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October 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 Our email address is lwwcc2013@gmail.com

Our October 14 meeting features **Supervisor of Elections Mo Baird**, speaking about **election security**. Coastal Region Library, Also joining us will be **Steve Howard** to discuss the ramifications of Amendment 3. 10 am. See Page 5

Our TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 MEETING (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY) will celebrate Veterans, particularly Women veterans. Our guest speaker will be **Col. Elizabeth Medina**. It will be at the Coastal Region Library, 10 am. See Page 6

Our WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 **LUNCHEON** (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF WEEK) will be at the **Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club**. Our guest speaker will be **Nancy Kennedy** of the Citrus County Chronicle. See Page 8.

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 AND OTHER
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

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WELCOME!



HAPPY OCTOBER EVERYONE!

			LEARNING IDEAS		PRINTABLES	
			INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS	WORLD SIGHT DAY	INTERNATIONAL ASTRONOMY DAY	WORLD SILENCE WEEK STARTS
				WORLD FARM ANIMALS DAY		WORLD ANIMAL DAY
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
WORLD TEACHERS' DAY WORLD HABITAT DAY	MAD HATTER DAY		WORLD OCTOPUS DAY WORLD SIGHT DAY		WORLD PORRIDGE DAY WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY (USA) THANKSGIVING (CANADA)	ADA LOVELACE DAY	NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY (USA)	GLOBAL HAND WASHING DAY	WORLD FOOD DAY		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	INTERNATIONAL SLOTH DAY	BACK TO THE FUTURE DAY	INTERNATIONAL WOMBAT DAY		UNITED NATIONS DAY	WORLD PASTA DAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	INTL. PANDA DAY (WWF CHINA)	INTERNATIONAL ANIMATION DAY			HALLOWEEN	

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

This calendar is from our website:
Lwvcitrus.org

League of Women Voters of Citrus County
invites you to join us on

Wed. October 14

10:00-11:30 AM

Coastal Region Library

8619 W Crystal St. Crystal River

Important Election Topics!



Featured speaker:

Citrus County Supervisor of Elections

Maureen "Mo" Baird

will speak about



Election Security 2026

Elected in 2020, Ms. Baird has decades of experience in administering accurate, secure, and transparent elections.



Citrus County Administrator

Steve Howard

will then speak about

The Impact of the Passage of

Amendment 3 on Citrus County's Budget



Appointed in 2022, Mr. Howard has over 30 years in public administration.

**** We will also offer important updates on Amendment 3
from League of Women Voters of Florida ****

League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, never supporting or opposing candidates or parties. We work to educate and empower voters to actively participate in our democratic republic.



League of Women Voters of Citrus County
Invites the public to

Celebrate Veterans Day featuring

Elizabeth Medina, U.S. Army COL (R)

who will speak about

Life in the Military and After

Tues. November 10

10:00-11:30 AM

Coastal Region Library

8619 W Crystal St. Crystal River



Ret. Col. Medina served for 33 years on active duty and in the Reserves, including deployments during Operation Iraqi Freedom. She currently serves as an advocate for veterans' health services and transition programs.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food, cleaning supplies, & personal care items for CASA.

League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, never supporting or opposing candidates or parties. We work to educate and empower voters to actively participate in our democratic republic.



Please see next page

Just a reminder: we will be collecting for CASA donations in the Nov meeting. Please donate.

Personal care and household items: body wash, conditioner, tampons, laundry detergent, trash bags, Lysol spray, new women's underwear and new men's underwear of all sizes, multipurpose cleaner. Pantry and non-perishable food needs: sugar, salt and pepper, breakfast items, crackers, tea, kid-friendly drinks and snacks, beverages, juice, mac and cheese, canned fruits and vegetables, Alfredo sauce, coffee and coffee creamer, onion and garlic powder, taco seasoning, rice, tortillas, popcorn, cooking oil, honey. (Unexpired items only.)

Celebrate the Holiday Season with
League of Women Voters of Citrus County
and our Featured Speaker



Nancy Kennedy



Author, Feature Writer and Columnist for the
Citrus County Chronicle



“I Have Potential!”
*My decades of writing, learning,
and making it up as I go.*

Nancy will tell the lighthearted and inspiring story of how her writing career began, somewhat by happenstance, over three decades ago.

