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August 2026

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CITRUS COUNTY NEWSLETTER

Vicky Iozzia is the Editor of this newsletter. Our mailing address is  
LWVCC. P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460 Our website is  
[lwwcitrus.org](http://lwwcitrus.org) Our email address is [lwwcc2013@gmail.com](mailto:lwwcc2013@gmail.com)

**There will not be a general meeting on August 12.**

**We will have a celebration the Anniversary of the**  
**Voting Rights Act. By Dr. BJ Ezell, at the Coastal Region Library**  
**on Saturday, August 8,**  
**from 10:00 am to 11:30. See Page 5**

Our Wednesday, September 9 meeting features the Candidates  
for US House of Representatives District 15. Vicky Iozzia, will  
explain the proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution,  
Coastal Region Library, 10:am, See Page 6

Our October 14 meeting features Supervisor of Elections Mo  
Baird. Coastal Region Library, 10 am. 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, Citrus County Chronicle

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

**TO THIS NEWSLETTER! THANKS TO ALL OF YOU WHO READ  
THIS. YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME!**

**BE SURE TO CHECKOUT THE LAST ARTICLE ON PAGE 50, CECILE SCOON, PAST  
PRESIDENT OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA!!**

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HAPPY AUGUST EVERYONE!

| Events in August 2026                                                                  |                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                              |     |          |                                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  Grid |  List | <b>Month</b>                                                                                                                              | Week                                                                                         | Day | August ▾ | 2026 ▾ Go                                                                                                                      |
| < Previous                                                                             | Today                                                                                  | Next >                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                              |     |          |                                                                                                                                |
| Sun                                                                                    | Mon                                                                                    | Tue                                                                                                                                       | Wed                                                                                          | Thu | Fri      | Sat                                                                                                                            |
|                                                                                        |                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                              |     |          | 1                                                                                                                              |
| 2                                                                                      | 3                                                                                      | 4                                                                                                                                         | 5                                                                                            | 6   | 7        | 8<br>10:00 am:<br>Empowering<br>Citrus County –<br>Restoring the<br>Voting Rights Act<br>– Day of<br>Remembrance<br>and Action |
| 9                                                                                      | 10                                                                                     | 11<br>1:00 pm: Board of<br>Commissioners<br>of Citrus County,<br>Florida meeting<br><br>4:00 pm: Citrus<br>County School<br>Board meeting | 12<br>4:00 pm: Cattle<br>Dog Social for<br>the League of<br>Women Voters<br>of Citrus County | 13  | 14       | 15                                                                                                                             |
| 16                                                                                     | 17                                                                                     | 18                                                                                                                                        | 19                                                                                           | 20  | 21       | 22                                                                                                                             |
| 23                                                                                     | 24                                                                                     | 25<br>1:00 pm: Board of<br>Commissioners<br>of Citrus County,<br>Florida meeting<br><br>1:00 pm: Library<br>Advisory Board                | 26                                                                                           | 27  | 28       | 29                                                                                                                             |
| 30                                                                                     | 31                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                              |     |          |                                                                                                                                |

This calendar is from our website:  
[Lwvcitrus.org](http://Lwvcitrus.org)

*On August 8, LWV Citrus and Leagues across the nation will observe the anniversary of the passage of the Voting Rights Act.*

# **Empowering Citrus County: Restoring the Voting Rights Act – Day of Remembrance and Action**

**Join us on  
Sat. August 8  
10:00–11:30 AM  
Coastal Region  
Library**

**8619 W Crystal St. Crystal River**

Our speaker, Dr. BJ Ezell, LWVCC board member, (back left of photo) will address the enduring importance of the Voting Rights Act and discuss specific actions Citrus County residents can take to protect and preserve their voting rights today.

**Please bring your smart device.**

*League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, empowering voters and defending democracy.*



**Your Vote Matters!**

## ***"Prepare for the Nov. 3 Elections"***

*League of Women Voters of Citrus County*

*invites you to join us*

**Wed. Sept. 9**

**10:00-11:30 AM**

**Coastal Region Library**

**8619 W Crystal St. Crystal River**



## ***Decisions 2026: Constitutional Amendments on Ballot***

Learn about the proposed Amendments to Florida's Constitution that you'll be voting on.

Presented by Vicky Iozzia, 1st President

## ***Meet and Greet for Candidates for U.S. Congress District 15***

Recent redistricting in Florida changed congressional representation for Citrus County. Do you know the candidates? Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives are invited to speak briefly, then to interact with voters at their tables.

*League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, empowering voters and defending democracy, never endorsing or opposing candidates or parties.*





## Upcoming LWVCC Meetings Fall 2026

All meetings at Coastal Region Library  
8619 W. Crystal St. Crystal River, FL 34428

**Wed. Sept. 9, 10:00 AM**

### ***Decisions 2026: Constitutional Amendments on Ballot***

Learn about the proposed Amendments to Florida's Constitution that you'll be voting on. Presented by Vicky Iozzia, 1st President



### ***Meet & Greet for Candidates for U.S. House of Representatives District 15***

Each candidate will have 3 minutes to introduce themselves with time for individual conversations.

**Wed. Oct 14, 10:00 AM**

### ***Election Security for the 2026 Elections***

Presented by Maureen "Mo" Baird, Citrus County Supervisor of Elections



### ***League of Women Voters: Update on the Amendments***

More information including LWVFL positions, focus on Amendment 3. Presented by Rosemary Nilles, 1st Vice President

**Tues. Nov, 10, 10:00 AM**

### ***League of Women Voters Celebrates Our Veterans***



Details and Speaker to be announced.

*The League of Women Voters (LWV) is committed to empowering voters through nonpartisan education and advocacy, and never supporting or opposing candidates or parties.*

Visit our website: [www.lwvcitrus.org](http://www.lwvcitrus.org)

Facebook: League of Women Voters of Citrus County





## **Linda Abels, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Membership Chair**

Welcome to the "Dog Days of Summer" - that time of year when it's hot and humid, and we all seek refuge in the air conditioning!

We hope you can step out long enough to join us for our August meeting, and please consider bringing a friend. If you know someone who usually can't make our Wednesday meetings, they're in luck: our August meeting takes place on **Saturday, August 8**. The meeting is at the Coastal Regional Library, in Crystal River at 10 am. It's a wonderful opportunity to introduce prospective members to our group and show them what the League of Women Voters is all about.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members, **Rey Bonachea** and **Lloyd Goodman**. Please be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to Rey and Lloyd at our next meeting!

Have a Wonderful Month!

Linda



**Vicky Iozzia, 1<sup>st</sup> President, Newsletter Editor,  
Webmaster, Speakers Bureau Chair**

It is my honor to be co-President of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County. I am proud to work with our Board, to serve our members, and to be involved in the community. It enables me to meet wonderful people, to continue to learn, and to enjoy my League experiences.

People sometimes talk to me about how difficult these times are, and how easy it would be to give up.

Below is a true story about my life.

In 1995 I decided I had enough of life in New York. I had family in Florida and I decided to move. I needed to get a teaching job. At the time Florida had an annual "Teach-In" event in July, where they would invite people from all over the country to submit their resumes, and they would have representatives from most of the school districts to interview candidates.

I submitted my resume, bought my plane ticket, and readied myself to go to the Hilton in Tampa for interviews. I waited and waited, and I didn't hear back from the Florida Department of Education, so I called them. The person on the phone told me to hold on and she would find my record.

When she returned, she said it was a good thing that I called, because someone had put my record in the wrong pile and they would not have contacted me. I wouldn't have moved to Florida. I would have missed the opportunity to have the life I love now.

That experience has taught me never to give up. I didn't give up on the children for whom I was a Guardian ad Litem for 18 years. (They nicknamed me the "pit bull.") I don't

give up on my friends. I don't give up on making sure that I have the best medical care by advocating for myself.

Why did I tell you this story? Because we cannot give up. Not on our County, our State, our Country. There are awful things happening; the news is a constant horror story that feels like a bad movie. Illegal, immoral, and unconstitutional things are happening every day, and it seems like we can't stop them, but I am here to tell you that we can.

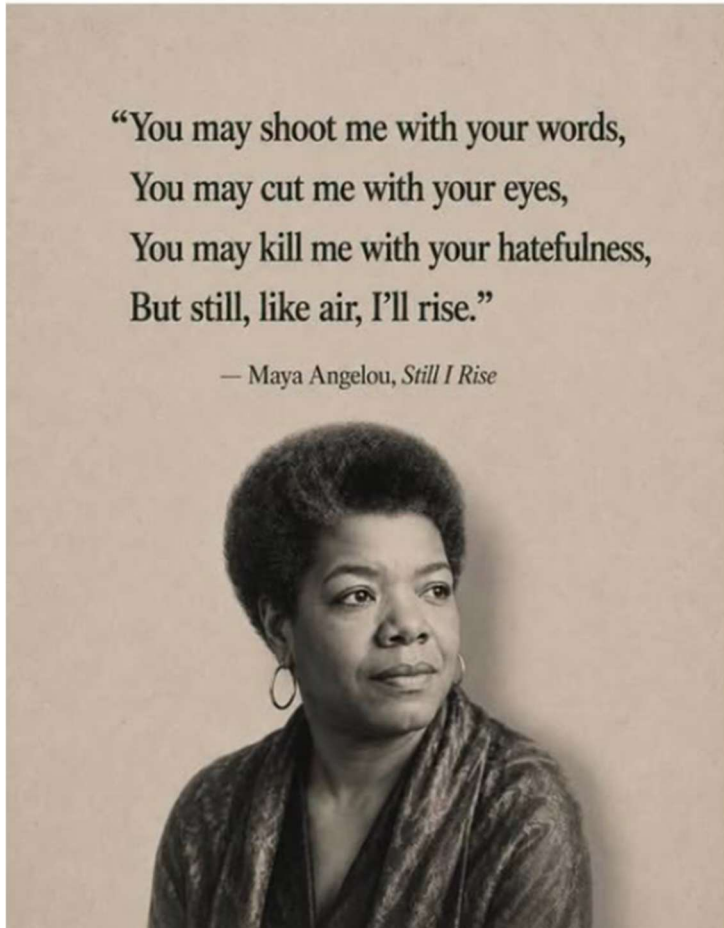
Is it scary? You bet! I am begging you, please don't let them win. Don't let them break down the democratic government that is our country. Fight back when you hear the lies. Don't accept that insanity that is the daily dosage we are being fed.

Everyone always says this, but it is truer than ever. This will be the most important election this country has ever had, because the basic right to vote is being threatened.

Read. Learn, talk to people, even those whom you know will disagree with you. Defend the Post Office, Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, protecting the environment, and the rights of citizens to vote. Don't accept the treatment being inflicted on people who just came to this country to work, have a family, and live in freedom. Please.

