



March 2026

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CITRUS COUNTY

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Our March 11, 2026 luncheon meeting features Editor of the Citrus County Chronicle, **Jim Gouvellis, "Freedom and the Press"**. It will be at **Texas Roadhouse** in Beverly Hills on 491. Arrive at 11:30. Lunch at noon. Speaker at 12:30. See page 5 and 6

Our **April 8, 2026** meeting features Rachel Montgomery, **Chief of Police of Citrus County Schools**. It will be at the **Coastal Region Library** and begins at 10am. See Page 7

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

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE BOARD MEMBERS WHO DO SUCH A GREAT JOB EVERY MONTH CONTRIBUTING

TO THIS NEWSLETTER!

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HAPPY MARCH EVERYONE!



MARCH
HOLIDAYS

1-Peanut Butter Lover's Day
3-National Anthem Day
6-National Frozen Food Day
8-Popcorn Lover's Day
10-Middle Name Pride Day
11-Johnny Appleseed Day
12-Girl Scouts Day
14-National Pl(e) Day
14-Potato Chip Day
15-Ides of March
16-No Selfies Day
17-St. Patrick's Day
21-World Down Syndrome Day
22-National Goof Off Day
23-National Chips and Dip Day
23-National Puppy Day
24-National Chocolate Covered Raisin Day
25-Palm Sunday (varies each year)
25-Waffle Day
26-National Spinach Day
28-Something on a Stick Day
30-Good Friday (varies each year)
30-Take a Walk in the Park Day

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Events in March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 9:00 am: LWV Board meeting on zoom	5	6	7
8	9	10 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting 4:00 pm: Citrus County School Board meeting	11 12:00 am: LWV General Meeting with guest speaker Jim Gouvellis	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 4:00 pm: Social at Cattle Dog, Inverness	26	27	28
29	30	31 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting				

This calendar is from our website:
Lwvcitrus.org

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The League of Women Voters of Citrus County

presents our spring luncheon

on Wednesday, March 11,

at the Texas Roadhouse Restaurant

on 491 in Beverly Hills

Arrive at 11:30. Lunch will be served at noon.

Our speaker will speak at 12:30.

Our annual meeting and election will follow the speaker.



Jim Gouvellis

Jim Gouvellis, Executive Editor of the Citrus County Chronicle, will speak.

He believes that we should treat the town square like a Publix aisle: clean, calm, and neighborly. He will speak about "Freedom and the Press.", exploring the critical role of journalism in maintaining a transparent and informed society.

The public is invited. For more information, please call 352 613-5056 or email lwwc2013@gmail.com Visit lwcitrus.org and Facebook page "League of Women Voters of Citrus County". To order your meal and pay go to lwcitrus.org. Upcoming events and follow the directions.

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

To register for the luncheon, **click here:** <https://www.lwvcitrus.org/upcoming-events/>

Scroll down below the photo of Jim Gouvellis, **fill in registration form, submit, click donation button** and **fill in to pay \$20 for your meal.**

Menu for March 11

Luncheon at Texas Roadhouse Restaurant

Each meal will come with a nonalcoholic drink, choice of one side, and roll.

Meal Choices:

Cheeseburger

BBQ Chicken or Sandwich

Fried Catfish

Chicken Critters

House or Cesar Salad (as vegetarian option, or you may also get chicken on it for meal)

Choice of Sides:

Rice

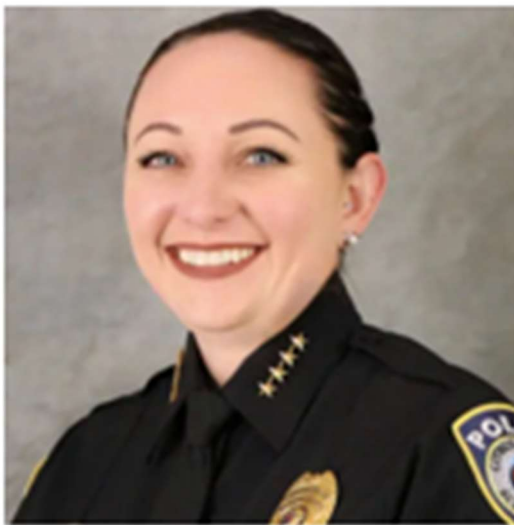
Vegetables- Broccoli or Vegetable medley (broccoli and carrots)

French Fries

Mac N Cheese

The League of Women Voters of Citrus County
Invites the public to join us for an informational
meeting about the safety of our students in
Citrus County Schools on
Wednesday, April 8, 2026

**Rachel Montgomery,
Chief of Police
for Citrus County
Public Schools**



Rachel Montgomery is the Police Chief for the Citrus County School Board Police Department. She has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She is a Citrus County native with over 18 years of experience in law enforcement. She also does volunteer work, including as a board member of NAMI Citrus, Citrus Crime Stoppers, and the Citrus County Education Foundation.

The League of Women Voters of Citrus County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. LWV never supports or opposes candidates and/or political parties.



Linda Abels, Membership Chair

Spring is Blooming at the League!

Welcome Aboard: A big League welcome to our newest members, **Valerie Cadoret** and **Carol Cohen**! We can't wait to work with you.

Help Us Spread the Word: With Spring comes "tabling" season! We need friendly faces to help us staff booths at local community events to share League information and brochures. If you enjoy chatting with neighbors about the League's mission, this is for you.

Social Hour: Join us for our monthly social at **Cattle Dog Coffee Shop (Inverness)**.

- **When:** 4:00 PM (Monthly) You will receive an email with the exact date
- **Why:** Good coffee, better company, and great conversation.

Linda



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

Staying positive

It is seventeen months since I became 1st President of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County. It was not a position that I looked for; my dear friend, Nancy Tomaselli, was ill and she asked me to take over, and I was elected in March of last year. The position requires a lot of work, and I am happy to do it all. I have learned so much.

I have always been interested in politics, but I had not been active for many years. I like to read about what is going on in the world.

I am proud to be a member of the League of Women Voters, a distinguished organization founded in 1920 after many Suffragettes had passed. As we see every day, it is more than registering voters. In Florida our ability to register voters has been severely handicapped by Florida laws. I am grateful that our Supervisor of Elections, Mo Baird, is constantly, actively doing outreaches in the community to register voters. I am thankful that this is being done in many Florida counties by their Supervisors of Elections.

The League of Women Voters educates, advocates, and impacts. Our Citrus Board consists of smart women with different areas of expertise, who work together to attain our goals. Egos don't stand in the way. I never feel that I am dangling without help; they are always there. Their enthusiasm and ideas are invigorating. I enjoy their friendship and working on our projects.

Our monthly meetings are intended to educate our members and the public. We concentrate on local issues and have had very good speakers.

Yes, we advocate. Some people think that we should only work on voting and not get involved in what is going on in the world. I don't see it that way. Our democracy is being systematically dismantled and threatened, and if we don't do something, some day it will be too late. It is time for us to not be afraid, to stand together to defend the rights in our constitution that are being trampled every day. You can look on the lwv website, <https://www.lwv.org/> to see what we believe. Here are some subjects addressed. The League of Women Voters works to:

- Protect the freedom to vote
- Improve elections
- Reduce money's political influence
- Fight for fair redistricting
- Stop ICE terror now
- Reject the SAVE Act
- Tell Congress to stop interfering in DC

There are so many things happening at once, so many terrible things, that it would be easy to disengage and despair.