Wednesday, December 2, 2026

Citrus Hills Golf and Country Club

509 E Hartford Street, Citrus Hills

**Doors open at 11:30. Lunch at noon,
speaker at 12:30.**

**You must order and pay in advance to attend. Go to
our website: www.lwvcitrus.org. Click Upcoming
Events. Scroll down to bottom of calendar to see how
to select menu and how to pay for your lunch.**





Linda Abels, 2nd Vice President, Membership Chair

Happy October! I hope you all had a great summer and are rested and ready to tackle the "fall months. First, I'd like to welcome our newest members, **Carol Kirk, Sarah Goodpaster,** and **Susan Pellegrino.** Please introduce yourself to Carol, Sarah, and Susan at our next meeting.

I know that most of you are already members of our local league, but many have just signed up for the newsletter. So, this month I am including our flyer: *Make a Difference Where You Live, Join the League of Women Voters of Citrus County.* Please read this flyer and print it out to hand to your friends and neighbors!

Have a great month, and don't forget to vote!

Linda

Make a Difference Where You Live: Join the League of Women Voters of Citrus County!



Why Your Voice Matters Now More Than Ever

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

We don't back candidates or political parties - **we back voters**. By joining the Citrus County League, you become part of a powerful network working to make our community more informed, active, and fair.

Top 4 Reasons to Join Us Today

- **Empower Local Voters:** Help host nonpartisan candidate forums and distribute information about upcoming elections so our neighbors know when to vote for the candidate of their choice.
- **Advocate for Citrus County Issues:** From local environmental preservation and water safety to education and healthcare, we study the issues affecting our unique community and advocate for positive change.
- **Stay Informed & Connected:** In addition to our public meetings with local experts, enjoy access to online educational events and member-only legislative briefings.
- **Build a Stronger Community:** Meet passionate, like-minded neighbors who span the political spectrum but share a unified goal: making democracy work for everyone.

Who Can Join?

Everyone! Membership is open to all genders, backgrounds, and political affiliations. Whether you have two hours a month or twenty, there is a place for you to make a meaningful impact. Visit our website to join: lwvcitrus.org. Membership fees are flexible.

Ready to Shape the Future of Citrus County?

- **Visit our website:** lwvcitrus.org
- **Follow us on Facebook:** League of Women Voters of
- **Contact us:** lwvcc2013@gmail.com

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy



Citrus County



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

(The following are my own personal thoughts on the world today.)

I have been thinking about writing this and have hesitated until now, but then I read Jim Gouvellis' September 18 article in the Chronicle titled "Facebook runs on rage." I suggest you read it.

I am fed up with the way people treat other people. Not just now, although it is magnified, but also in the past.

People make judgements, without evidence, without study, without thought, just quoting what someone else says. Perpetuating lies, purposely spreading disinformation.

Manners have gone out of style, as if the person's thoughts and opinions are the only ones that count. Name calling that would get children in trouble is ugly and rude and is done with brazen gall.

Making fun of people with disabilities or anyone who is different from you is rampant.

Sickening. There but for the grace of God.....

People act solely out for themselves. The heck with the other people or their dignity. "Me, me, me and the heck with you."

People are afraid that someone is going to take something from them. That fear makes them do things they would not ordinarily do.

It makes me nauseous when they defend their "property values" as if their property is more important than anything else in the world.

What are we teaching our children? Just look around:

- There are no qualifications for government jobs, just undying loyalty to the leader.
- You don't have the right to control your own body or even to learn about your body.
Don't trust any kind of sex education.

- Black people are inferior. DEI means they took jobs from a white person and they are inherently incompetent.
- Governments result in waste. Government agencies need to be privatized because they cost too much. Cuts need to be made no matter how many people it hurts.
- In Florida, as throughout the country, public schools should lose funding so that private schools can be created. School vouchers for public schools, almost \$8,000 per student, should remain unregulated.
- Libraries need to be defunded and controlled so that our children don't read books they shouldn't read. That includes books about sex, race, gender, and minorities.
- The government should dictate the curriculum in schools.
- Freedom of speech should be defined by the party in power.
- Immigrants are inferior and do not belong here. No matter whether they are here without documentation or if they are citizens, they will never belong.
- It's ok to kidnap and deport people because of their original national origin or the color of their skin. Even to deport them to another country! The cruelty is staggering!
- What can the governments afford and not afford? They cannot afford to have healthcare for citizens. They can afford to have a detention center with inhumane conditions. They can afford a senseless and endless war.
- Those who are in power should have the right to dictate what everybody else should do based on their opinions.