"You may shoot me with your words,  
You may cut me with your eyes,  
You may kill me with your hatefulness,  
But still, like air, I'll rise."

— Maya Angelou, *Still I Rise*





### **Hats off to Bonnie Fleck and Dr. BJ Ezell!**

If you have been at our meetings, you know that we have our Board members speak with announcements at the end of the meeting.

At every meeting Board member Dr. B. J. Ezell speaks about Narcan, how it is used to save lives, and makes it available to our members for free.

At our last meeting B. J. brought member Bonnie Fleck up to the lectern to tell how she used Narcan to help save someone's life. Way to go Bonnie!

## Education 2026: Winners Losers Casualties

By Rosemary Nilles, 1<sup>st</sup> VP and Education Chair

The League of Women Voters has a long history of supporting along with our main focus on voting and elections. Moreover, Constitution is clear:



public education,  
the Florida

*“Adequate provision shall be made by law for a **uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality** system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high quality education...”*

Now that  
Florida’s

legislative session is long over, and the budget finally passed, let’s look at the overall health of our public schools.

Who’s doing well, and who’s being shortchanged?

### WINNERS: Public School Students, Staff, Parents

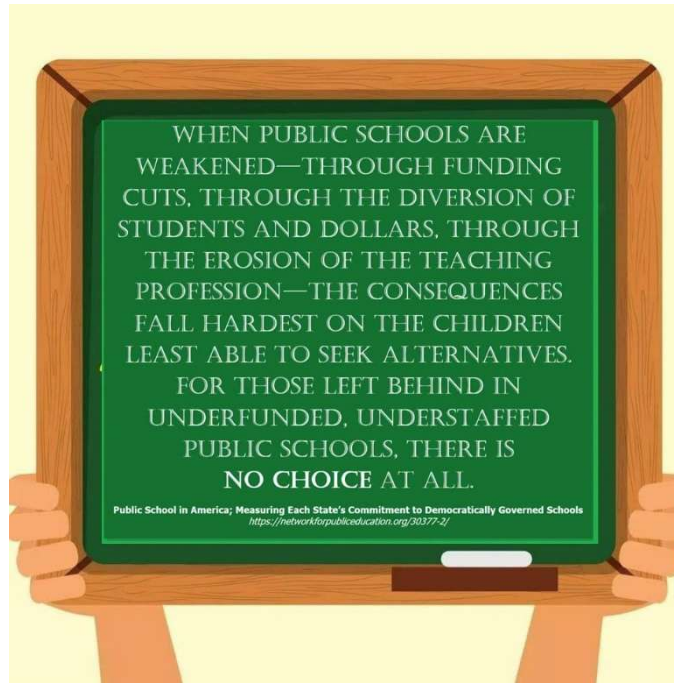
- Overall winners are Florida’s public schools, whose reported scores and state “grades” on state testing continue to improve. Further, required periodic progress monitoring assessments measure and document individual student improvement made during the school year. Graduation rates improved once again.
- Citrus County Schools also win big, with students showing academic gains of over 3% last year. Once again, Citrus earned a B rating from the FL Department of Education.
- Public schools must accept every student regardless of need or disability, which makes these gains especially meaningful
- Of course, plenty of work remains to be done. Still, students, teachers, staff, administration, parents of public school students, especially in Citrus, deserve our applause.

### WINNERS: Private Schools

- For-profit and religious private schools, and voucher users also came out on top with a huge increase in taxpayer funds to cover their budgets.
- However, the Florida legislature once again failed to require, at minimum, transparency and accountability on student achievement.
- They didn’t pass a basic bill that would have required student account identification to help to avoid last year’s funding debacle - which cost taxpayers an extra \$47 million in missing, unaccountable funds.

## LOSERS: Public School Budgets and Employees

- Florida's budget clearly shows year, public schools face which impact day to day including staffing.
- Once again, salaries for school teachers remain lowest despite raises that can't keep It's not just teachers who librarians, social workers, and thousands of other another year of paychecks any further. Keep in mind that member contributes in some academic improvements that
- When we speak of the need for affordable housing for working Floridians, we include the hard-working community members who work for school districts.



that for yet another funding shortfalls operations

Florida's public in the nation, up with inflation. suffer, though – paraprofessionals, support staff face that can't stretch almost every staff way to the we celebrate.

## LOSERS: Private School Students and Parents

- *Why?* Parents may be happy with their child's education without any idea how their child's academic progress measures up to that of public school students. Private schools have no standards to measure on state tests, no set curriculum, no requirements for teacher certification. It's true that certain private schools offer exemplary programs. A few report overall academic outcomes, but not publicly, and not comparable to the assessments required of public school students.
- Some students are turned away because of private school admission policies. Even with scholarships, some families can't afford the private school of their choice.
- Without *data, transparency, and accountability*, school choice can shortchange many students and families.

## LOSERS: Florida Taxpayers

- Every Florida taxpayer foots the bill for the cost of vouchers for students who don't attend public schools. Yet taxpayers receive no information on how voucher students are performing, who's making a profit, and exactly where the money goes. Again, taxpayers deserve *data, transparency, and accountability*.
- Thus, taxpayers are big losers when it comes to school choice in Florida. And that's without the impact of looming federal vouchers.

### **CASUALTIES: The Florida Constitution**

- Remember the terms, *uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high quality*, in Florida's Constitution, referring to public education?
- A big casualty of 2026 is our Constitution - trampled once again by the Florida legislature.
- The League of Women Voters believes that, when it comes to education, the 2027 legislative session should better serve students, families, staff, communities, and taxpayers.

*LWV remains nonpartisan, never endorsing or opposing political parties or candidates, developing positions on issues only after careful study and consensus. Find us at [www.lwvcitrus.org](http://www.lwvcitrus.org) or [www.lwyfl.org](http://www.lwyfl.org).*



**From Peg Primeau, 2<sup>nd</sup> President,**  
**Reproductive Justice Chair,**  
**Treasurer**

Wow!!

People really stepped up! The response to Jeanne Messersmith's colorful "250" letter requesting donations in recognition of the U.S. sesquicentennial has been impressive.

These gifts will help fund annual operations as we continue our mission to provide education and empowerment to voters.

Speaking of voters, how about those Meet & Greets we've had lately! We gathered primary-election candidates for the School Board, the Board of County Commissioners, District 5 judges, and the Florida House District 23.

If you appreciate the opportunity for face-to-face interaction with candidates in our nonpartisan format, perhaps it will move you to add your contribution to the chapter's work.

The LWVCC Board is truly thankful for your generous support.

See the [lwvcitrus.org](http://lwvcitrus.org) "Please Donate" page. Note that LWVCC is a 501(c)(4) organization.

## YOUR COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

■ District 1 (Crystal River, Ozello, Citronelle, Red Level): Jeff Kinnard, [jeff.kinnard@citrusbocc.com](mailto:jeff.kinnard@citrusbocc.com)

■ District 2 (Homosassa, Sugarmill Woods): Diana Finegan, [diana.finegan@citrusbocc.com](mailto:diana.finegan@citrusbocc.com)

■ District 3 (Beverly Hills, Pine Ridge, Citrus Springs): Janet Barek, [janet.barek@citrusbocc.com](mailto:janet.barek@citrusbocc.com)

■ District 4 (Floral City, part of Inverness): Rebecca Bays, [rebecca.bays@citrusbocc.com](mailto:rebecca.bays@citrusbocc.com)

■ District 5 (part of Inverness, Hernando, Arrowhead): Holly L. Davis, [holly.davis@citrusbocc.com](mailto:holly.davis@citrusbocc.com)

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

### Community Meetings June – September 2026

#### Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

1:00 PM 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays

July 14 & 28, August 11 & 25, September 8 & 22

Citrus County Courthouse, 110 Apollo Ave. Inverness

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Citrus County BOCC/Departments/Commissioners

Meetings are livestreamed on the Citrus County Gov't. 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\*\*

Wed. July 22, 8:30 AM; Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness

Citrus County Library Advisory Board (Regular Meetings)

9:00 AM, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays: June 23, Aug. 25

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

Regular Meetings: 4:00 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues: July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8

Workshops: 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, 9:00 AM check calendar

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.net/Public>

View School Board Meetings:

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

6/26

**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](mailto:massullo.ralph.web@flsenate.gov)

**Rep. JJ Grow, FL Dist. 23:**

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

Email: [jj.grow@flhouse.gov](mailto: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.

**From Peg Primeau**

**QUIZ: Voting Calendar**

Remember to vote in the August Primary election!

These offices will be decided in the Primary:

Citrus County School Board

Board of County Commissioners

Candidates for other offices are also on the ballot.

Last day to register to vote for primary was July 20

Last day to request a Vote-by-Mail ballot: August 6

Early Voting: August 7-15

Where? 5 sites—your choice (see [votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov))

Bring: your photo ID with signature!

Primary Voting Day: August 18

Where? Your precinct! See your voting card or website

Bring: your photo ID with signature!

See your sample ballot: go to [votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov).

## From our Supervisor of Elections, Maureen “Mo” Baird

Did you know there are 3 different ballots in August’s Primary Election? See them below:

| <b>Official Primary Election Ballot, August 18, 2026</b><br><b>Republican Party, Citrus County, Florida</b><br><b>Boleta Oficial de la Elección Primaria, 18 de agosto de 2026</b><br><b>Partido Republicano, Condado de Citrus, Florida</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <b>R100</b>                                                                                                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To vote, fill in the oval completely <input type="radio"/> next to your choice. Use a black ballpoint pen.</li> <li>If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.</li> <li>Para votar, llene completamente el óvalo <input type="radio"/> al lado de su selección. Use un bolígrafo de tinta negra.</li> <li>Si comete un error, solicite una nueva boleta. No tache, ya que su voto podría no contabilizarse.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>United States Senator</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Senador de los Estados Unidos</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Commissioner of Agriculture</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Comisionado de Agricultura</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>Circuit Judge</b><br><b>5th Judicial Circuit, Group 27</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Juez de Circuito</b><br><b>5.º Circuito Judicial, Grupo 27</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b> |
| <input type="radio"/> Chris Gleason REP<br><input type="radio"/> Ashley Moody REP<br><input type="radio"/> Neeham Taneja Perry REP<br><input type="radio"/> Ernest "Ernie" Rivera REP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <input type="radio"/> Wilton Simpson REP<br><input type="radio"/> Matt Taylor REP                                                                                                                                                                         | <input type="radio"/> Nicole M. Morris<br><input type="radio"/> Lisa Yeager                                                                                                          |
| <b>Governor and Lieutenant Governor</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Gobernador y Vicegobernador</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>State Representative</b><br><b>District 23</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Representante Estatal</b><br><b>Distrito 23</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                 | <b>School Board Member</b><br><b>District 3</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Miembro de la Junta Escolar</b><br><b>Distrito 3</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Jay Collins REP<br><input type="radio"/> Byron Donalds REP<br><input type="radio"/> James Fishback REP<br><input type="radio"/> Jim Holcomb REP<br><input type="radio"/> Arthur Joseph McCaffrey REP<br><input type="radio"/> Daniel Nozovich REP<br><input type="radio"/> Paul Renner REP<br><input type="radio"/> Rachel Rodríguez REP<br><input type="radio"/> James W. Shaw REP<br><input type="radio"/> Caneste Sucoe REP<br><input type="radio"/> Bobby Williams REP             | <input type="radio"/> Ted Gordon Cloud REP<br><input type="radio"/> J.J. Grow REP                                                                                                                                                                         | <input type="radio"/> Mike Mullen<br><input type="radio"/> John Thurston                                                                                                             |
| <b>Chief Financial Officer</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Funcionario Principal de Finanzas</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Board of County Commissioners</b><br><b>District 2</b><br><b>Universal Primary Contest</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Junta de Comisionados del Condado</b><br><b>Distrito 2</b><br><b>Como uno Universal de Primaria</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <input type="radio"/> Frank William Collige REP<br><input type="radio"/> Blaise Ingolia REP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <input type="radio"/> Diana Finegan REP<br><input type="radio"/> Stacey Worthington REP                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Board of County Commissioners</b><br><b>District 4</b><br><b>Universal Primary Contest</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Junta de Comisionados del Condado</b><br><b>Distrito 4</b><br><b>Como uno Universal de Primaria</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="radio"/> Rebecca Bays REP<br><input type="radio"/> Jennifer Holly Grogan REP<br><input type="radio"/> Hollie Hemdon REP                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      |

SAMPLE BALLOT  
BOLETA DE MUESTRA

| <b>Official Primary Election Ballot, August 13, 2026</b><br><b>Nonpartisan, Citrus County, Florida</b><br><b>Boleta Oficial de la Elección Primaria, 13 de agosto de 2026</b><br><b>Apartidista, Condado de Citrus, Florida</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                      | <b>N100</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To vote, fill in the oval completely <input type="radio"/> next to your choice. Use a black ballpoint pen.</li> <li>If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.</li> <li>Para votar, llene completamente el óvalo <input type="radio"/> al lado de su selección. Use un bolígrafo de tinta negra.</li> <li>Si comete un error, solicite una nueva boleta. No tache, ya que su voto podría no contabilizarse.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |
| <b>Board of County Commissioners</b><br><b>District 2</b><br><b>Universal Primary Contest</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Junta de Comisionados del Condado</b><br><b>Distrito 2</b><br><b>Concurso Universal de Primaria</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Circuit Judge</b><br><b>5th Judicial Circuit, Group 27</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Juez de Circuito</b><br><b>5.º Circuito Judicial, Grupo 27</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b> |             |
| <input type="radio"/> Diana Finegan REP<br><input type="radio"/> Stacey Worthington REP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | <input type="radio"/> Nicole M. Morris<br><input type="radio"/> Lisa Yeager                                                                                                          |             |
| <b>Board of County Commissioners</b><br><b>District 4</b><br><b>Universal Primary Contest</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Junta de Comisionados del Condado</b><br><b>Distrito 4</b><br><b>Concurso Universal de Primaria</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>School Board Member</b><br><b>District 3</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Miembro de la Junta Escolar</b><br><b>Distrito 3</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                         |             |
| <input type="radio"/> Rebecca Bays REP<br><input type="radio"/> Jennifer Holly Grogan REP<br><input type="radio"/> Hollie Hemdon REP                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <input type="radio"/> Mike Mullen<br><input type="radio"/> John Thurmon                                                                                                              |             |
| <p>SAMPLE BALLOT<br/>BOLETA DE MUESTRA</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |

| <b>Official Primary Election Ballot, August 18, 2026</b><br><b>Democratic Party, Citrus County, Florida</b><br><b>Boleta Oficial de la Elección Primaria, 18 de agosto de 2026</b><br><b>Partido Demócrata, Condado de Citrus, Florida</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                      | D100 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To vote, fill in the oval completely <input type="radio"/> next to your choice. Use a black ballpoint pen.</li> <li>If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.</li> <li>Para votar, llene completamente el óvalo <input type="radio"/> al lado de su selección. Use un bolígrafo de tinta negra.</li> <li>Si comete un error, solicite una nueva boleta. No tache, ya que su voto podría no contabilizarse.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |
| <b>United States Senator</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Senador de los Estados Unidos</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Chief Financial Officer</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Funcionario Principal de Finanzas</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                              | <b>Circuit Judge</b><br><b>5th Judicial Circuit, Group 27</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Juez de Circuito</b><br><b>5.º Circuito Judicial, Grupo 27</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b> |      |
| <input type="radio"/> Angie Nixon DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Alex Windman DEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="radio"/> Earle Ford DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Annette Taddao DEM                                                                                                                                                                          | <input type="radio"/> Nicole M. Morris<br><input type="radio"/> Lisa Yeager                                                                                                          |      |
| <b>Representative in Congress</b><br><b>District 15</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Representante en el Congreso</b><br><b>Distrito 15</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Commissioner of Agriculture</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Comisionado de Agricultura</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                 | <b>School Board Member</b><br><b>District 3</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Miembro de la Junta Escolar</b><br><b>Distrito 3</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                         |      |
| <input type="radio"/> Christopher Izazary DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Robert People DEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input type="radio"/> Joey Mendoza Atkins DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Donald A. "Don" Prichard DEM                                                                                                                                                       | <input type="radio"/> Mike Mullen<br><input type="radio"/> John Thurmond                                                                                                             |      |
| <b>Governor and Lieutenant Governor</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Gobernador y Vicegobernador</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <b>Board of County Commissioners</b><br><b>District 2</b><br><b>Universal Primary Contest</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Junta de Comisionados del Condado</b><br><b>Distrito 2</b><br><b>Concurso Universal de Primaria</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |
| <input type="radio"/> Evelyn Castillo-Bach DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Thomas Roy Fernandez DEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <input type="radio"/> Diana Finegan REP<br><input type="radio"/> Stacy Worthington REP                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |
| <input type="radio"/> Dayna Marie Foster DEM<br><input type="radio"/> David Jolly DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Gwen Graham DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Dotie Joseph DEM<br><input type="radio"/> Stephann Norman DEM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Board of County Commissioners</b><br><b>District 4</b><br><b>Universal Primary Contest</b><br><b>(Vote for One)</b><br><b>Junta de Comisionados del Condado</b><br><b>Distrito 4</b><br><b>Concurso Universal de Primaria</b><br><b>(Vote por Uno)</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <input type="radio"/> Rebecca Bays REP<br><input type="radio"/> Jennifer Holly Grogan REP<br><input type="radio"/> Hollie Hemdon REP                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |
| <b>SAMPLE BALLOT</b><br><b>BOLETA DE MUESTRA</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                      |      |

# CITRUS COUNTY Voter Guide



**Maureen "Mo" Baird**  
Supervisor of Elections

1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Crystal River, FL 34429  
PO Box 1870, Lecanto, FL 34460-1870  
(352)564-7120 Phone  
(352)564-7121 Fax  
Email: [vote@votecitrus.gov](mailto:vote@votecitrus.gov)  
Website: [VoteCitrus.gov](http://VoteCitrus.gov)

## WHO CAN VOTE

### You May Register to Vote If:

- ★ You are a US Citizen.
- ★ You are 18 years of age. (A person who is otherwise qualified may pre-register on or after that person's 16th birthday to vote in any election occurring on or after his or her 18th birthday.)
- ★ You are a legal resident of the county in which you wish to vote.

### Persons NOT Entitled to Register:

- ★ Anyone convicted of a felony or declared mentally incapacitated with respect to voting may not register to vote until his or her rights or competency has been restored.
- ★ Any person who is not a citizen of the United States. (Section 97.041, Florida Statutes)

## HOW TO REGISTER

### You Must Fill Out a Voter Registration Form.

It only takes a few minutes to fill one out and mail or deliver it to our office, the Division of Elections, or any voter registration agency.

### Voter Registration Forms are available at:

- ★ Supervisor of Elections Office - Come in person or call our office for an application to be mailed to you (352) 564-7120.
- ★ You may download a form at: [votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov).
- ★ Driver License Offices (DMV's)
- ★ Local Libraries
- ★ Public Assistance Offices
- ★ Government Agencies



## 2026 Election Dates

### PRIMARY ELECTION

**August 18, 2026**

Last Day to Register - July 20, 2026

### GENERAL ELECTION

**November 3, 2026**

Last Day to Register - October 5, 2026

## CONTENTS of this GUIDE...

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## VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

### How to Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot:

- ★ You can request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for yourself or for an immediate family member by:
  - Requesting by phone at (352)564-7120
  - Filling out a Vote-by-Mail request form at our office
  - Filling out the Vote-by-Mail ballot request form online at [vote.citrus.gov](http://vote.citrus.gov)
- ★ In order to mail your ballot to an address that is not already in your voter record, you must complete a paper Vote-by-Mail Request form.

### General Information:

- ★ Ballots are mailed 4 to 5 weeks prior to each election
- ★ Our office only mails ballots to registered voters who request them
- ★ You can make requests for specific elections, or all elections. NOTE: In the past, Vote-by-Mail requests lasted for two election cycles; however, due to a change in Florida law in 2021, requests for Vote-by-Mail ballots currently are for one election cycle.
- ★ Any qualified registered voter in Citrus County is entitled to a Vote-by-Mail ballot. The ballot may be requested in person, by mail, or by phone. An immediate family member or legal guardian may request a Vote-by-Mail ballot for a voter. Immediate family means the voter's spouse, parent, child, grandchild, grandparent or sibling.

## RETURNING YOUR BALLOT

### You Can Return Your Vote-by-Mail Ballot:

- ★ By mail - Postage is Prepaid!
- ★ In person at the Supervisor of Elections Office during Business Hours.
- ★ In person at any of the Early Vote sites during Early Voting.
- ★ Ballots must be received by 7pm on Election day.
- ★ On Election Day, Vote-by-Mail ballots must be turned into the Supervisor of Elections Office. You cannot turn in your ballot at your polling precinct.

NOTE: Voters, when returning your VOTE BY MAIL ballot by US Postal Service, please allow for extra delivery time.