Someone said to me the other day, "I don't see what the demonstrations are doing." I told her I think they are doing some things that are very important. They point out a point of view, they encourage people who think they are alone, and they send a message that we are watching. It is our constitutional right to protest. Dare I say, in these times, it is our duty. Years ago we helped end the Vietnam war; now we must defend the unconstitutional, immoral, and illegal things that it looks like the government is trying to get away with.

I ran across Sweet Honey in the Rock recently on Facebook. They have a rap (no, I am not usually a rap fan, but this rap is gold). I am including the link, and the words. In my opinion, even though this was written many decades ago, it is true today.

It is called, "I am young, and I'm positive." Okay, I am not young, but I still feel young inside.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=young%20and%20positive%20sweet%20honey%20in%20the%20rock>

Young and Positive **By Nitanju Bolade Casel**

I am young and I am positive
I am the future, I'm gonna tell it like it is
I won't let anything stand in my way
My eyes are on the prize and they will stay that way.

I've got self respect and a whole lot of pride.
I won't let you pull me down into a negative stride.
Down a dead end street where only trouble lies.
Than't not the way to keep my eyes on the prize.

This is the nineties and it's a difficult thing.
To maintain focus on my visions and dreams.
Violence and abuse of drugs
Turns an innocent child into a vicious thug.

Take a close look at this society
At the status of the youth and you will see
A sad situation that is out of hand
Youth are in trouble all over the land.

Don't let this state of affairs bring us down.
We have to work together, change things around
I start every day by taking the time
To remind myself, repeat one more time that

I am young and I am positive
I am the future, I'm gonna tell it like it is
I won't let anything stand in my way
My eyes are on the prize and they will stay that way.

I'll teach you, and you teach me
We'll exchange information on how to be
The best we can be, not anything less
It has nothing to do with how we look or dress

It's not material things that make us who we are
Not the sneakers, not the jewelry, not the clothes,
Or the cars
It's not the job, not the money, nor the status size
That's only momentary pleasure, not a valuable prize

Honesty and truth rank high on my list
Caring and respect for others help to assist me
'Cause I choose to move with love in my heart
For my sisters and my brothers
In every part of the world

You know, it doesn't make sense
To discriminate or believe in hate
Put down another because of their color or race

I must appreciate all the differences of each nationality
I don't want everybody to be like me
Can you imagine everyone exactly the same?
Life would be so boring I would go insane

I love the fact that each person is unique
The way we think, feel, look and express our needs
So let's move up to a positive tip
Ex racism. It's a negative trip!

Another dead end street
Don't even go down there
Let's accept one another and begin to care
Uplift ourselves, enrich our minds
And every day try to find a little bit of time to say:

I am young and I am positive
I am the future, I'm gonna tell it like it is
I won't let anything stand in my way
My eyes are on the prize and they will stay that way.

I don't dis' my elders, they deserve respect
As a matter of fact I do my best to protect
Those who came before me, who struggled and fought
So that I would have a chance to listen up and be taught

I turn off the TV, I open up a book
I use my imagination and try to be aware as I look
And wonder what the future will be
With pollution destroying the land and the seas,
Nuclear war, green house effect
More toxic waste than ever before

I need all of you adults to live as if you care
Your greedy style of living is my nightmare
I need a world of clean air I can breathe
Where I can drink the water and enjoy the trees
Recycle all your plastic, bottles and glass

I am young and I am positive
I am the future, I'm gonna tell it like it is
I won't let anything stand in my way
My eyes are on the prize and they will stay that way

Don't leave it up to me to clean up your act
All your oil spills, all the needless deaths
Now you want to leave the planet and
Go somewhere else?
To the moon? Or Mars? You had better beware
You'll do the same thing when you get up there

So just don't forget when you turn around
I'll be standing right behind you with a serious frown
'Cause every time I hear an older person say:
"What's wrong with the young folks of today?"

I want to scream
You know what I mean?
Give us support to fulfill our dreams

When I pick up a paper or turn on the news
I'm rather overwhelmed by the negative views
I would rather hear about the successes of life
Not just the tragedy, not just the strife,
So if nothing else, I must encourage myself
Find a little bit of time to enrich my mind,
'cause

I am young and I am positive
I am the future, I'm gonna tell it like it is
I won't let anything stand in my way
My eyes are on the prize and they will stay that way.

I've got self respect and a whole lot of pride
I won't let you pull me down into a negative stride
Down a dead end street where only trouble lies
That's not the way to keep my eyes on the prize, 'cause

I am young and I am positive.

I hope you have enjoyed this as much as I have. I can't get it out of my head.

The League of Women Voters works to impact the issues about which we are passionate. Our Board consists of seniors, and we need our members to become involved, and for those whom we touch to become members.

I wish we had more attendance at our general meetings, and our zoom meetings. We keep count at the general meetings, and I can see on youtube how many people watch the meetings. You can see our general meetings and zoom meetings by going to our website, lwvcitrus.org and clicking on LWVCC Presentations or click on this link: <https://www.lwvcitrus.org/2022-presentations/>

Doing outreaches is very effective. Right now we do not have enough people to do them. The same wonderful women every time, but it is not enough. We are looking for people to join us. The opportunity to engage with people, whether they agree with us or not, is invigorating and exactly what we should be doing to make a better world.

Our February 11, 2026 meeting featured Dr. BJ Ezell. The topic was DEI.



As always, Dr. BJ was very well prepared and a dynamic speaker.

The meeting focused on the history and current challenges of DEI programs. The speaker highlighted the importance of DEI in workplaces and communities, discussing how recent federal and state policies have curtailed such initiatives. She explained the concepts and their importance in creating a fair and representative society. She emphasized the need for continued advocacy and support for marginalized groups. Black History Month and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives.

BJ always prepares interaction with the audience. Everyone was given a cup with coins: a penny, nickel, dime and quarter. At various parts of her speech, we were directed to remove a coin, demonstrating what happens when groups of people are excluded.

She also addressed the restrictive state-level environment in Florida, emphasizing the need for continued advocacy. She highlighted positive examples of diversity and inclusion within Citrus County.

You can see the presentation on youtube at:

<https://youtu.be/cPHVtfs3V4Q>

I had the experience recently of going to the Coastal Region Library. It was Saturday, February 7, and Dr. Michael Butler from Flagler University spoke. He did an excellent job of describing what has happened, and it is eye-opening. I made an audio recording to share.



Click below to hear what he had to say.

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CuTz5OdmYRpuNmS7rmnzdLMd6nFg-3pw/view?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CuTz5OdmYRpuNmS7rmnzdLMd6nFg-3pw/view?usp=drive_link)

At our March meeting we will elect officers. I am hoping to continue as 1st President. I will continue to work to get more people involved in our League. We need young people, and young at heart, to help. If we have you, the possibilities are endless.



February 14, Spring Health Fair **Sponsored by the Citrus County Chronicle**

On Saturday, February 14, Peg Primeau, Rosemary Nilles, and Vicky Iozzia attended the Spring Health Fair at the College of Central Florida campus in Lecanto. It was a wonderful opportunity to tell the public about our League, to learn about community resources, and have some interesting discussions.