The hypocrisy is staggering. It makes me sick. I pray for some kind of sense, sanity, and intelligence that makes me proud to be part of the human race.

That said, there are good people in the world. People who care, who listen, who are kind and intelligent. I need these people in my life to keep my sanity, and many of my friends are League members. Thank God for the League.

I shared this article with a trusted friend, and she wrote the following, asking to be anonymous:

"It's certainly heartfelt. I guess I'd say feel free to share with your circles.

If you are thinking of it as a statement from, or for the benefit of, LWV of Citrus County, I think you need to make suggestions about managing impulsive/negative communications. How to be constructive, what to ask ourselves before we press send, how not to engage or be provoked by toxic remarks. (I don't have the answers!)

I always remember a psychology film on learning I used to show my students. In it a normal rat is put into a cage with another normal, unfamiliar rat. They both wandered around sniffing each other and all areas of the cage. Then the researcher made a split-second electrical shock pass through the cage floor. Both rats were very startled, jumped straight up off the floor, then immediately attacked each other.

So when we feel hurt or victimized and don't know what to do to escape it, we attack whoever is near. Like our roommate, or our neighbor, or something. So easy on social media. And trolls keep coaching us to do this!

I'm not excusing toxic behavior, I just think it is so irrational that just calling it out won't fix it.

Jim's right, too, saying that we don't have the heart to be so outrageous in person at random. Like the rats, in person our default is to assume the other guy is not evil."

Thank you, anonymous person, for this input. I will write about this for the next newsletter.





The League of Women Voters General Meeting, September 9, 2026

On Wednesday, September 9, 2026, the League of Women Voters of Citrus County had our regularly scheduled monthly meeting at the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River.

Candidates for the US House Representatives District 15 were invited to speak, and Vicky Iozzia, 1st President, gave the Florida League presentation "Decisions 2026: Constitutional Amendments on the Ballot."

Robert People spoke as US House candidate.

In addition, we presented a certificate of appreciation to Jeanne Messersmith, who recently did a successful fundraising activity for our League.

The presentation on the amendments was well received, with a lively discussion following. The Florida League presentation outlined each of the three amendments and covered: a summary of the amendments, what they look like on the ballot, how they would affect State and Local governments, what a yes and no vote means, organizations which support and oppose them, and arguments pro and con.

You can see the video of the meeting at <https://youtu.be/vJr8dbQYYC8>



**From Peg Primeau, 2nd President,
Reproductive Justice Chair,
Treasurer**

As you recall, we held an event on Saturday, August 8, in accord with the national LWV "Voting Rights Day of Action. (Below are the summary and photo that were sent afterwards.)

We has registered our plan online and reported back to the national League on the completed event as requested.

To our surprise, the chapter ust received a **support grant of \$1,000** from LWVUS for doing the August 8 program! Kudos and many thanks to Dr. BJ Ezell and Bev Brown and others who put this outstanding morning together.

As BJ wrote later, "Candidates that we elect or reelect in the years to up to 2032 will impact the duration of the next extension (of the VRA). Better yet, we can educate, advocate, and press for not an extension but constitutional protection so extensions are not necessary?" Amento that.

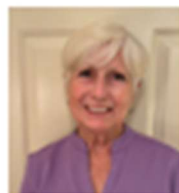
Dr. BJ Ezell schooled 30+ attendees at the Coastal Region Library on Saturday, August8. She demonstrated how to contact legislators using their .gov information online and using "5 Calls" app on a smartphone. The event commemorated the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act becoming law in 1965. Since then, numerous legal extensions and provisions have been necessary to keep the VRA enforceable.



What About These Amendments?

By Rosemary Niles, 1st VP

We hear a lot about the amendments on our ballot. But what do they really mean? They're complicated this year, because each involve finances.