**VOTE BY MAIL BALLOTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED AT A POLLING PLACE.**

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## EARLY VOTING

### Early Voting Locations:

- ★ **Central Ridge Library**  
425 W. Roosevelt Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
- ★ **Central Ridge Community Center**  
77 Civic Circle  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
- ★ **Supervisor of Elections Office**  
1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd.  
Crystal River, FL 34429
- ★ **Homosassa Public Library**  
4100 S. Grandmarch Ave.  
Homosassa, FL 34446
- ★ **Inverness City Hall**  
212 W. Main St.  
Inverness, FL 34450

## ELECTION DAY INFORMATION

### Polls Are Open on Election Day from 7:00am to 7:00pm.

The name and address of your polling location will be on your voter information card. Be aware that due to redistricting, your polling location may have changed from the last time you voted.

REMINDER: You must show photo and signature identification. Both the photo and the signature ID may be on one ID or they may be on two separate ID's. Lack of a photo and signature ID will require the voter to cast a provisional ballot. (Florida Statute 101.043(2))

### Election Day Checklist:

- ★ Know Your Polling Location (Located on your voter information card.)
- ★ Have your photo and signature ID ready.
- ★ Be an informed voter by researching candidates and issues. (You may mark a sample ballot and bring it in with you.)

## VOTING A PROVISIONAL BALLOT

### What is a Provisional Ballot?

(FS. 101.048)

If you do not bring ID or if there is any question about your eligibility to vote, you may vote a provisional ballot.

Provisional ballots may be issued at polling precincts on Election Day or at Early Voting sites.

You'll mark your ballot just as you would normally, but instead of putting it through the scanner at the voting site, your voted ballot will go into a "provisional envelope" and be delivered to our office. If your eligibility to vote can be verified, the ballot will be counted.

Provisional ballots are sealed in a special envelope and kept separate from regular ballots. The county Canvassing Board is responsible for examining the provisional ballot envelope and making a determination as to the voter's eligibility.

If you receive a provisional ballot, you will also receive a tracking number, which you can use to see the Canvassing Board's decision on the ballot's eligibility.

Please be aware that the Canvassing Board will not meet until after Election Day.

To track your provisional ballot visit our website:

[votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov) > Voter Information > Provisional Ballot Status

## DID YOU KNOW ?

### Your Signature May Change Over Time

- ★ When you complete a Vote-by-Mail ballot, your signature is compared to your signature currently on file at the Elections Office.
- ★ To ensure your Vote-by-Mail ballot is counted, update your signature today by using a voter registration application.
- ★ You can mail or hand deliver your Vote-by-Mail ballot to the Elections Office.
- ★ ADA accessible ballots are available for disabled voters upon request.



## PHOTO AND SIGNATURE ID

### Acceptable Forms of Photo and Signature ID Include:

(ID Must be Current and Valid)

- Florida Driver's License
- Florida ID
- U.S. Passport
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Debit or Credit Card with Photo
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran Health Identification Card issued by the United States Health Department of Veterans Affairs
- A License to Carry a Concealed Weapon or Firearm Issued Pursuant to S. 790.06
- Employee Identification Card Issued by any Branch, Department, Agency, or Entity of the Federal Government, the State, a County, or a Municipality.

## HOW TO MARK YOUR CITRUS COUNTY BALLOT

Citrus County uses an optical scan system with a paper ballot. You must completely fill in the oval on your ballot.

**USE A BLACK PEN. TO MARK YOUR BALLOT CORRECTLY, FILL IN THE OVAL NEXT TO YOUR CHOICE.**

|                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| US PRESIDENT          | - Vote for ONE - |
| <input type="radio"/> | YOUR CHOICE      |
| <input type="radio"/> | NOT Your Choice  |

### IF YOU MAKE A MISTAKE:

If you make a mistake on your ballot, please do not erase or use white out. If you are voting at your polling place, ask for another ballot. If you are Voting-by-Mail, please call the Supervisor of Elections Office at (352) 564-7120 for instructions.

## VOTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES AND BILL OF RIGHTS

### VOTER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Each registered voter in this state should:

1. Familiarize himself or herself with the candidates and issues.
2. Maintain a current address with the office of the Supervisor of Elections.
3. Know the location of his or her polling place and its hours of operation.
4. Bring proper identification to the polling station.
5. Familiarize himself or herself with the operation of the voting equipment in his or her precinct.
6. Treat election workers with courtesy.
7. Respect the privacy of other voters.
8. Report any problems or violations of elections laws to the Supervisor of Elections.
9. Ask questions, if needed.
10. Make sure that his or her completed ballot is correct before leaving the polling station.

NOTE TO VOTER: Failure to perform any of these responsibilities does not prohibit a voter from voting.

### VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Each registered voter in this state has the right to:

1. Vote and have his or her vote accurately counted.
2. Cast a vote if he or she is in line at the official closing of the polls in that county.
3. Ask for and receive assistance in voting.
4. Receive up to two replacement ballots if he or she makes a mistake prior to the ballot being cast.
5. An explanation if his or her registration or identity is in question.
6. If his or her registration or identity is in question, cast a provisional ballot.
7. Written instructions to use when voting, and upon request, oral instructions in voting from election officers.
8. Vote free from coercion or intimidation by election officers or any other person.
9. Vote on a voting system that is in working condition and that will allow votes to be accurately cast. (F.S. 101.031)

## OPTICAL SCAN VOTING

- ★ ES&S DS300 optical scanners are used at all Early Voting and Election Day polling sites.
- ★ Once a ballot is marked, the voter places their ballot in the DS300 scanner and their ballot is counted.
- ★ All voters in Florida use paper ballots to vote.

## EXPRESS VOTE



The Supervisor of Elections Office provides voting to aid persons with disabilities. The ExpressVote is a paper based ballot marking system that utilizes a touch screen for the voter to mark their ballot on a paper ballot card which is then inserted into the DS300 tabulator.

The ExpressVote ballot marking device allows blind and visually impaired voters to vote independently by accessing the system's audio feature. An ExpressVote device will be available in each Early Voting site and polling precinct and may be used by all voters.

## ADA ACCESSIBLE BALLOTS

### ADA Accessible Ballots are Available:

You can receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot through an electronic ballot delivery and marking system. This allows a person with disabilities to receive a ballot electronically upon request. A voted ballot may only be returned in person or by mail. Voted ballots cannot be returned electronically.

Please contact the Supervisor of Elections Office at (352)564-7120 if you are need of an ADA Accessible Ballot.

## BE AN INFORMED VOTER

### Resources for Researching Candidates:

Please visit our website for additional information: [votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov) > Voter Education > How to be an Informed Voter

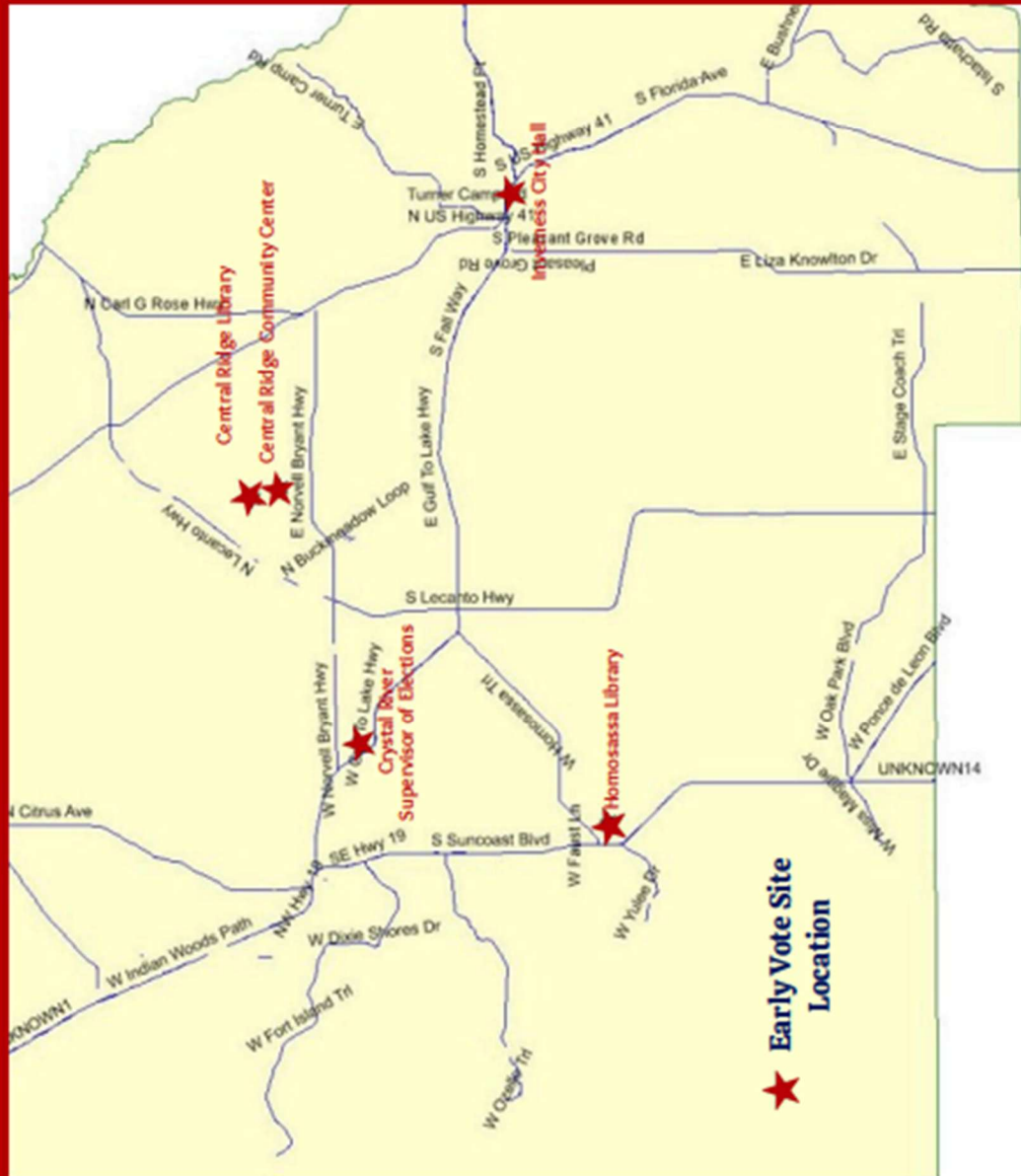
If you wish to research the platforms of local candidates, profiles and financial reports on local candidates are available at our website:

[votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov) > Candidates > Candidate Profiles and Financial Reports

Sample Ballots are also available at [votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov) or you can find them at the Supervisor of Elections Office.

For more information when researching Judicial Candidates, you can visit [floridabar.org](http://floridabar.org), or you can find a Guide for Florida Voters on Judicial Elections at the Supervisor of Elections Office or on our website at [votecitrus.gov](http://votecitrus.gov) under the Voter Information tab.