There was a huge crowd, almost exclusively seniors, a great community service for the county.



Field Trip to the Supervisor of Elections Facility

On Tuesday, February 24, 2026, fourteen of our members enjoyed a tour of the Supervisor of Elections office.

Mo Baird, Supervisor, brought us through the facility, which is very secure. She dazzled us with the PowerPoint presentation that touched every aspect of the job that Mo and her staff do.

I am not going to list all of the information she shared for two reasons: it would be a separate newsletter, and if we have other people who are interested in a tour, and we have enough people, we will ask Mo to do another tour. Some of the people in this tour would also like to go again!

Recent changes in laws have made it extremely difficult for organizations like the League of Women Voters to register voters. I can sleep at night knowing that we have a Supervisor of Elections and staff who are totally committed to serve the community, keep our vote safe, and give people the opportunity to vote. Mo or her staff do an outreach once a week, in many different parts of the community, to register voters.

Not only does Mo Baird demand excellence from her staff, she and her staff are mentoring and teaching other Supervisors in the state as well.

If you have a few minutes I would suggest you visit the SOE website,

<https://www.votecitrus.gov/> to see what efficiency looks like.





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

Citrus Needs a Sexual Assault Clinic

We are not so good at prompt and sensitive services for sexual assault, despite its prevalence in our lives. One in 5 women and one in 14 men have experienced completed or attempted rape in her or his lifetime.

Sexual assault is common in the context of domestic violence (DV) as one form of interpersonal control.

- About 40-45% of women in abusive relationships experience sexual violence.
- “Reproductive abuse” includes impregnating against a partner’s wishes by obstructing use of contraceptives.
- For a pregnant person, the risk of death from partner violence is greater than from any obstetric issue.

Citrus County is fortunate to have CASA, the Citrus Abuse Shelter. Founded in 1983, it is busier than ever. In 2025, it directly served 1,487 DV survivors with shelter, counseling and connection to other community agencies.

One thing it cannot offer yet is a local Sexual Assault Center. Presently, CASA must call on Lake County's certified sexual-assault clinicians and deal with the associated travel and scheduling logistics.

Establishing a new Sexual Assault Center is complicated and expensive. Two specialists must be employed for two years and a physician contracted for their supervision before certification can be obtained. It goes without saying that a center is needed not just for CASA clients but for Citrus County.

This initial investment will cost about \$200,000. How can we help?

We can support CASA through participation in fundraising. The next event is the family-friendly Hops for Hope day on April 11 hosted by COPP Brewery & Winery in Crystal River.

We can support CASA with donations. It is a 501(c)3 organization. See casaf1.org for information on charitable giving.



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

Legislative Updates March 2026

By Rosemary Nilles

The FL legislative session ends soon – but it’s not too late to make your voice heard! Legislative contact information is listed in this newsletter!

Election Security – Cost vs. Benefit *(LTE sent to Chronicle)*

There’s a constant drumbeat of disinformation regarding American election integrity.

“Let’s nationalize our elections... Let’s make it harder to register or vote... Let’s hold funding until states give up their voter rolls... Let’s pretend that noncitizens are stealing American elections.”

Noncitizen voting in federal elections is nearly non-existent! It’s a federal crime, punishable by fines, imprisonment, or deportation. States – including Florida - use sophisticated databases to ensure that noncitizens cannot register.

The *SAVE America Act* was recently passed in the US House and headed for the Senate. It would require documentary proof of citizenship at registration. States would have to purge voter rolls regularly and share voter information with Homeland Security.

Florida’s own SAVE Act is moving forward. HB 991 overwhelmingly passed the House, with votes along party lines, on Feb. 25. It would also require documentary proof of citizenship to register and to vote. All current voters would be cross-checked, and if data doesn’t match, voters would have 30 days to produce proof of citizenship or be removed from the rolls. About 9% of American citizens don’t have passports or can’t readily access their birth certificates. Many married women would have to produce proof of name change. College IDs would no longer be accepted for in-person voting.

The Senate version, SB 1334, is similar, but would take effect on July 1. This would potentially keep eligible Floridians from voting in 2026 and give Supervisors of Elections extra responsibilities during a busy election year.

Most Americans support a requirement for ID when voting - already a law in Florida and many states.

Florida’s elections are known to be safe and secure. So, what’s going on? How many noncitizens are voting?

I researched the conservative Heritage Foundation’s Election Fraud database. The website doesn’t lie. Painstaking research goes back to 1982 and details every offense. Yes, incidences of voter fraud do exist! Miniscule numbers of fraudulent votes have occurred across states, about 0.0003% of the hundreds of millions of votes cast over decades. Not one instance had even a slight bearing on the outcome of any elections.

Of Florida’s 93 violations between 1992 and 2025, most offenders were persons with criminal convictions who were ineligible to vote.

Should we believe the data, or believe the politicians? There’s no serious reason to pass federal or state SAVE Acts. They will contribute little to election security.

It becomes a cost-benefit issue. Additional hurdles to registration may lower the already miniscule number of illegal votes. But how many legitimate citizens will be kept from voting?

Citizens and lawmakers must ask themselves, ***what are the real reasons for these bills?*** They are solutions in search of a problem.

Please contact our ***federal and state*** legislators (listed in this newsletter) with ***your*** opinions.

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Remember – the FL legislative session ends soon – this is our last chance to speak out!



2026 Legislative Session: LWVFL Education Action Team Priority Education Bills

We SUPPORT These Education Bills -GOOD BILLS:

The bills below strengthen Florida’s traditional public schools and students while increasing accountability, transparency, and stability across education funding and services.

SB 318: Educational Scholarship Programs (Sponsor: Sen. Gaetz)

What the bill does:

SB 318 improves oversight and predictability within scholarship programs while protecting public school districts from sudden enrollment and funding shifts.

SB 424/HB 6023: Educational Facilities

What the bills do:

SB 424/HB 6023 remove provisions that require “Schools of Hope” to co-locate in public school facilities at no cost.

SB 1674/HB 1501 K-12 School Lunches and Breakfasts; SB 1098: Universal Free Breakfast and Lunch

What the bills do:

SB 1674/HB 1501 require K-12 public schools to participate in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

SB 1098 creates a universal free breakfast and lunch program for all public school students, administered by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (subject to funding).

For Talking Points to SUPPORT these bills go to:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19MtipQmalHKcu-yD2ZKA0WLW-TGj5CA2EcsPTVU_zHc/edit?tab=t.0

LWVFL Education Action Team OPPOSES These Bills - BAD BILLS that will impact education

While presented as reforms, the following bills would undermine local control, weaken public school funding stability, increase administrative and legal burdens, and reduce educational opportunities for students and communities.

SB 1692/HB 1119: Materials Harmful to Minors

What the bills do:

SB 1692/HB 1119 amend the definition of “harmful to minors” and change how instructional and library materials may be challenged by parents or county residents. They would allow the Florida Department of Education to withhold funding from districts not in compliance with this requirement.