Part of the LWV mission is to help voters make informed choices, so this is an impartial, nonpartisan summary—in plain words whenever possible.

Amendment 1 mandates a larger pool of emergency funds.

Amendment 1: Budget Stabilization Fund
("Emergency/ Rainy Day Fund")

Source: FL Legislature

Summary:

- Amendment 1 increases the maximum balance of Florida's Budget Stabilization Fund from 10% to 25% of revenue.
- It requires an annual fund transfer, which may be suspended by the legislature.
- Funds can be withdrawn for *Critical State Needs as defined by legislature*.



A YES Vote means:

- Florida's Maximum Budget Stabilization Fund balance will increase to 25% of general revenue collection.
- Funds must be transferred annually unless conditions for suspension are met.
- Funds can be used for emergencies, revenue shortfall *and Critical State Needs, defined by legislature*.

A NO Vote means:

- Maximum Budget Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund) balance remains 10% of Florida's general revenue collection.
- No required annual fund transfer.
- Funds can be used for emergencies and revenue shortfall.

Supporting Organizations:

- Florida GOP
- Passed overwhelmingly by state legislators.

Opposing Organizations:

- Florida Education Association (FEA), League of Women Voters of Florida (LWVFL)

Supporting Organizations: Florida GOP	Opposing Organizations: Florida Education Association, UNVFL
Supporters Say: - Protects agriculture- a backbone of FL's culture & economy. - Safeguards our nation because food security is national security.	Opponents Say: - Reduces local government's tax revenue. - Mostly benefits a handful of giant agribusinesses. - Unfair to other types of businesses who don't get similar tax break. - Should not be placed in state constitution because it's too hard to change.

Amendment 3 gives a property tax break for homesteaded residents.

Amendment 3 – Increased Homestead Exemption; Lower Cap on Increases in Non-Homestead Property Assessments

Source: FL Legislature

- Note: Taxes based on a property's value are called ad-valorem taxes. Not all property taxes are ad-valorem. Some are flat fees.



Summary:

- Increases Homestead Exemption, which allows permanent residents to shield part of the assessed value of their primary residents from property taxes.
- Exempts first \$150,000 of a homestead's value on 1/1/2027.
- Exemption increases to first \$250,000 of value on 1/1/2028, with potential for full elimination.
- Exemptions do not apply to taxes for school districts.*
- Owners must have homestead status by 12/31/2025 or wait 5 years for benefit.

• Puts 5% cap on assessed value tax increases on non-homestead property. • Restricts types of public services that property taxes can fund. • Amends Article VII (Sections 4, 6 and 9) and Article XII.	
A YES Vote means: • Homestead exemption for ad valorem taxes increases to \$250,000 by 1/1/2028. • Property assessment increases on non-homestead property limited to 5%. • Restrictions on public services that property taxes can <u>fund</u>: public safety, education and schools, infrastructure, natural resources, bond debt service, retirement benefits for employees, and operations and administration. • Reduces property tax collected by \$11.0 billion by 2030-2031.	A NO Vote means: • Homestead exemption remains at \$50,000, adjusted for inflation. • Property assessment increases on non-homestead property limited to 10%. • Local government continues to determine use of property taxes • Property tax revenue remains the same for local governments.
Supporting Organizations: • Florida Realtors, Florida GOP Opposing Organizations: • Florida Tax Watch, Florida Policy Institute, Florida for All, Florida PTA, Florida State Director of ~~Moms Rising/Mamas Con Poder~~, Southern Poverty Law Center, Florida League of Cities, Florida Assoc. of Counties, • Florida Rising, Florida Education Assoc., Pastors for Florida's Children, SEIU Florida State Council/SEIU 1991, The Tax Foundation, Florida Student Power, Vote No On 3, 3° Degrees Florida, Floridians for Shared Prosperity, • League of Women Voters of Florida, Florida Professional Firefighters, Florida Fraternal Order of Police, Florida Fire Chiefs Assoc., Florida Festivals and Events Assoc., Catalyst Miami, Community Spring, ~~EduVoter Action Network~~, Equal Ground Education Fund, Families for Strong Public Schools & Voters for Strong Public Schools, • Florida AFL-CIO, Florida Voices for Health, NAACP FL State Conference, Progress Florida, UnidosUS, 1,000 Friends of Florida, FL Rural Economic Development Assoc. FL chapter of the American Planning Assoc., Florida Engineering Society, American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida, • Florida Assoc. of County Engineers & Road Superintendents, Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Assoc, Florida Library Assoc., Florida Assoc of Special	