# Early Voting Location Map



## Early Voting Locations

- Central Ridge Library  
425 W. Roosevelt Blvd.  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
- Central Ridge Community Center  
77 Civic Circle  
Beverly Hills, FL 34465
- Supervisor of Elections Office  
West Citrus Government Center  
1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd.  
Crystal River, FL 34429
- Homosassa Public Library  
4100 S. Grandmarch Ave.  
Homosassa, FL 34446
- Inverness City Hall  
212 W. Main St.  
Inverness, FL 34450

Voters can vote at any Early  
Vote Site regardless of their  
residential address.

## ELECTION SECURITY FACTS

### Decentralized Elections in Florida

Each of Florida's 67 counties maintain their own local voter registration database and voting system. The two systems are not networked together. The voting system is a standalone system certified by the Florida Bureau of Voting Systems Certification.

### Paper Ballots Only

All voters in Citrus County cast their vote using a paper ballot, which allows for a FULL AUDIT of an election. Electronic poll books are used at all Early Vote sites and polling precincts.

### Pre-Election Testing

All voting equipment is thoroughly tested prior to each election. Our testing procedures in Citrus County are according to the guidelines set forth in the Florida Statutes.

A public testing called the Logic and Accuracy testing of the voting system is held during a public meeting of the Canvassing Board.

### Results Reporting

Election Night unofficial results will be posted on the Supervisor of Elections website until final certification. The results will be compared to the voter registration data and voter tabulation reports for accuracy.

### Post-Election Audit

After each election, a Post Election Audit is required by law. Citrus County uses an independent auditing system to count all ballots for the entire election. This process is a 100% audit of the election. This system is a standalone system and not part of the tabulation system.

**We highly recommend reviewing the materials available on our website or giving us a call at (352)564-7120 if you have any questions concerning elections security.**



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### What voting equipment is used?

ES&S DS300 optical scanners and ExpressVote ballot marking devices are at all Early Voting and Election Day sites.

### Does it matter how I insert my ballot in the scanner?

No. You can place either end into the scanner with either side up.

### Do I have to vote in all the races?

No. The ballot scanner will count your votes in all of the races that you marked.

### What if I vote for too many candidates in a race?

If you're voting in person, the ballot scanner will alert you that you have "overvoted" and allow you to request a new ballot or cast the ballot anyway. If you cast a ballot with an overvote (in person or by mail), all races except the overvoted race will be counted.

### What if I do not vote in ANY races?

The scanner will alert you that the ballot is blank. You can choose to cast the blank ballot or get assistance from a poll worker.

### What if I make a mistake on my ballot?

If you're voting by mail, call our office and let us know you need a new ballot. If you're voting in person, tell a poll worker. You can have up to three ballots, including the original. The ballot(s) with mistakes will be sealed inside a "spoiled ballot" envelope. If you make a mistake on your third ballot, the ballot cannot be corrected.

### Can I change my ballot once it has been cast?

No. Once your ballot has been scanned and accepted by the optical scanner or your mail ballot has been received by our office, your ballot cannot be retrieved or changed. You may only cast one ballot.

### If I receive a Vote-by-Mail ballot, can I change my mind and vote in person?

Yes. In that case, your Vote-by-Mail ballot will be canceled at the polling place.

### What happens to my ballot after I've voted?

Paper ballots are secured and available for recounts or audits. We store ballots for 22 months.

### How do I know that my ballot will be counted?

If you Vote-by-Mail, you can track your ballot on our website to see when your voted ballot has been received and counted. When you vote in person, the screen on the scanner indicates that your ballot has been accepted.

## 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 Presentations as of June 7, 2026

| <b>VOTING AND ELECTIONS (in rough order of posting)</b>                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Returning Citizens Voting Rights (updated for 2026)                                                                |
| Fight for Suffrage (updated 20260524)                                                                              |
| Protecting Your Right to Vote (formerly Voter Suppression, Then and Now) (new)                                     |
| Your Vote. Your Community. Your Future. (new 2026)                                                                 |
| Get Ready to Vote in 2026 (Voting 101) (updated April 2026)                                                        |
| Election Security vs Balance: A Delicate Balance (updated May 2026)                                                |
| Your Voice. Your Vote. Your Power. (for youth, but could be adapted)                                               |
| How to Use Vote 411                                                                                                |
| Say No to Mid-Decade Redistricting - Updated April 16 To be replaced ASAP                                          |
| Write In Loophole                                                                                                  |
| Ranked Choice Voting                                                                                               |
| Your Local Power: How State and Local Government Work                                                              |
| <b>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PRESENTATIONS – Many are new for 2025-26</b>                                                   |
| The First Amendment to the US Constitution (New June 7, 2026 )(Presenter Overview and Handout to be added shortly) |
| The US Constitution                                                                                                |
| Interacting with Elected Officials and their Staffs                                                                |
| Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances (updated 20260525)                                                    |
| From Idea to Law: Understanding Florida's Legislative Process                                                      |
| Identifying and Combating False Information                                                                        |
| Disinformation: Spot it! Stop it!                                                                                  |

|                                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Your Local Power: State & Local Gov't (customize to your league)                                                                     |
| US Immigration Policy                                                                                                                |
| <b>YOUTH PRESENTATIONS</b>                                                                                                           |
| Use Your Voice                                                                                                                       |
| Your Voice, Your Power, Your Vote                                                                                                    |
| Advocacy: Making It Happen                                                                                                           |
| <b>EDUCATION, OTHER TOPICS</b>                                                                                                       |
| Why Public Schools Matter                                                                                                            |
| <b>PRESENTATIONS IN PROCESS as of June 7, 2026</b>                                                                                   |
| Redistricting 2026: New Congressional Maps for Florida,                                                                              |
| Democracy and the Business Community                                                                                                 |
| Civics 101 for Adults and Newcomers                                                                                                  |
| Civics 101 or Why Voting Matters with game Are You Smarter Than Congress? (Youth)                                                    |
| Don't Take the Bait – Mis/Dis Information (Youth)                                                                                    |
| Understanding School Choice                                                                                                          |
| Immigration Basics: Just the Facts                                                                                                   |
| How to track legislation and how your legislators voted                                                                              |
|                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>UPCOMING FOR ELECTIONS</b>                                                                                                        |
| <i>Nonpartisan Guide to the Constitutional Amendments (In progress, will be released once all proposed amendments are finalized)</i> |



### **Vicki Boody Mourer – Great Women Series**

#### **The Woman Who Coded the Moon: Margaret Hamilton, written by Vicki Mourer**



This 1969 photograph perfectly captures the monumental scale of the Apollo space program. It features Margaret Hamilton standing next to a stack of papers that rises all the way up to her shoulders. Those pages contain thousands of lines of code, written entirely by hand.

At a time when computer science wasn't even recognized as an academic discipline, Hamilton led the Software Engineering Division at the MIT Instrumentation Laboratory. Her

mission? To write the guidance, navigation, and control software for NASA's historic Apollo command and lunar modules.

When Hamilton graduated with a degree in mathematics from Earlham College in 1958, software development as we know it did not exist. Programmers had to learn entirely on the job. After a stint building weather-prediction models and air-defense software at MIT, she joined the Apollo effort in the mid-1960s.

At the time, hardware engineers were treated with immense respect, while writing code was often looked down upon as menial work. To demand legitimacy for her team and her craft, Hamilton began using a new phrase: "software engineering". Many colleagues initially mocked the term, viewing software as an afterthought. Hamilton persisted until the phrase caught on, effectively creating a brand-new professional category.

Hamilton didn't stop with the Moon. She went on to direct software engineering for the Skylab space station and contributed heavily to the early Space Shuttle program. In 1986, she transitioned to the private sector and founded Hamilton Technologies, where she created the Universal Systems Language (USL), a preventative paradigm designed to stop software errors before they can ever be coded.

For decades her work went largely unacknowledged by the public. That changed significantly over the last twenty years. In 2003 she received the NASA Exceptional Space Act Award for her pioneering software designs. In 2016 she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, the highest civilian honor in the United States.

Margaret Hamilton's story is about more than just coding; it is about a woman standing firm in a room full of doubters and demanding that a new frontier of science be taken seriously. With the current threats to women's rights, we need as women can learn from Ms. Hamilton and stand firm for what we believe in.



This is from our July 22 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, August 12, 202**

## African American Read-in

The 18<sup>th</sup> 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.



### **Black Magic**

By Dinah Johnson

Black is big like a star-filled sky and tiny like the sparkle in my daddy's eye when he hugs me with his strong black arms.

Black is loud like my best tap shoes making happy noise with every move, and black is quiet like a butterfly.

Black is delicious like the deepest, darkest chocolate that melts in my mouth in a moment.

Black is quick and black is slow like the winding road. Where does it go?

Black is proud like my sister at her graduation and silly like my Uncle Nathan with his fuzzy mustache that tickles me.

Black is silky like my puppy, Ebony. Black is shiny like my brother's new car.

Black is scary and exciting like when you go far, far, far, inside a tunnel.

Black notes make music on a plain white sheet. Black words make stories that we can speak out loud...or keep in our hearts to erase the blackness of being apart sometimes from the people we love.

Black is surprising like the stripes on a zebra's hide or a sudden kiss. And black is a wish.

Black is majestic like a baobab tree that you can see if you go with me to Mali in my dream.

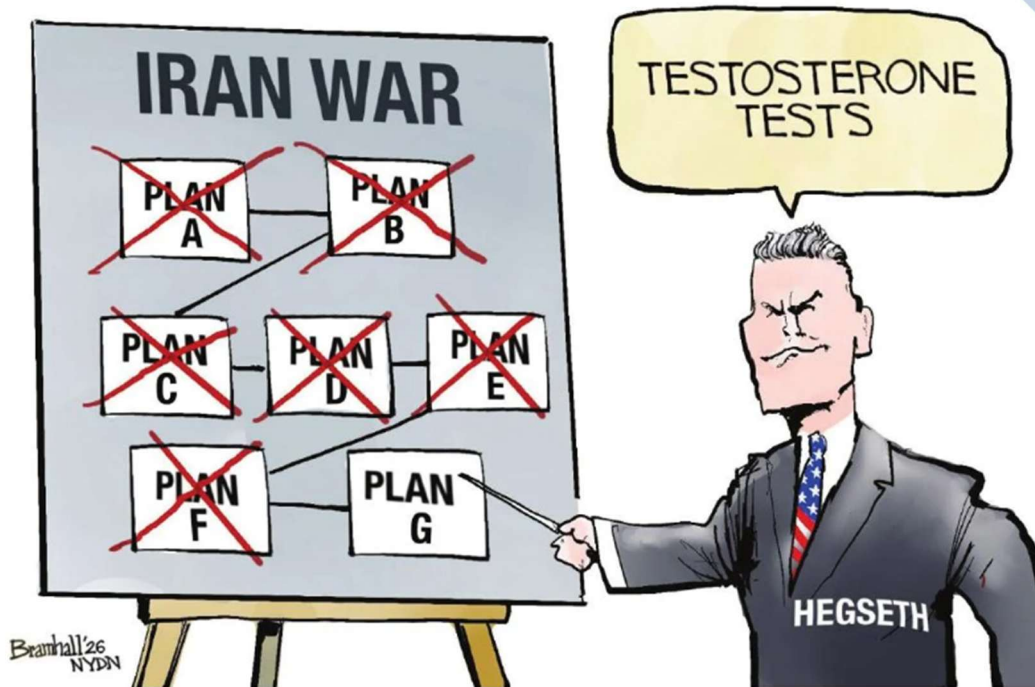
My hundred black braids make a spiderweb around my head, and mama's voice is black and sweet as I fall asleep.