HB 1277/HJR 1275: Prohibition on Levying Ad Valorem Taxes on Tangible Personal Property Joint Resolution

HB 787 / HJR 787: County and School District Ad Valorem Taxing Authority

What the bills do:

HB 1277/HJR 1275 would place a constitutional amendment before voters to prohibit certain entities from levying ad valorem taxes on tangible personal property.

HB 787/HJR 787 would place constitutional amendments before voters to remove the authority of counties and school districts to levy ad valorem taxes.

For Talking Points to OPPOSE these bills go to:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/19MtipQmalHKcu-yD2ZKA0WLW-TGj5CA2EcsPTVU_zHc/edit?tab=t.0

BAD Human Rights Bills That Deserve Our Attention

Contact our *state* legislators with your thoughts.

PRIDE FLAG BAN (SB 426)

Yarborough is sponsoring legislation that would prohibit government buildings from displaying flags related to "political ideology, race, gender, or sexual orientation."


In practice, this would target Pride flags and other symbols of inclusion in public spaces.



ANTI-DIVERSITY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SB 1134)

This bill would block cities and counties from funding most Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs, trainings, celebrations and initiatives.


Local communities would lose the ability to address disparities and ensure fair access to public services, unless they meet narrow exceptions defined by the state.



DON'T SAY GAY OR TRANS AT WORK Florida HB 641/SB 1642

This bill would expand Florida's notorious "Don't Say Gay or Trans" law into government workplaces and many private businesses.

It would shield employees from **accountability** for intentionally bullying transgender co-workers and block LGBTQ-inclusive workplace training, effectively **legitimizing harassment** and undermining professional standards across public and private sectors.




EXPANDING HEALTHCARE REFUSAL LAWS (SB 670)

This bill builds on a 2023 law allowing healthcare providers and insurers to deny care based on religious, moral, or ethical beliefs.

SB 670 would go further by allowing providers or insurers to take legal action if they claim their beliefs were violated.

For patients, that means more uncertainty and barriers to care.





**Guns on college and university campuses
HB 757 is ready for a vote on the House floor.**

SB 896 has one committee stop remaining.

Remember – the FL legislative session ends soon – this is our last chance to speak out! Contact our legislators, listed in this newsletter!

I am including this in the newsletter again. Please share. Our schools are so important to our democracy.

School Choice Brochure

Florida offers many taxpayer funded choices for students' education.

- District-run neighborhood schools
- District-run magnet schools
- Charter schools
- Virtual schools
- Vouchers and Education Savings Accounts
 - Private schools
 - Tutoring
 - Home schooling

Which choice provides the most robust education experience?

Research is mixed on academic outcomes for the various choices. Making an informed choice is essential for providing the best option for each child.

Take a look inside for comparisons...

The Florida Constitution requires a high quality free public education system.

Article IX states that “the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida.”

Article IX requires that the system be...

- Uniform
- Efficient
- Safe
- Secure
- High quality

Presented by:



League of Women Voters of Florida
lwwfl.org

"Education is the key to preserving democracy and assuring prosperity for all citizens."

UNDERSTANDING SCHOOL CHOICE



A QUICK GLANCE

Comparing Transparency/Accountability

	District	Charter	Private
Curriculum covers state standards based on national norms	S	S	N
Certified professional teachers	S	W	W
Certified professional administrators	S	N	N
Governed by an elected school board	S	N	N
Academic achievement assessed through state tests	S	S	N
Financial oversight and accountability from the Florida DOE	S	W	**
Neighborhood school locations	S	N	N
Buildings meet safety and hurricane standards	S	N	N
All students accepted regardless of special needs	S	W	N
All students accepted regardless of gender identity	S	N	N
Transportation provided	S	W	N
Full offering of extracurricular activities	S	W	N
Full offering of art, music, physical education	S	W	N
Discipline policies published for public review	S	N	N
Extra fees assessed and or tuition required	N	S	S

S = Strongly complies with State requirements

W= Weakly or partially complies with State requirements

N= Not required to comply with State requirements

** NOTE: Public money for vouchers (scholarships) and Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) are managed by a private scholarship funding organization (Step Up for Students) which receives up to 3% of every voucher and ESA awarded. Step Up for Students is among the largest charities in the United States with assets totaling more than \$1B.

References

- <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/>
- <https://www.floridapolicy.org/posts/florida-continues-to-drain-much-needed-funds-away-from-public-schools-to-private-and-home-school-students>
- <https://1wvf1.org/step-up-for-students-preliminary-investigative-report/>

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 March – June 2026

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

1:00 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays (note exceptions!):

March 10 & 31, April 14 & 28, May 12 & 26, June 9 & 22 (Mon)

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>

****Governing Body of the Special Library District****

Thurs. Feb. 10, 9:00 AM; Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness

Citrus County Library Advisory Board (Regular Meetings)

9:00 AM, 4th Tuesdays: April 28, June 23

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: Mar. 10, April 14, May 12, June 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>

**State Legislators Representing Citrus
Contact Information:**

Sen. Ralph Massullo, FL Senate Dist. 11:

Inverness 352-666-5707 Tallahassee 850-487-5011

Email: massullo.ralph.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. JJ Grow, FL Dist. 23:

Inverness 352-560-6075. Tallahassee 850-717-5023

Email: jj.grow@flhouse.gov

**US Senators and Representative Representing Citrus
Contact Information:**

Sen. Rick Scott: Tampa 813-225-7040. Washington 202-224-5274

Contact via Senate Website: [Contact Rick Scott](#)

Sen. Ashley Moody: Washington 202-224-3041

Contact via Senate Website: <https://www.moody.senate.gov/>

US Rep. Gus Bilirakis: Inverness 352-654-1004 Washington: 202-225-5755

Contact via House Website: <https://bilirakis.house.gov/>

US Capital Switchboard: 202-224-3121 to contact any federal legislator.

Voting Related bills filed in the 2026 Legislative Session:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19luy9zmaKemyGUggt4wnp1yhZ5BGKolwo1ia-wpvMt8/edit?gid=2029535294#gid=2029535294>

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.

50107267

Speaker's Bureau

**Rosemary Nilles is co-chair of the Florida Speakers Bureau
Vicky Iozzia is the chair of the LWV Citrus Speakers Bureau**

If your organization is interested in having a speaker, contact Vicky Iozzia at
vickyiozzia@gmail.com



Speakers Bureau

Our well-prepared speakers are available to speak at your events and meetings. We offer up-to-date, nonpartisan educational presentations on a variety of current topics including:

Voting and Elections Presentations

- Your Local Power: State & Local Government (Citrus)
- Protecting Your Voting Rights
- Say No to Mid-Decade Redistricting
- Election Security vs Access: A Delicate Balance
- Your Voice. Your Vote. Your Power.
- Write-In Loophole
- Voting Rights for Returning Citizens
- Florida's Constitutional Amendments (summer 2026)
- Preparing for the 2026 Elections (summer 2026)

Civics Presentations

- The US Constitution
- Separation of Powers/Checks and Balances
- From Idea to Law: Understanding Florida's Legislative Process
- Interacting with Elected Officials and their Staffs
- Immigration
- Identifying and Combating False Information
- Disinformation: Spot it! Stop it!
- What Is the League of Women Voters?
- Why Public Schools Matter
- Understanding School Choice

Presentations can be customized to your time and audience. Contact Vicky Iozzia, vickyiozzia@gmail.com or go to our website, www.lwvcitrus.org to receive a Speaker Request form.