Districts, Federation of Manufactured <u>Home Owners</u> of FL, FL Sheriffs Assoc, FL Recreation & Park Assoc., Audubon Florida, Florida Democratic Party. • Editorial Boards of the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Miami Herald, Orlando Sentinel, Palm Beach Post and Sun-Sentinel	
Supporters Say: • Gives needed tax relief to homesteaded property owners including seniors, those on fixed incomes. • Protects non-homestead property. • Property taxes have risen too much. • Local gov'ts need to cut waste. • Will constrain local governments' bloated budgets. • Residents shouldn't have to pay the government to live on their own property.	Opponents Say: • Harmful economic effects to local cities and counties • Property tax is cornerstone of local revenue. • May constrain borrowing. • Impacts smaller counties with large portion of homesteaded properties • Florida already has tax exemptions for seniors, low income, etc. • Shifts property tax burden to renters & commercial property. • A tax shift rather than tax cut - shifts costs to other fees & taxes • May result in cuts to valued services • Does not address real needs for affordability and high insurance • Shifts from Home Rule to State Rule • Should not place this tax change into the state constitution because it's too hard to change.

This is a simple summary of very complex amendments. Decisions made by voters will affect Florida for years to come. LVV Florida is proud to offer even more resources. For more detail, including the actual ballot language, go to <https://www.lvvfl.org/voter-guide-2026/>.

You can also find information about everything on your ballot at <https://www.vote411.org/ballot>. Just type in your address.





LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Decision 2026: Constitutional Amendments on Ballot

On your November 3 ballot, you'll be voting on three proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution.

- **What does the ballot language mean?**
- **What does a YES vote or a NO vote mean?**
- **What are some Pros & Cons of YES vs. NO votes?**

Plan your vote on Amendments 1, 2, and 3.

LWV Citrus Speakers Bureau offers an impartial presentation on the Constitutional Amendments for local groups. Fill out a Speaker Request form at www.lwvcitrus.org, or email Vicky Iozzia vickyiozzia@gmail.com.

League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan, grassroots organization, never supporting or opposing candidates or parties. For over 125 years, the League has worked to encourage informed and active participation in government and increase understanding of major policy issues.

Learn more about amendments, elections, and candidates at <https://www.vote411.org/florida>



Amendment 3 could reshape Citrus County budget

Tax break for homeowners could mean nearly \$290 million less for local governments over five years.



\$289.3 million

Projected Citrus local property-tax revenue loss over 5 years



\$38.3 million

Estimated loss in 2027-28



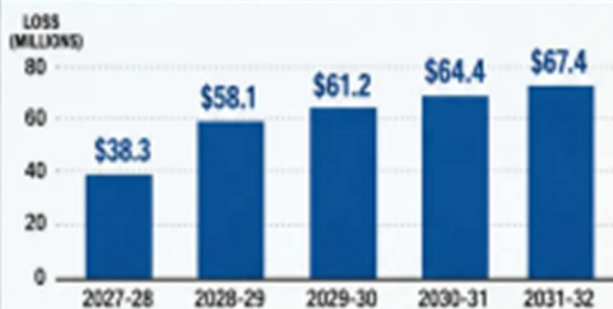
\$67.4 million

Estimated annual loss by 2031-32



Amendment 3 would increase Florida's homestead exemption if approved by 60% of voters in November.

Projected annual revenue loss



Who takes the biggest hit?



Board of County Commissioners

\$263.1 million



Independent special districts

\$17.3 million



Municipalities

\$8.9 million

Five-year totals

What services could be affected?



Libraries



Roads and resurfacing



Parks maintenance



Public safety and other local services



Possible service fees where allowed by law

**“Commissioner Holly Davis
“Simply,
we can’t.”**

Without the revenue, Citrus would likely face service cuts and additional fees.