Black is older than a rainbow. It is blue and blue and bluer still than any sea.

Black is magic, the blue black magic, the always magic inside of me



## IN THE NEWS



## REMEMBER THEIR NAMES



RENEE GOOD



ALEX PRETTI



LORENZO SALGADO  
ARAUJO



JOAN SEBASTIAN  
GUERRERO



**"IN UTAH, REPUBLICANS COMPLETED A COMPREHENSIVE VOTER INVESTIGATION LOOKING FOR VOTER FRAUD. OF TWO MILLION VOTERS, ONE NON-CITIZEN REGISTERED TO VOTE AND NO NON-CITIZEN VOTED.**



**JUDGE ORDERS TRUMP'S INTERIOR DEPT. TO RESTORE PARK SIGNS ON SLAVERY AND CLIMATE THAT WERE QUIETLY ERASED.**



## Climate.gov



"MARGARET THINKS SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S TALKIN' ABOUT, BUT SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY EVER DOES."

**Absolutely NOT our Margaret!**

The nonpartisan, nonprofit League of Women Voters, which works to protect the right to vote, called the removal of the Election Assistance Commission officials "a direct attack on the independence of our nation's election infrastructure.... The American people deserve elections administered by trusted professionals, not shaped by political interference. This is not a routine personnel decision—it is a dangerous escalation in the effort to weaken the safeguards that protect free and fair elections in the November midterms."

### **The League of Women Voters partners with the Girl Scouts.**

#### **Girl Scouts News**

Inverness on August 29:

Citrus Oaks Girl Scouts will present "Ready to Explore!" Back to Troop and Talent Show from 2-5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at The Depot at Liberty Park in Inverness.

Come explore the sisterhood of Girl Scouts with face painting, learning opportunities and fun activities. A \$1 cash donation requested upon attending the event.

Opening August 7:

A new documentary called Cookie Queens is coming to theaters nationwide on August 7. Cookie Queens is a documentary by Director Alysa Nahmias that celebrates girlhood in all its complexity. The joy, the pressure, the friendship, and the fierce ambition that runs through one of America's most beloved traditions: Girl Scout Cookie season.

But it is also a film about something bigger: what it means to grow up as a girl in America today, to navigate expectations, to find your voice, and to discover your power within a community of women.

You can find the trailer/buy merch here: [www.cookiequeensfilm.com](http://www.cookiequeensfilm.com)

from Gus Bilirakis newsletter 7/26/26: It was also an honor to present a Girl Scout Troop from Florida's 12th District with Edith Macy Pins during their visit to Washington, D.C. last week. It was a pleasure to recognize these outstanding young women and celebrate their commitment to leadership, service, and making a positive impact in their communities. The Girl Scouts have a proud tradition of empowering girls to develop confidence, courage, and character, and it was wonderful to see those values reflected in this troop. I enjoyed hearing about their experiences, accomplishments, and aspirations, and I hope their time in our nation's capital was both educational and inspiring. Congratulations to these Scouts, and thank you for representing your community with such enthusiasm and dedication.



<https://www.cookiequeensfilm.com/>

Cookie Queens movie: official trailer

# U.S. cancels automatic protections for imperiled animals

Critics warn of extinctions

By MATTHEW BROWN  
Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — The U.S. Interior Department on Friday canceled a rule meant to protect plants and animals that are determined to be threatened with extinction, the latest step by President Donald Trump's administration to dismantle key provisions of the landmark Endangered Species Act at the behest of industry.

Instead of receiving automatic protections, imperiled species will need individualized protection plans once they are added to the threatened species list. That's a potentially lengthy process in which companies could seek exemptions for oil and gas drilling, mining and other development where those species live.

Opponents said it would make it harder to save wildlife that's awaiting federal protections and in danger of disappearing, such as monarch butterflies and alligator snapping turtles.

Interior Secretary Doug Burgum said in a statement that the Endangered Species Act had been used for too long "to stop almost any new project in America, driving up costs for families, weakening our competitiveness, and undermining our national security."

"Success should be measured by species recovery and delisting, not by adding more species to the list," Burgum added.

A second change finalized Friday requires officials to analyze economic impacts when deciding whether habitat is critical to a species' survival. Critics say it gives corporations an opportunity to put their thumb on the scale so that officials will allow development in those areas.

"If you're exempting certain industries that cause habitat destruction, in many instances you'll be exempting the main threat to those species," said Noah Greenwald with the environmental group Center for Biological Diversity.

Officials made similar changes during Trump's first term but they were reversed under former Democratic President Joe Biden.

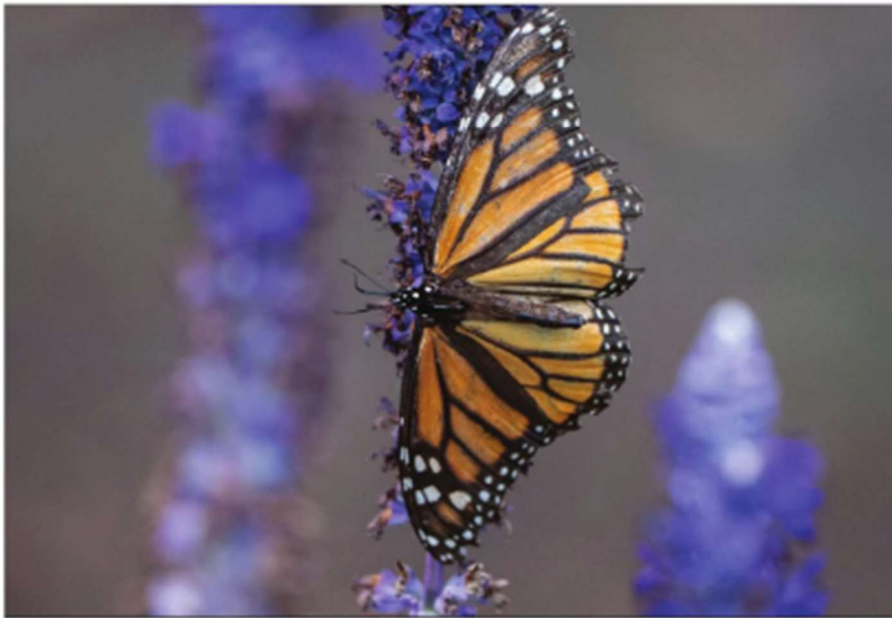
The rules that gave what some consider "blanket protections" to threatened species were first adopted for wildlife in 1975 and for plants in 1977.

Two groups, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Property and Environment Research



Melissa Phillip / Houston Chronicle

A male alligator snapping turtle is held after being trapped by the Turtle Survival Alliance-North American Freshwater Turtle Research Group on Nov. 24, 2018, as part of the process of tagging turtles.



Alan Brantley / AP file

A monarch butterfly lands on a flower, Sept. 6, 2025, in Washington.

Center, sued the Biden administration in 2024 after officials restored the blanket protections rule. They argued the rule unfairly imposed the same restrictions on landowners when a species' status improves from endangered, which is more dire, to threatened.

That removed incentives for landowners to participate in species recovery, said Jonathan Wood, vice president at the Montana-based research center.

Wood said the Trump administration's approach allows officials to "better reward progress

and encourage proactive conservation."

There have been no species added to the endangered or threatened lists in Trump's second term. By comparison, more than 20 species were added in Trump's first term, and about 60

**"If you're exempting certain industries that cause habitat destruction, in many instances you'll be exempting the main threat to those species."**

NOAH GREENWALD  
Center for Biological Diversity

during Biden's presidency.

About 30 species are currently proposed to be listed as threatened. Besides monarchs and alligator snapping turtles, they include California spotted owls and various snakes, fish, clams and insects.

Changes to government policies for endangered plants and wildlife have come faster and extended further in Trump's second term than in his first.

The administration in March exempted oil and gas drilling in the Gulf of Mexico from the Endangered Species Act after Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said environmentalists' lawsuits threatened to hobble domestic energy supplies as the U.S. wages war against Iran.

Last week, Interior officials sharply narrowed the definition of what constitutes "harm" to a species. The change would allow development on critical wildlife habitat so long as the animals themselves are not immediately killed or injured.

This week officials sharply reduced the amount of critical habitat in the U.S. Rocky Mountains designated for Canada lynx, forest dwelling wildcats that are threatened by climate change and other pressures.

Also this week, Burgum said in a visit to Montana that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would turn over more management authority for grizzly bears to states where the bears live. That's been a longstanding priority for the Republican governors of Wyoming, Idaho and Montana.

The Endangered Species Act is credited with bringing back iconic animals including the bald eagle and American alligator from the brink of extinction.

Burgum noted Friday that 97 percent of the species that have been given protections still have them. That's a frustration for Republican lawmakers who say species should be taken off the endangered and threatened lists more quickly once they've recovered.



## **Maxine Connor, Natural Resources Chair**

***LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Monthly Zoom August 19 @ 5 pm  
with Susan Glickman on  
Data Centers, Federal, State, and Local Aspects***

***Adventure Coast MeetUp August 19<sup>th</sup> on Zoom and Live @7 pm  
With Don Wright on Adapting to  
Hot Seas & Storm Threats***

***Flood Risk to Resilience  
Listening Sessions Held for  
Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan  
In Citrus and Hernando Counties  
Flood Risk Assessment Underway***

***Take the Flood Risk Survey for the  
Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan  
<https://www.coastaltampabay.org/get-involved/flood-risk-survey>***

***Adventure Coast MeetUp September 16  
with Don Hall on  
Regeneration: Transform Yourself to Transform the World***

***Save our Waters Week Chassahowitzka  
River & Coastal Clean-Up - Sat. Sept. 19th***

***Hyper Scale Data Centers:  
A new Challenge in Florida  
Sierra Club Magazine Article***

***Citrus Conservation Report***

## **Two Hearings in August**

### ***Sierra Club Magazine Article:*** **Why Is the Federal Government Dumping Toxic Chemicals onto Public Lands?**

### ***LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Monthly Statewide Zoom Aug. 19 @ 5 pm-6 pm*** **with Susan Glickman on** **Data Centers, Federal, State, and Local Aspects**

Susan Glickman is Vice President of Policy and Partnerships at the CLEO Institute. A link to register for the Zoom meeting will be emailed to League of Women Voters of Citrus County members. If you are not a member and would like the link, email [maxineconnor@gmail.com](mailto:maxineconnor@gmail.com). The meeting is open to the public; please share with anyone interested.