League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization, never endorsing or opposing political parties or candidates, and encouraging informed, active participation in government.



This is from our February 25 Social.
Come join us for our Monthly Social! Have a
cup of something or a snack.
Join the conversation or listen.
Our next meeting is at the Cattle Dog Restaurant
in Inverness, 4:00,
Wednesday, March 25, 2026

From the new League of Women Voters Impact on Issue

Climate Change

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Climate Change Policy, as announced by the national board, January 2019:

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and our planet.

The League believes that an interrelated approach to combating climate change — including through energy conservation, air pollution controls, building resilience, and promotion of renewable resources — is necessary to protect public health and defend the overall integrity of the global ecosystem. The League support climate goals and policies that are consistent with the best-available climate science and that will ensure a stable climate system for future generations. Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decision at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global.

League History

In the later 2000s, LWVUS significantly increased its advocacy concerning global climate change. LWVUS believes that climate change is a serious problem that requires immediate domestic and international action. The League believes the US government should move ahead immediately, without waiting for other nations, on initiatives to reduce emissions of heat-trapping gases like carbon, methane, and other toxic air pollutants. Such actions will reduce the threat of global climate change, combat air pollution, increase energy security, and create new jobs.

In late 2006, the League joined other groups in issuing a statement of principles on the importance of reducing climate change. The League also created a Climate Change Task Force to provide information and assistance to the national board and staff on issues pertaining to climate change. The Task Force also works to develop materials for use by League members at the local, state, and national levels.

In 2008, the League called on Congress to enact legislation to significantly cut the greenhouse gas emissions that cause global climate change and supported increased energy efficiency and a shift to clean, renewable energy. The League called for a moratorium on the building of new coal-fired electric power plants and supported requirements for utilities to produce a significant percentage of electricity from renewable resources.

The League supported the *Climate Security Act of 2008*, as well as amendments to strengthen the bill. This legislation provided for a cap-and-trade system, which would have cut greenhouse gas emission from electric power, transportation, and manufacturing sources. The emissions cap would be reduced over time to meet pollution-reduction goals based on the best-available scientific information. These emissions reductions could be

traded on a market set up by the legislation, allowing polluters to buy, sell, borrow, and trade emission allowances to ensure economic efficiency in the program. The League also urged elected officials to extend clean energy tax incentives. Though it passed the US House of Representatives, the legislation was sidetracked in the US Senate by special interests.

In December 2009, the League was thrilled to participate on the international stage, sending an official NGO delegation to Copenhagen for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In March 2010, 19 League leaders from as many states went to Washington to lobby congressional leaders on strong climate change legislation. In addition, the Climate Change Task Force developed and promoted the Toolkit for Climate Action to assist Leagues and League members throughout the country in the fight to combat global climate change.

In the late 2000s, the League lobbied vigorously for comprehensive legislation to control global climate change by setting a cap on greenhouse gas pollution and encouraging conservation and renewable energy. As part of an education and advocacy project on climate change, six state Leagues held forums with trips by the League president to speak at public events and meet with key senators and staff. In early 2010, the LWVUS president was honored by Oxfam America with a Sisters on the Planet Climate Leader Award for the League's grassroots work on climate change.

In 2012, when EPA proposed the first-ever standards to control industrial carbon pollution from power plants, which causes global climate change and increases health problems, the League joined with its environmental and social justice allies in collecting the largest number of comments ever submitted in review of an EPA regulation. More than three million comments were submitted in support of the proposed rules for new power plants urging the EPA to take the next step and set carbon standards for existing plants.

In 2012, with Congress unable or unwilling to act on climate change, the League launched an initiative to urge President Obama to use his executive authority under the *Clean Air Act* to control carbon pollution from both new and existing power plants, which are the largest source of industrial carbon pollution in the United States. The League strongly urged the president to lead the world in the right direction in the face of the greatest environmental challenge of our generation: climate change. With the proposed rules on new power plants in limbo and standards for new plants not yet proposed, the League used paid advertising, action alerts, and new media tools to urge the president to get the job done.

The League continued its strong advocacy on climate issues by supporting President Obama's Climate Action Plan. In addition, the League voiced support for putting a price on carbon to complement the regulatory effort. By demonstrating the political salience of the climate change issue — and the effects on public health — League ads succeeded in discouraging the Senate from taking up legislation that would undermine efforts to address climate change.

In the 2014 – 2016 biennium, the League continued work to fight climate change by supporting regulations from the EPA, fighting legislation to stop or hurt progress on climate initiatives, and pushing for the full rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline. The League continued support for the EPA's Clean Power Plan and New Source Pollution Standard by participating in field hearings across the country and collecting comments from grassroots supporters in support of the regulations, all while working to fight legislation to overturn or weaken the regulations

in Congress. The League strongly supported the People's Climate March in New York City and the UN Paris Agreement, which was a historic international agreement that established a commitment to reduce carbon pollution and fight climate change. The League also endorsed regulations from EPA to reduce the levels of ozone in the atmosphere and regulate methane in the oil and gas sector.

In 2017 and 2018, the League opposed efforts by the 115th Congress and the Trump administration to roll back key agreements and regulations to combat climate change. This included the withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, the plan to gut the Clean Power Plan, the rollback of the clean cars standards and methane regulation, and the approval of the Keystone XL pipeline.


In 2016, LWVUS joined with LWVOR to file an amicus brief in the US District Court for the District of Oregon in the case of *Juliana et al v. United States*. Together, the brief reiterates the Leagues' support for the 21 young people from across the United States who have filed a landmark constitutional climate change lawsuit against the federal government, via Our Children's Trust, based in Eugene, Oregon. In 2018, the Justice Department filed a motion to dismiss the case but allowed the President to be removed as a named party to the case. In 2019, there was a flurry of activity as LWVUS and LWVOR filed another joint amicus brief with the Ninth Circuit Court arguing that the case is unique and timely because plaintiffs have no other mechanism to resolve their issues. However, in January 2020, the Ninth Circuit dismissed the case. Following on this, the League advocated for passage of the Children's Fundamental Rights and Climate Recovery Resolution in the 116th Congress.

In the 116th Congress (2019 – 2021) the League supported the passage of the *Climate Action Now Act*, legislation to keep the United States in the Paris Climate Agreement and reinforce national resolve to meet America's climate action commitments. The League also endorsed bicameral legislation, the *Climate Risk Disclosure Act of 2019*. This legislation took steps to ensure that shareholders have the information needed to adequately mitigate financial, physical, and legal climate related risks to their investments and accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to cleaner, more-efficient energy standards. In the 117th Congress, LWVUS support for addressing the climate change crisis continued with Senate lobbying in support of legislation and executive orders from the Biden administration that establish climate change as a major priority for the nation. In 2022, the League urged Congress to support the *National Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategy Act*, which would require the federal government to create a national strategy to prepare for climate hazard.

African American Read-in

The 18th Annual African American Read-in took place on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at the Curtis Peterson Auditorium. It was a well-executed presentation which was positive and often emotionally moving.

