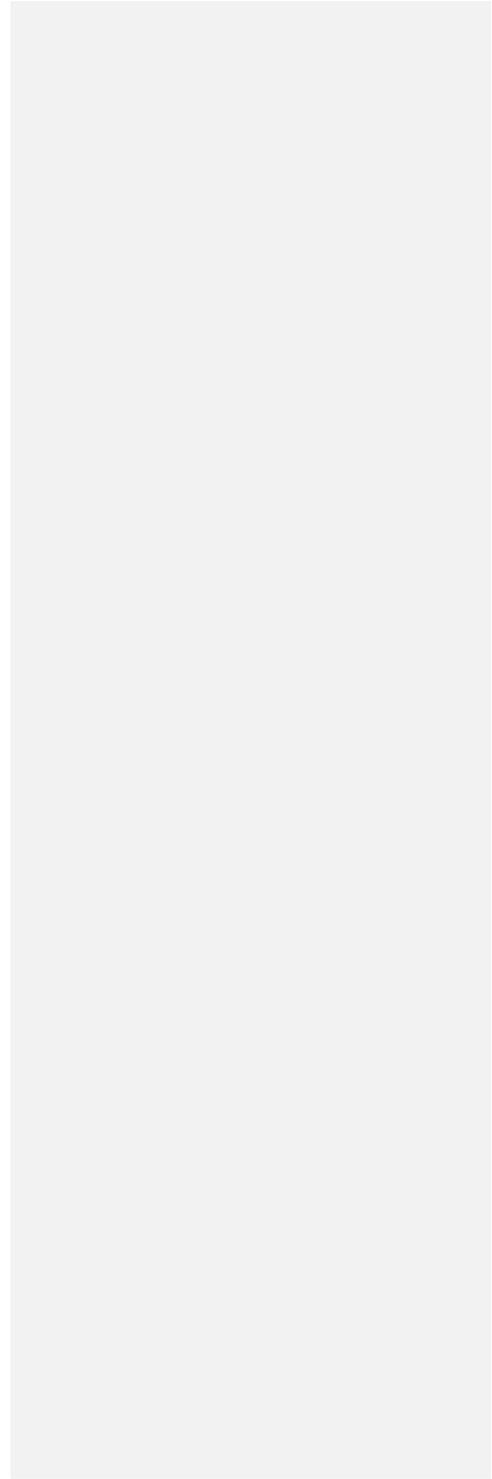
Inside the EPA's Disastrous Proposal to Eliminate the Endangerment Finding: (by Chris Carnevale SACE 9/9/25) EPA political appointees have proposed prohibiting federal limits on greenhouse gas climate pollution. <https://cleanenergy.org/news/inside-the-epas-disastrous-proposal-to-eliminate-the-endangerment-finding/?emci=0de24c08-fa8f-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&emdi=63164526-9a94-f011-b484-6045bdeb7413&ceid=6152255>

Southern Alliance for Clean Energy Comments on Proposed Rescission of the Endangerment Finding (by Chris Carnevale SACE 9/23/25) SACE strongly opposes the EPA's proposal to rescind the Endangerment Finding, which threatens vital climate

protections. Our official comments emphasize stronger scientific evidence and affordable clean energy solutions that reinforce the finding's importance. <https://cleanenergy.org/news/sace-comments-on-proposed-rescission-of-the-endangerment-finding/>

For continuing updates on clean energy in the southeast including Florida, visit:
<https://cleanenergy.org/>

Updated 11/27/25





UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES, by Jeanne Messersmith League Secretary

One might recall the 2021 election law passed by the Florida state legislature requiring voters to renew their vote-by-mail (VBM) requests every two years, rather than every four. Perhaps legislators had good intentions in mind: voters move and don't contact their local Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office. Funeral homes and/or the Social Security office neglect to notify the Florida Division of Elections when a person passes away. It feels good to start off with a clean slate every two years, doesn't it?

Unfortunately, this new law has resulted in unintended consequences

– voters were unaware of the change, expected to receive their ballots by mail, and when they didn't arrive, they neglected to vote. How do we know this?

In January 2025's special election to fill the seat vacated by Matt Gaetz, the local SOE received just over 12,000 VBM requests. Two months earlier (before the new law went into effect) there were 98,000 VBM requests on file.

A similar situation occurred in Florida's Sixth Congressional District, where a special election was held earlier this year to fill the vacancy left by Mike Waltz, who stepped down to become President Trump's national security advisor and later our United Nations ambassador.

Currently, a special election is underway in our Senate District 11 to fill the vacancy created by Governor DeSantis' appointment of Blaise Ingoglia as Florida's Chief Financial

Officer. VBM ballots were mailed out in Citrus County in early November. One wonders how many of our voters assume they'll receive a VBM ballot in the mail, and when they don't, they just won't show up to vote – "it's not important, it's just a special election between two candidates."

Recently, Florida Supervisors of Elections representative David Ramba appeared before the Senate Ethics and Elections Committee, imploring lawmakers to restore the checkbox on mail-in ballot return envelopes that allows voters to ask to remain on the VBM list for the next election cycle – such an easy solution!

This simple solution did not make it through the 2025 Legislature session. It has resulted in a huge expense for Supervisors of Elections marketing the law change, only to see VBM requests plummet. Unintended consequences? Instead of creating obstacles, let's find ways to encourage voting in the great state of Florida!

From the National League of Women Voters

Democracy Updates

Major Milestones: Election Day and the End of the Shutdown

- LWV encouraged voters to cast their ballots in one of the most important “off-year” elections in recent history. As managing partner of [Election Hero Day](#), the League also celebrated the tireless workers who keep elections running.
- The [longest government shutdown in US history ended](#), though the crisis it caused is far from over.

Defending Democracy Nationwide, State by State

- [New Hampshire](#), [Texas](#), and [Arkansas](#) saw victories in cases regarding the use of AI to intimidate voters, racial gerrymandering, and the right of the people to direct democracy, respectively.
- LWV filed lawsuits in [California](#) and [Oregon](#) to defend voter privacy.



Unite & Rise: We Must Defend Democracy Now

- In an authoritarian threat, President Trump [claimed that lawmakers' dissent constitutes “sedition”](#) and warrants fatal punishment.

- Attacks on immigrant communities continue. LWV and 5 state and local Leagues filed a lawsuit against US Citizenship and Immigration Services over a new policy banning third-party [voter registration at administrative naturalization ceremonies](#). LWV also [condemned indiscriminate Border Patrol operations](#) in Charlotte, NC.
- To enhance our ability to defend democracy through the initiative Unite & Rise 8.5, LWV announced a new [Advisory Committee](#) of leaders across the public sector and [Grassroots Power Partners](#) across women-led organizations.
- Join the movement – sign up to Unite and Rise today!