### **Adventure Coast MeetUp August 19<sup>th</sup>** **With Don Wright on Adapting to** **Hot Seas & 2026 Storm Threats** **Doors 6:30 pm – Program 7:00 pm or Join Us on Zoom**

If you missed Dr. Don Wright's presentation at the July League of Women Voters of Citrus County monthly general meeting at the Coastal Region Library, Don will give his presentation at the next Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group Meetup on Wednesday, August 19, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at:  
<https://zoom.us/meeting/register/dTTFmsBpS-iYu5uwj4JjyQ>

If this link does not work, click the meeting registration link directly from the Sierra Club Adventure Coast website: <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast/get-involved>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For more information, check out the Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group website at [www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast), email [sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com) or call 352 277-3330. Find them on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Bluesky.

**Gulf Coast storm preparedness: the meeting will feature a presentation with a critical climate briefing by Don Wright, PhD**, Professor Emeritus and Dean Emeritus at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science (VIMS), College of William & Mary. A renowned expert and author of numerous publications on coastal climate change, Dr. Wright will share urgent insights regarding the shifting environmental landscape.

"Recent science publications suggest that unprecedented conditions could take place by late summer," says Dr. Wright. "I feel a moral obligation to communicate some important warnings and risk reduction strategies to our county neighbors."

*Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group*

### ***Flood Risk to Resilience*** **Listening Sessions Held for** **Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan** **In Citrus and Hernando Counties**

## Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan Update Risk Assessment Underway



A project update on community outreach, flood survey results, and creating a watershed-based flood risk assessment methodology for the Greater Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan was presented to 60 participants at the recent meeting of the Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council (TBRPC). The primary focus was presentation of the risk assessment's purpose, methodology, and geographic framework by the lead engineer.

The results of 33 listening sessions attended by 227 residents and organized by 16 hosts including 9 organizations and 391 flood survey responses over the seven-county area were analyzed. It was reported that extreme rainfall was identified as the top reported flood driver. TBRPC will publish the flood-survey summary report on the website under publications and will be shared with local governments and the Coastal Master Plan mailing list in September.

The preliminary themes from the listening sessions were: flooding is a threat to safety, property, mobility, and well-being; participants perceive flooding is increasing due to development, aging infrastructure, inadequate maintenance, and environmental change; and residents requested solutions combining infrastructure, accountability, environmental protection, and meaningful community participation in planning.

The Risk assessment phase is now underway utilizing a watershed-based, multi-layered analysis of flood vulnerability that includes metrics on disability, low income, mobile homes, and toxic-site proximity. The project team is using survey and listening-session data to ground-truth the open-source public datasets to produce risk assessment analysis. A dozen community anchors are participating to elevate historically underheard and underserved communities. The technical team will incorporate and validate the mapped geographic flood-location data.

The project team will identify priority study areas at roughly the neighborhood-collection scale (about 5–10 square miles) and test 30-square-mile basins as candidate priorities. The project team will coordinate with TBRPC and the estuary program to include information about ongoing and planned flood projects and incorporate available project inventory data into the regional hotspot analysis while maintaining a focus on larger-scale priorities. A Clearwater green-space property will serve as a potential model project and the team will share visual risk maps for review and critique by stakeholders.

The four-year project timeline review noted the project is in year two (2026), and is conducting the flood risk assessment to develop an evaluation matrix to prioritize projects before finalizing the plan.

*Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group*

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

<https://www.coastaltampabay.org/get-involved/flood-risk-survey>

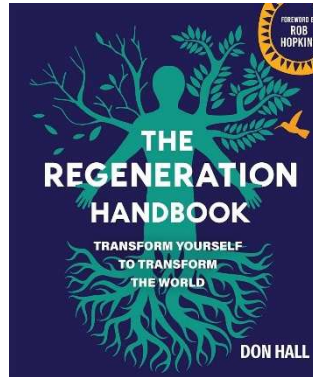
### Share your flood experience and concerns

Please help us identify flood-prone areas in your community to better understand the need for restoration and flood risk reduction projects. Resulting maps of community-drawn flood areas will be captured in the Coastal Master Plan.

Your responses will be anonymous unless you choose to include your name. All responses will be compiled to inform the TBCMP development and future flood mitigation projects.

If you have questions or additional feedback, please contact Amanda Moore at [moorea@nwf.org](mailto:moorea@nwf.org).

### Adventure Coast MeetUp September 16 Don Hall on Regeneration: Transform Yourself to Transform the World



**Join us for the September 16<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group at the Historic Brooksville Woman's Club, 131 South Main Street in Brooksville. Social at 6:30pm, Presentation by guest speaker Don Hall at 7pm.**

Don is the founder of Evolutionary Change and author of *The Regeneration Handbook: Transform Yourself to Transform the World* (New Society Publishers, 2024). He is an internationally-recognized leader in the Transition Towns Movement over the past 17 years: first as Education & Outreach Coordinator for Transition Colorado, then as founder and Executive Director of Transition Sarasota (Florida) and Executive Director of Transition US. Don is now Training Coordinator for Transition Network International. He also holds a Master's in Environmental Leadership from Naropa University, a certification in Permaculture Design from the Central Rocky Mountain Permaculture Institute and regularly teaches on a wide variety of topics including leadership development, community organizing, effective collaboration, and local food systems.

In 2019, Don edited and published *10 Stories of Transition in the US: Inspiring Examples of Community Resilience-Building*. His journey from local grassroots organizing in Florida to national and global scales provides an incredible blueprint for community-led change. He lives in Boulder, Colorado and loves hiking in the mountains, playing music with friends, and practicing Tibetan Buddhist meditation.

Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/YFo8R7lcQi6XgSJ\\_bUp11w](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/YFo8R7lcQi6XgSJ_bUp11w)

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

For more information, check out the website at [www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast](http://www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast), email [sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com](mailto:sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com) or call 352 277-3330. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Bluesky.

*Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group*

## Save our Waters Week Chassahowitzka



### Chassahowitzka River & Coastal Clean-Up Sat. Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>

Keep Citrus County Beautiful and Save Our Waters Week Committee, in partnership with the Citrus County Aquatics Service Division, invites the public to participate in the county's 2026 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Lakes, Rivers & Coastal Clean-Up scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The event is conducted each year in partnership with the Citrus County Government, Southwest Florida Water Management District, and others to promote public awareness to save Citrus County's rivers, lakes, estuaries, and springs from further deterioration and ecological disaster.

Friends of the Chassahowitzka River, the Nature Coast Ramblers, and Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group will again participate. If you wish to help in this cleanup, please sign up by replying to this notice.

**Deadline to register** is September 3<sup>rd</sup> if you wish to join our group and get a t-shirt. Reply to Ben (352-897-0479) with an SMS text, or email to [bfberauer@aol.com](mailto:bfberauer@aol.com) to sign up.

*Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group*

## Hyperscale Data Centers A New Challenge in Florida



*Sierra Club: Meta data center in Mesa, Arizona.*

This year saw a dramatic increase in local opposition to data centers, driven by concerns about electricity affordability, increased fossil generation buildout, air pollution, water use, noise, and land use.” Both Citrus and Hernando Counties have passed moratoriums on Hyperscale Data Centers and are now writing amendments for their comprehensive land use plans to guide county policy for them. Adventure Coast

Group has provided recommendations to avoid such impacts that would make it difficult for them to be approved without adoption of clean energy and mitigation of all impacts on our water, air, lands and communities.

Sierra Club recently released “Data Center State Policies, 2026 Mitigating the Impacts on Environment, Communities and Affordability.” It stated that, “The rapid growth of data centers is quickly overwhelming utilities, undermining environmental goals, increasing public health impacts, and putting ratepayers at risk of dramatically increased costs for the infrastructure and extraordinary power demands of these facilities.” Sierra’s policy paper notes that “Coupling opposition to problematic data center developments with pragmatic state and regional policies can steer data center investments towards more sustainable climate, community, and equity outcomes. These state policy options are meant to provide practical, commonsense protections for ratepayers, the environment, and communities, and are meant to be achievable across geographies and preexisting political frameworks.

The report covers four major categories of guardrails, and articulates specific policy options for each category, with regulatory and policy examples here applicable: \* Protect Customers \* Clean Energy Comes First \* Fair Rules for Tech \* Protect Public Health. Read the report here:

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/default/files/2026-01/policies-for-data-centers-2026.pdf>

Florida’s SB 484 (2026) is a comprehensive data-center regulation bill (Chapter 2026-65) that sets new rules for large-load electricity customers, restricts water-use permits for large-scale data centers, and requires utilities to adopt special tariffs by October 1, 2026. The bill empowered local communities to reject Hyperscale Data Centers but contained loopholes for those who do permit them. An article published in USA Today on 7/17/26 quoted Governor Ron DeSantis. “So, this makes sure that local governments are ultimately in control about how their communities are developing vis-à-vis these hyper-scale data centers,” DeSantis said. “It also includes strict definitions of large-scale data centers so that costs are not permitted to be passed on to consumers.”

That leaves communities with the responsibility of avoiding the impacts from data centers from affecting their communities and environment with strong comprehensive land use regulations that effectively prevent those impacts by restricting them. Our local Sierra Club hopes that is what Citrus and Hernando have in mind. We’ll keep you posted when the new land use provisions come before our county commissions so that we can all plan to attend and speak out.

*Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group*

### **Citrus Conservation Report Two Hearings in August**



*Sierra Club Adventure Coast Conservation Co-Chair Maxine Connor  
speaks before Citrus County Commission*

**Adventure Coast Citrus Conservation Co-chair Robin Orlandi reports two pending development applications before the Citrus County Commission with hearing dates in August that people should pay attention to and prepare/submit comments.**

**The first application** is set for hearing before the Planning and Development Commission on **August 20, 2026** at 9am at the Lecanto Government building, 3600 West Sovereign Path, Room 166, Lecanto, FL 34442. Pigeon-Ardurra LLC, on behalf of Bravo Land Group, LLC, requested a **Planned Unit Development amendment (PUD2733) to the Betz Farm Development of Regional Impact (DRI)**. The amendment proposes 1,466 dwelling units at 3406 N Turkey Oak Drive in Crystal River. It is tentatively set for hearing before the County Commission on October 13, 2026, at 5:05pm.