I will be including the literary pieces which were read in future newsletters. Once a year is not enough to enjoy this literature.



Prayer
By Maya Angelou

*Father, Mother God,
Thank you for your presence
during the hard and mean days.
For then we have you to lean upon.*

*Thank you for your presence
during the bright and sunny days,
for then we can share that which we have
with those who have less.*

*And thank you for your presence
during the Holy Days, for then we are able
to celebrate you and our families
and our friends.*

*For those who have no voice,
we ask you to speak.*



*For those who feel unworthy,
we ask you to pour your love out
in waterfalls of tenderness.*

*For those who live in pain,
we ask you to bathe them
in the river of your healing.*

*For those who are lonely, we ask
you to keep them company.*

*For those who are depressed,
we ask you to shower upon them
the light of hope.*

*Dear Creator, You, the borderless
sea of substance, we ask you to give all the
world that which we need most -- Peace.*



4

Photos from the African American Read-in



IN THE NEWS

CONSERVE RECYCLE SUSTAIN

RAIN OR SHINE

2026 EARTH DAY EXPO

FREE EVENT

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

*"TRASH TO TREASURE" RECYCLED ART CONTEST DISPLAY
ACTIVITIES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY • MUSIC
"ASK A MASTER GARDENER" & MUCH, MUCH MORE!*

UF/IFAS EXTENSION CITRUS COUNTY
3650 WEST SOVEREIGN PATH, LECANTO
((352) 527-5700 ✉ **citrus@ifas.ufl.edu**

 **UF** | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
An Equal Opportunity Institution

 **CITRUS COUNTY CHRONICLE**
www.chronicleonline.com

 **Trained service animals only, please.**

2026 TRASH TO TREASURE

RECYCLED ART CONTEST

All Entries on Display: APRIL 6th - APRIL 17th
CITRUS COUNTY COURTHOUSE LOBBY
110 North Apopka Avenue, Inverness

CHECK OUT THE ART & THEN
VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE ENTRY!

ONE
VOTE
PER
PERSON
PLEASE

12:00 PM
April 18th

VOTING
ENDS!

MON
MARCH
30TH

SUBMISSION
DEADLINE

SAT
APRIL
18TH

UF/IFAS EXTENSION EARTH DAY EXPO
WINNERS & PRIZES
PRESENTED @ 12.00 PM



WANT TO ENTER?

SCAN
HERE!



UF | IFAS Extension
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION





DWCCC ANNUAL LUNCHEON AND ELEANOR ROOSEVELT SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

MARCH 14, 2026

CITRUS HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

505 E Hartford St., Hernando, FL 34442

DOORS OPEN AT 11:30 \$50 PER PERSON

PROGRAM

- SALAD BAR
- GUEST SPEAKERS
- MUSIC
- DOOR PRIZES
- BASKETS

SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION TO:

[CITRUSWOMENDEMS.ORG](https://citruswomendems.org)

CLICK ON RSVP

OR Mail check made out to **DWCCC** and
indicate name(s) of attendees and phone #
MAIL To: Democratic Women's Club of Citrus
County
P.O. Box 1902 Inverness, Florida 34451

ONLINE REGISTRATION CLOSSES MARCH 7

Checks must be received by MARCH 6



Jamie Bonkiewicz ✓
@JamieBonkiewicz

Where are the DOGE refund checks?
Where's my 10% APR on credit cards?
Why aren't my prescriptions 1500% cheaper?
Where's gas under \$2?
Why aren't groceries cheaper yet?
What happened to Greenland?
Where's my tariff check?

Any updates??



LWV partners with Girl Scouts! We love our girl scouts!

Purchase Girl Scout Cookies and support our girls!



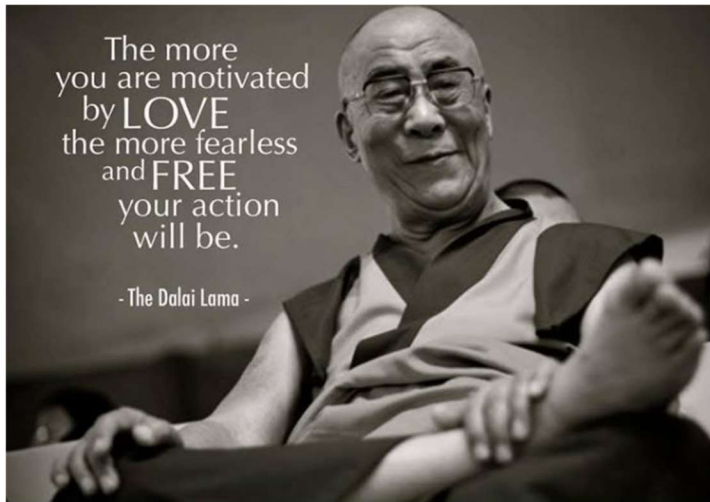
Nancy Kennedy / Chronicle Reporter

Girl Scouts are out selling cookies – booth sales start Feb. 13. These are some of the older Girl Scouts in Citrus County from various troops. Seated, from the left: Cadettes Izzy Cirone and Joslynn Brewer, and Ambassadors Natalie Cline and Jessica Wolfertz; standing: Seniors Vivian Golash and Abby Parker, Cadettes Natalie Meyers and Aurora Brock.



Posted and deleted from Truth Social website.





PEOPLE **NOT** IN THE EPSTEIN FILES:



BIZARRO



[View as Webpage - For easy sharing](#)

National Popular Vote!

Virginia Senate Becomes 44th State Legislative Chamber to Pass National Popular Vote

The Virginia Senate today passed the National Popular Vote bill ([SB322](#)). The bill now goes to the Virginia House where it has 30 sponsors.

If the bill gets enacted into law, Virginia will join 17 other states and the District of Columbia. This means that National Popular Vote will have been approved by states possessing 222 of the 270 electoral votes required.

The National Popular Vote bill will guarantee that the President is the candidate who wins the most popular votes in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Please use our convenient email system to send emails to your state legislators asking them to pass National Popular Vote in your state.

From the ACLU:

+

KNOW YOUR PROTEST RIGHTS

- 1. You don't need a permit to protest in response to breaking news and you don't need a permit to march in the streets or along sidewalks, as long as you're not obstructing traffic or access to buildings.**
- 2. When you are lawfully present in any public space, you have the right to photograph anything in plain view, including federal buildings and the police.**
- 3. If you believe your rights have been violated, when you can, write down everything you remember, get contact information for witnesses, and take photographs of any injuries.**
- 4. If you get stopped by the police, ask if you're free to go. If they say yes, calmly walk away.**
- 5. If you get arrested, you have a right to ask why. Otherwise, say you wish to remain silent and ask for a lawyer immediately. Don't sign, say or agree to anything without a lawyer present.**
- 6. If you get stopped by a member of the military or any law enforcement office at a protest, you have the right to remain silent or to tell them that you'll only answer questions in the presence of an attorney — no matter your citizenship or immigration status.**

ACLU

This year the ACLU is

Organizing Updates

How we're organizing

- Expanding our organizing capacity and structure
- Building systems that can truly support sustained engagement
- Training, leadership development, and infrastructure
- **New Structure:** Call and Text Teams, Campus Organizing, Election Safeguarding, and Popular Education



Organizing Updates

160,000+
New People Power Members

> 41 Know Your Rights Trainings

84,571
People trained to Know Their Rights



3,997 Activists trained at over 12 Pop Ed trainings across the country



Maxine Connor, Natural Resources Chair

**Citrus County 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update
Attend the Final Workshop March 3 – 5:30-7:30 pm**

**Sierra Club Adventure Coast Outing March 9th – 9 am to 11 am
Homosassa Wildlife State Park**

**Adventure Coast Group Meet Up
March 18th with Kate Mastenbrook on
the Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan**

**Welcome Back Songbird Festival
Friday, March 20th at 6:30 pm and Saturday, March 21st 8am-4:30pm,**

**Register to Attend: Weeki Wachee River Summit
March 27**

**Earth Day Citrus County Extension Office
April 18**

**Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan
Take the Flood Risk Survey**

**Updated Rules for
Fertilizing Turf Grass in Citrus County**

**Update on Creosote Covered Railroad Ties in Dunnellon
Removal of all impacted railroad ties in Dunnellon fire now complete officials say**

**Florida Legislative Session
January 13 – March 13**

**Sign up with Florida Springs Council to be a Springs Advocate
Get Updates and Action Alerts**

**Public Lands Support Florida Families
They Helped Build Ours
by Joe Murphy Feb. 17, 2026**

**Politics and Government
Environmental Groups Vow to Stop Trump's EPA from Revoking the Endangerment Finding**

Sign Up for The Invading Sea Newsletter

Citrus County 2050 Comprehensive Plan Update



Citrus County is updating its Comprehensive Plan, with the goal of creating a vision for the county through 2050. The current plan was adopted in 1990, and the update aims to reflect modern community priorities on various topics.

Inspire Placemaking Collective, a community planning and design firm, was contracted by the Citrus County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to lead the update process and conduct public engagement activities. Key stakeholder groups, including representatives from business, legal, conservation, investment, education, community service, faith, and county government interests, were interviewed ahead of public workshops that began December 8th, 2025.

A second public workshop was scheduled in January 2026. We urge Citrus residents to participate in this important opportunity to have a say in the future of Citrus County. Your voice can only be heard if you speak up!

Project Overview: The process will take 16 months, with an anticipated completion between Fall 2025 and Winter 2027. The updated plan will guide key decisions on:

- Land use and development.

- Infrastructure (water, sewer, solid waste, drainage).
 - Transportation and multimodal connectivity.
 - Conservation, coastal management, parks, and open space.
 - **Public Involvement:** Public input is a crucial part of the process, ensuring the plan reflects the community's vision for preserving Citrus County's unique character and quality of life. Residents are invited to participate through workshops, online surveys, and a community forum. **Learn more and share your ideas at:** <https://www.inspire-engagement.com/citrus-county-comp-plan> which includes an online survey and public forum for comments.
 - *Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group*
 - **If you want to have a say about the future of the community, attend the final workshop on March 3 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto, Florida 34461.** The project will establish the vision for the next 25 years.
 - *Revised/Updated by M. Connor 2/28/26*
-

Adventure Coast Outing March 9th To Homosassa Wildlife State Park



- Participants will also experience a look at the park not normally seen by the normal park visitor.
- Meet at the park's West Entrance on Fishbowl Drive parking lot (9225 W Fishbowl Dr, Homosassa, FL 34448) at 8:45 am, and the tour will begin at 9 am. Plan on 1.5-2 hours on this tour.
- Parking is available at either the US 19 / Suncoast Blvd parking area (4150 S Suncoast Blvd, Homosassa, FL 34446), from where you can take the shuttle to the entrance to the park at Fishbowl Drive, or you can park in the smaller parking lot on Fishbowl.

- For more information, contact us at sierraclubadventurecoastgroupcc@gmail.com, www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast or call 352- 277-3330.

**Adventure Coast Group Meet Up
March 18th with Kate Mastenbrook on
the Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan**



**SIERRA CLUB
ADVENTURE COAST
MEET UP MARCH 18TH**



**ON THE TAMPA BAY COASTAL MASTER PLAN
WITH NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION'S KATE
MASTENBROOK**

**Social at 6:30pm and meeting at 7pm at the Historic
Brooksville Woman's Club, 131 S. Main Street in Brooksville, FL.**

Join the meeting in person or via Zoom.
To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at:
<https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/EvFw9w5MSu0OnYoDm8C3vQ>.
Katie will be presenting to us via Zoom.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

For more information, check out our website at www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast,
email sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com or call 352 277-3330.

**Welcome Back Songbird Festival
Friday, March 20th at 6:30 pm and Saturday, March 21st 2026 8am-4:30pm, Chinsegut
Conservation Center
23212 Lake Lindsey Road, Brooksville, FL**

Save The Date!
March 20 – 21, 2026

**Welcome
Back
Songbirds
Festival**



Join us as we celebrate spring songbird migration with our **Welcome Back Songbirds Festival at Chinsegut Conservation Center!**

This collaborative, family-friendly festival will feature bird walks, engaging talks, hands-on workshops, fun activities for kids, and art for all ages. We're honored to host Julie Wraithmell, Executive Director of Audubon Florida, who will deliver our keynote address on Friday, March 20 at 6:30 pm. This event is proudly sponsored by Citrus County Audubon, Hernando Audubon, Chinsegut Conservation Center and the Florida's Adventure Coast Visitors Bureau. More details coming soon. Mark your calendar and plan to join us!

- **Join our volunteer team**
 - **for this celebration of the spring songbird migration. To sign up, email sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com**
-

Weeki Wachee River Summit
March 27, 2026 – 9am – 2pm



-
- Weeki Wachee Springs is a first magnitude Florida
- Spring enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

- Hernando County’s Alys Brockway will discuss *Weeki Wachee River Watershed Protection Initiatives* and Carla Burrmann of Hernando County’s Waterways will speak on *Challenges to implementing the Springs Protection Zone*. Southwest Florida Water Management District scientist Dr. Madison Trowbridge will explore *Working Together to Protect our Springs*. IFAS-Florida Sea Grant representative Brittany Scharf and Tiare Fridrick of Save the Manatee will present on *Protecting Manatees in the Weeki Wachee and Mud Rivers*. Sea and Shoreline’s Environmental Manager and Biologist Bailey Koronich will provide a project update on the *Weeki Wachee River Sea Grass Restoration Project*. Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group’s DeeVon Quirolo will present on the *Springs Protection Zone Education and Awareness Campaign*. A panel discussion will follow with Hernando County Administrator Rogers, Taylor Masnjak of Get Up and Go Kayaks, Marousa Rodriguez—a local landowner, and others.

- RSVP: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=701Po00001SvsO9IAJ>

•

Information courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

UF/IFAS Extension Citrus County

Earth Day Expo & Trash to Treasure Recycled Art Contest

Saturday, April 18 – 10am-1pm

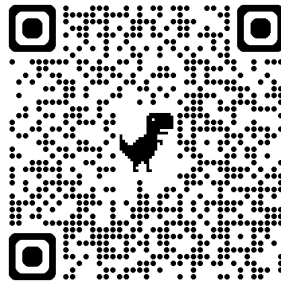
3650 West Sovereign Path, Lecanto

Electric Vehicle Car Show – Talk to an Electric Vehicle Owner

Rooftop Solar Educational Trailer – Talk to A Rooftop Solar Expert

Charging an Electric Vehicle Demonstration

Join us for this annual event. There will be many interesting booths, educational information and flyers including: League of Women Voters of Citrus County, League of Women Voters of Florida Clean Energy Action Team, Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group, Citrus County Audubon Society, and Citrus Native Plant Society.



Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan



The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is creating the [Tampa Bay Regional Resilience Coalition](#)—a voluntary alliance of local governments and partner organizations working together to strengthen the region’s ability to adapt to climate change. By aligning with the Coalition’s shared goals, the Tampa Bay Master Coastal Plan (TBMCP) advances coordinated, region-wide resilience strategies that reflect local priorities and foster long-term collaboration across jurisdictions. The study area spans over 4,400 square miles of diverse inland and coastal ecosystems across Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties—home to more than 4 million residents.

The Tampa Bay region faces escalating climate-related risks, including sea level rise, storm surge, extreme rainfall, and high-tide flooding. These threats are compounded by rapid population growth and limited regional coordination on flood mitigation and current efforts are often fragmented and lack a cohesive, long-term strategic framework.

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group has agreed to become a collaborating partner and we look forward to training sessions followed by planning community listening sessions. The Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan (TBCMP) enhances regional resilience by addressing flooding impacts through a coordinated, data-driven, and community-based planning process. Over the course of this four-year, grant-funded initiative, the TBCMP will identify flood-vulnerable communities, prioritize restoration and flood-reduction projects, and guide long-term adaptation strategies.

I will participate with Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group.

Take the flood risk survey below.



Fertilizer Education and Awareness Campaign Underway in Citrus County

On February 3rd, the Inverness City Council joined Citrus County and Crystal River by adopting a fertilizer ordinance restricting the application of fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus to urban lawns during the rainy season months from June 1st -- September 30th in addition to a winter ban from November 1st -- March 31st. Urban lawn fertilizer contributes to poor water quality affecting our springs and waterways and the wildlife that depends upon it. Fertilizer bans are a low-to-no cost way of improving water quality. The campaign was led by Sierra Club Florida's Michael McGrath in cooperation with Adventure Coast Group leaders including Maxine Connor and DeeVon Quirolo, Most people who are aware of such rules will follow them. For two years now in Hernando County, laminated signs featuring the new rules have been distributed to retailers in Hernando, who are required to post them where fertilizers are sold, according to the ordinance. Flyers of the same signs along with additional information are provided to all Hernando County landscape management companies. After passage of the ordinance, radio public service announcements were provided to Hernando radio stations, ads were placed in the Hernando Sun newspaper and social media posts were designed and sent out. Recently, the signs and flyers were updated to reflect the current winter season focus and distributed to Hernando retailers and landscape management companies.

Adventure Coast's Maxine Connor, Denise Dookeran and DeeVon Quirolo have collaborated with Citrus County representatives to create a similar education and awareness campaign for both retailers who sell fertilizers and landscape management companies that apply fertilizer. College intern Sofia Andreeva is coordinating the distribution of information and signs in Citrus, patterned after the effort in Hernando County. Distribution of approved signage and informational materials began last month for both retailers and landscape management companies.

Retailer's Sign



Graphic Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Update on Creosote Covered Railroad Ties in Dunnellon Removal of all impacted railroad ties in Dunnellon fire now complete, officials say

This is according to an article dated 2/27/26 in WCJB Channel 20 ABC:
<https://www.wcjb.com/2026/02/27/removal-all-impacted-railroad-ties-dunnellon-fire-now-complete-officials-say/>

Florida Legislative Session

This Florida Legislative Session runs from January 13 to March 13, 2026. It can be extended if the budget is not passed. Watch your email inbox for action alerts. It's better for them to be emailed to you than put in the newsletter because things are moving and changing fast.

Sign Up with Florida Springs Council to Be a Springs Advocate

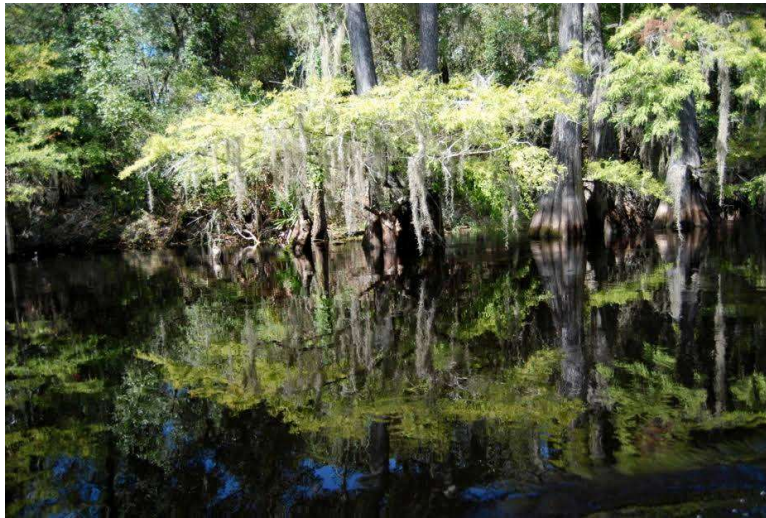


Sign up [here](#) for updates on threats, victories, and ways to defend our waterways. To act fast when it's time to make a difference, opt in for text alerts too. No spam, no fundraising, just urgent alerts delivered straight to your phone when it matters most.

Check the Florida Springs Council's [website](https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/) 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.

**Public Lands Support Florida Families-
They Helped Build Ours
by Joe Murphy Feb. 17, 2026**



"Our family immersed ourselves in Florida's public lands. We went swimming in Juniper Springs in the Ocala National Forest and at Manatee Springs State Park. We hiked Hillsborough River State Park. We paddled down the Withlacoochee River in the Nature Coast. We found secret fishing holes and shady places to sit and watch wildlife. Public lands became a vast and accessible resource that we could use to define our new family and create our own, new, better memories."

Joe Murphy is on the board of the Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group.

Full Article from The Invading Sea at:

[Public lands support Florida families – they helped build ours | The Invading Sea](#)

Politics & Government
Environmental Groups Vow to Stop Trump's EPA from Revoking the Endangerment Finding



A coal-fired power plant in Kansas City, Missouri. |
Photo by Charlie Riedel/AP

[Environmental Groups Vow to Stop Trump’s EPA From Revoking the Endangerment Finding](#)

By [Dana Drugmand](#) February 17, 2026

Sign up for The Invading Sea Newsletter

Sign up for The Invading Sea newsletter by [visiting here](#). To support The Invading Sea, [click here](#) to make a donation. If you are interested in submitting an opinion piece to The Invading Sea, [email Editor Nathan Crabbe](#).

Updated 2/28/26

From the National League of Women Voters

If you would like to celebrate 106 years of the League of Women Voters and hear what will be happening in the future, listen to Dianna Wynn, President of the League of Women Voters, by clicking below. I hope that you will be able to take the time to listen to what the League stands for.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8lsqf1_gzM

The following link talks about what we face and what the National League is doing:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D8lsqf1_gzM