**Betz farm property in Crystal River** was provided to the county for conservation as part of a mitigation agreement years ago. The parcel is heavily wooded, features wetlands, wildlife, and specimen trees and is within the SPZ for Kings Bay. This large development will negatively impact springs recharge and demand significant increases in water withdrawal. Several past attempts at tentative purchase agreements between developers and the county failed. This past May, BOCC terminated the current applicant's contract due to the buyer "failing to submit its Land Use applications within the time frame allotted." But a few weeks later, under threat of legal action, the BOCC reinstated it-citing the potential costs of lawsuits—in a controversial about-face that has generated significant public attention and calls for the parcel to remain as undeveloped land for public use and recreation. The Betz Farm parcel should be zoned as conservation land for Citrus County to protect local springs, wildlife, and groundwater resources, and to offset increasing rates of development in the Crystal River and the 19/98 corridor, including already approved local projects as well as future planned developments of regional impact like the final extensions of the Suncoast Parkway.

**Concerned residents should plan to attend public hearings for this project** and make their support of conservation as a priority heard. **Submit written comments at least 10 days in advance** of any hearing to the Office of Growth Management at:

- [https://www.citruscounty.gov/departments/growth\\_management/land\\_development/index.php](https://www.citruscounty.gov/departments/growth_management/land_development/index.php)
- In-Person Office: Lecanto Government Building, 3600 W Sovereign Path, Suite 267, Lecanto, FL 34461 (Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or
- For in-person meetings at the Lecanto Government Building (3600 W Sovereign Path, Lecanto), fill out a speaker form when you arrive with your name, address, and application number. Time limits are typically 3 minutes for individuals and 5 minutes for organizations.

**The second application is set for hearing by the County Commission on August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 5pm at the Citrus County Courthouse**, 110 N. Apopka Ave, Room 100, Inverness, FL 3450. **Kimley-Horn on behalf of Pulte Home Company, LLC has requested a Planned Unit Development (PUD-2026-00002) called River Oaks** to allow up to 667 residential units on 267.2 acres at 6450 N Carl G Rose Hwy (SR-200) in Hernando. The Planning and Development Commission (PDC) denied this request on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, based on intensity of use, incompatibility with existing residential use, and unacceptably high Impervious Surface Ratio (ISR) of 65%. The parcel's zoning (low-density residential) has an ISR limit of 35%. Proximity to surface water resources (Tsala-Apopka and Hernando lakes) and recharge/wetland areas on this heavily wooded parcel is an issue yet no hydrology study was included in the application.

**Public turnout at the BOCC hearing is important to re-enforce the reasons for the PDC's denial and convince commissioners that the public wants this area to remain low density.** It is adjacent to Deltona's 800-acre proposed expansion of the Holder Industrial Park. Application files:

<https://citrusclerk.portal.civicclerk.com/event/8985/files/agenda/11287> . See video of PDC hearing with commissioner comments at the end giving reasons for denial. They address the larger burden of growth issues in Citrus County at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96MvHarf7Cc&list=PLTSBrZ4QutSB-Fz7f95P\\_jXMTvTix3Tks&index=2&pp=iAQB](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96MvHarf7Cc&list=PLTSBrZ4QutSB-Fz7f95P_jXMTvTix3Tks&index=2&pp=iAQB) .

*Article and Opinion Expressed Herein Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group*

***Sierra Club Magazine Article:***

**Why Is the Federal Government Dumping Toxic Chemicals onto Public Lands? These spraying programs are creating “virtual dead zones” in wild places**

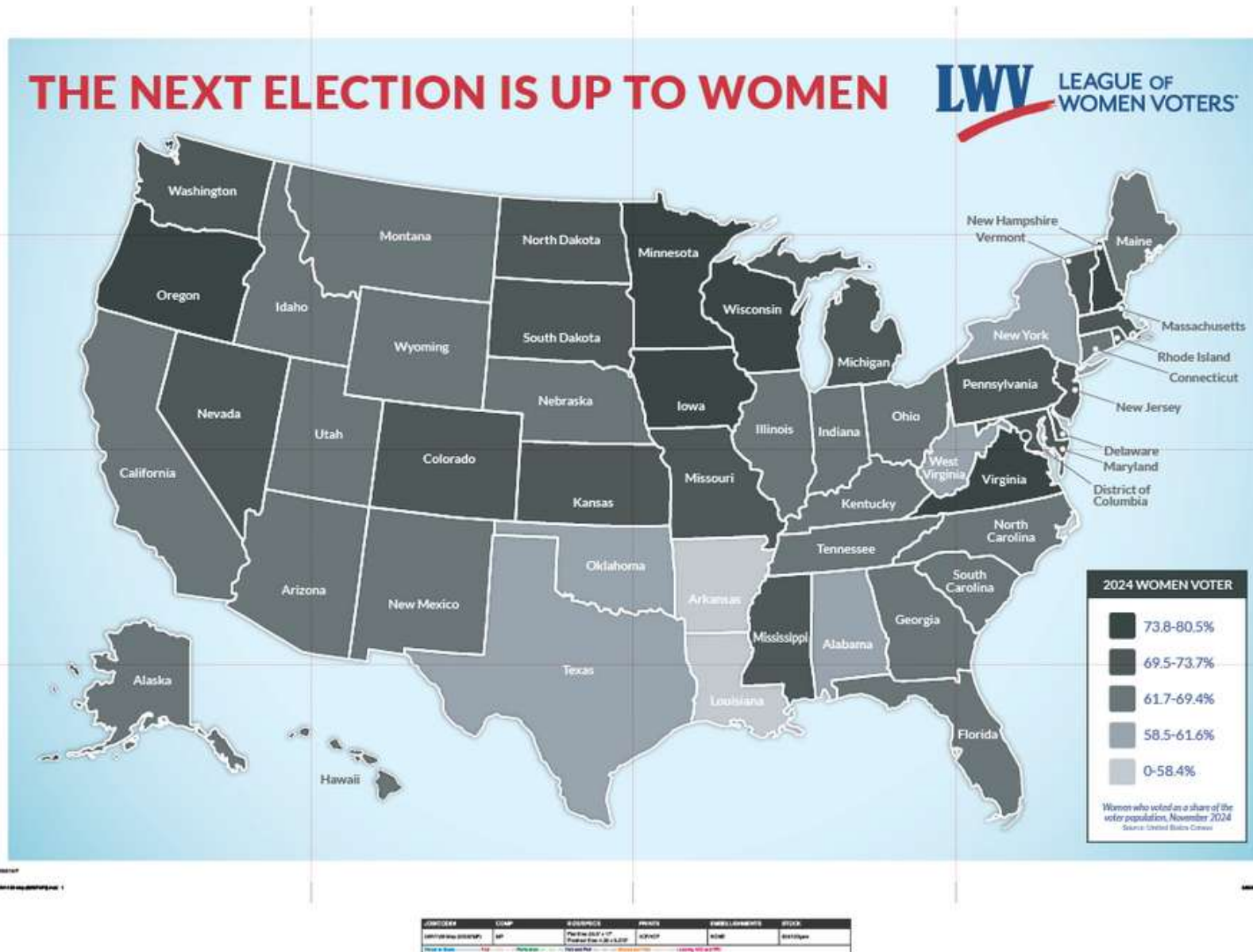
By Jeremy Miller July 20, 2026

<https://www.sierraclub.org/Sierra/roundup-glyphosate-federal-government-dumping-toxic-chemicals-public-lands>

Updated 7/28/26

## LWV NATIONAL FROM THE WEBSITE-(Thanks again, Peg)

# REPORT: Women Voters by the Numbers (2024)



Women turned out in even higher numbers in 2024 than in the 2022 midterms. Notably, in both elections, women turned out in higher numbers than men. In 2024 specifically, 91.3 million women voted, as compared to 82.6 million men.

Rates of female voters were particularly high in Iowa, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Virginia. Rates were lower, but still significant, in Arkansas and Louisiana.

Unsurprisingly, women voters of all ages and (represented) racial identities voted in higher numbers in the presidential election than in the midterm.

Within the represented racial identities (which do not reflect all people, such as those who identify as [Middle Eastern and North African](#)), white, non-Hispanic women voted in the highest numbers. Notably, women of color are significantly more likely to be impacted by suppressive anti-voter policies.

Women ages 25-64 cast the most votes, while young voters (aged 18-24) cast the fewest. [Engaging young voters](#) remains one of our most important tasks; their voices must be heard as we decide the representatives who will determine their futures.

**Cecile Scoon, Esq, past President of the League of Women Voters of Florida, presented LWFVFL and Reinstatement of Voting Rights for Florida's Returning Citizens**



Pictured above are Cecile Scoon above, part of the attendees who will soon be committee members to work on this initiative, and Board members Beverly Brown, Vicky Iozzia, Cecile, and Peg Primeau.

There was a unique opportunity for our League and community members on Saturday, July 25, 2026. Cecile Scoon, Esq, past President of the League of Women Voters of Florida. Cecile is a civil rights attorney and former Air Force JAG officer, was a crucial leader in the movement behind Florida's Amendment 4 in 2018. She conducted a training on restoring felon voting rights. This was a Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Course where the processes for assisting people who have been convicted of a felony to regain their right to vote, titled "LWVFL and Reinstatement of Voting Rights for Florida's Returning Citizens."

The attendees were attorneys and non-attorneys interested in this subject. Although many of us non-attorneys were fearful that it would be over our heads, we need not have been afraid. Cecile's three-hour presentation held all of our interest and was crystal clear. This excellent speaker gave us background of what has happened and a vision of what needs to be done to rectify the situation. The event included her three-hour presentations, followed by informal discussion with food, and there was a wine and cheese opportunity later in the afternoon.

In 2018 Amendment 4 was passed overwhelmingly by Florida voters, by 64%. Although it only stipulated that the vote would be reinstated after the sentence was completed, the Florida legislature added that all fees and fines would have to be paid in addition.

From 700,000 to one million citizens have not had their voting rights restored in Florida, which has one of the most difficult laws in the country. The League of Women Voters of Florida has litigated, trained pro bono lawyers, reached out to appropriate government agencies, and had postcard campaigns to reach out to returning citizens. Court and Department of Corrections records have been reviewed. Wait times have been drastically reduced. People had been waiting for 20 years to hear, but now the Division of Elections must respond within 90 days.

With all that has been done, there is still more to do. The afternoon meetings have resulted in the formation of a group to work with Cecile to help returning citizens gain their vote back.

Community members are invited to work with us. Contact [vickyiozzia@gmail.com](mailto:vickyiozzia@gmail.com) to join.

**You can view the video on youtube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCffGsNCnso&t=2396s>