Citrus already isn't a high-tax county



2025 total millage:
15.4758 mills
State average:
17.0119 mills



County rank:
31st of 67 counties



County government taxes per resident:
\$857.42
State average per resident:
\$990.55



Property-tax collection growth, 2015-2025:
Citrus **13.7%**
vs statewide **30.4%**



Citrus ranked 59th of 67 counties in growth after inflation and population change

Where the money goes now



- Total local property taxes collected: about **\$259.9 million**
- County government operating taxes: about **\$129.2 million**
- School Board: about **\$97 million**
- County-dependent special districts: about **\$5.1 million**
- Independent special districts: about **\$10 million**
- Cities, municipalities and other levies make up the rest.

The question for voters



Is a bigger homeowner tax break worth the potential cuts, delays, fees or service reductions local governments may face?



Source: Florida TaxWatch analysis using state Office of Economic and Demographic Research projections and the July 2026 Revenue Estimating Conference.

2026 Florida Property Tax Amendment 3

A Yes Vote Means...

- Homestead exemption for ad valorem taxes increases to \$250,000 by Jan. 1, 2028.
- Use of property taxes collected is restricted to specific categories.
- Property tax collected is reduced by \$12 billion by 2031-2032.
- Budgets will be tighter.
- School taxes are not increased or decreased by this amendment.

Impact on Education

Even though school taxes are exempt, many schools and students will be impacted.



AMENDMENT 3 RISKS TO OUR SCHOOLS

While school tax will not be exempted from property taxes, these school-related services could be reduced or ended:

- Partnerships with city and county first responder and emergency management services supporting school safety infrastructure, including School Resource Officers
- Partnerships with city and county funded health, wellness, and education services, including mental health
- Child care, including Head Start and before and after school programs
- Recreational, enrichment, and mentorship activities including library, arts, and sports programs
- Local government-funded food banks and nutrition programs

Also, schools may pay higher costs as provider fees and charges are increased to recoup lost tax revenue.

Community Meetings | October - December 2026

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Regular Meetings

1:00 PM 2nd & 4th Tuesdays except as noted

Tues. Oct. 13, Mon. Oct. 26, Tues. Nov. 17, Mon. Nov. 30, Tues. Dec. 15

Citrus County Courthouse, 110 Apopka Ave. Inverness

All other county meeting dates: <https://citrusclerk.org/calendar.aspx>

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

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

Citrus County Courthouse, Inverness

Citrus County Library Advisory Board (Regular Meetings)

9:00 AM, 4th Tuesdays: Oct. 27, Dec. 15

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, 2nd Tues: Oct. 13, Nov. 10, Dec. 8

Workshops: 4th Tuesdays, 9:00 AM: Oct. 27

1007 Main St. Inverness 34450

Agenda & watch meetings online:

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

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

View School Board Meetings:

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

9/27

State Legislators Representing Citrus

Contact Information:

Sen. Ralph Massullo, FL Senate Dist. 11:

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

Email: massullo.ralph.web@flsenate.gov

Rep. JJ Grow, FL Dist. 23:

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

Email: jj.grow@flhouse.gov

US Senators and Representative Representing Citrus

Contact Information:

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

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

Sen. Ashley Moody: Washington 202-224-3041

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

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

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

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

Official General Election Ballot, November 3, 2026 Citrus County, Florida		G100
Boleta Oficial de la Elección General, 3 de noviembre de 2026 Condado de Citrus, Florida		
• To vote, fill in the oval completely ☐ next to your choice. Use a black ballpoint pen. • If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count. • To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval and print the name clearly on the blank line provided for the write-in candidate. • Para votar, llene completamente el óvalo ☐ al lado de su selección. Use un bolígrafo de tinta negra. • Si comete un error, solicite una nueva boleta. No tache, ya que su voto podría no contabilizarse. • Para votar por un candidato por escrito, llene el óvalo e imprima claramente el nombre en la línea en blanco proporcionada para el candidato por escrito.		
United States Senator (Vote for One) Senador de los Estados Unidos (Vote por Uno) ☐ Ashley Moody REP ☐ Angie Nixon DEM ☐ Neil J. Gillespie NPA	Chief Financial Officer (Vote for One) Funcionario Principal de Finanzas (Vote por Uno) ☐ Blaise Ingolia REP ☐ Annette Taddeo DEM	Fifth District Court of Appeal (Vote for One) Corte de Apelación del Quinto Distrito (Vote por Uno) Shall Judge Scott D. Makar of the Fifth District Court of Appeal be retained in office? ¿Deberá permanecer en su cargo el Juez Scott D. Makar de la Corte de Apelación del Quinto Distrito? ☐ Yes / Si ☐ No / No
Representative in Congress District 15 (Vote for One) Representante en el Congreso Distrito 15 (Vote por Uno) ☐ Laurel Lee REP ☐ Robert People DEM ☐ Write-in Candidate / Candidato por escrito	Commissioner of Agriculture (Vote for One) Comisionado de Agricultura (Vote por Uno) ☐ Wilton Simpson REP ☐ Joey Mendoza Atkins DEM ☐ Write-in Candidate / Candidato por escrito	Fifth District Court of Appeal (Vote for One) Corte de Apelación del Quinto Distrito (Vote por Uno) Shall Judge F. Rand Wallis of the Fifth District Court of Appeal be retained in office? ¿Deberá permanecer en su cargo el Juez F. Rand Wallis de la Corte de Apelación del Quinto Distrito? ☐ Yes / Si ☐ No / No
Governor and Lieutenant Governor (Vote for One) Gobernador y Vicegobernador (Vote por Uno) ☐ Byron Donalds REP ☐ David Jolly DEM ☐ Scott Eckhard Jewett LPF ☐ Charles Burkett NPA ☐ Frank J. Russo NPA ☐ Rachel Rodriguez NPA ☐ Moliere "Moe" Dimanche NPA ☐ Benjamin Rojas NPA ☐ Dean Ocean Abrams NPA ☐ Joe Van Vactor NPA ☐ Jeffrey Peter "Dr. Jeff" Datto NPA ☐ Juan Santana NPA ☐ Write-in Candidate / Candidato por escrito	State Representative District 23 (Vote for One) Representante Estatal Distrito 23 (Vote por Uno) ☐ J.J. Grow REP ☐ Mark Leland Baker DEM	Citrus County Community Charitable Foundation Fundación Benéfica de la Comunidad del Condado de Citrus Escaño 2 (Vote for One) (Vote por Uno) ☐ Phyllis Dixon ☐ Heather Haendiges
	Justice of the Supreme Court (Vote for One) Juez de la Corte Suprema (Vote por Uno) Shall Justice Carlos G. Muñoz of the Supreme Court be retained in office? ¿Deberá permanecer en su cargo el Juez Carlos G. Muñoz de la Corte Suprema? ☐ Yes / Si ☐ No / No	Mosquito Control Board Junta del Control de Mosquitos Escaño 1 (Vote for One) (Vote por Uno) ☐ James Brooks ☐ Arthur "AJ" Green ☐ Tyler Thompson
	Fifth District Court of Appeal (Vote for One) Corte de Apelación del Quinto Distrito (Vote por Uno) Shall Judge John M. Harris of the Fifth District Court of Appeal be retained in office? ¿Deberá permanecer en su cargo el Juez John M. Harris de la Corte de Apelación del Quinto Distrito? ☐ Yes / Si ☐ No / No	Mosquito Control Board Junta del Control de Mosquitos Escaño 3 (Vote for One) (Vote por Uno) ☐ Joe Adams ☐ Greg Fountain
Attorney General (Vote for One) Procurador General (Vote por Uno) ☐ James Uthmeier REP ☐ Jose Javier Rodriguez DEM		
SAMPLE BALLOT BOLETA DE MUESTRA Vote Both Sides of Page Vote en Ambos Lados de la Página		

No. 1 Constitutional Amendment, Article III, Section 19 Budget Stabilization Fund N.º 1 Enmienda Constitucional, Artículo III, Sección 19 Fondo de la Estabilización Presupuestaria Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of general revenue collections, require the legislature to transfer the lesser of \$750 million or the amount required to reach 25% of the general revenue collections each year unless certain conditions are met, and allow the legislature to withdraw funds for critical state needs. Propuesta de enmienda a la constitución estatal para aumentar la cantidad de fondos que pueden retenerse en el fondo de estabilización presupuestaria del 10 % al 25 % de los ingresos generales recaudados, requerir a la legislatura que transfiera la menor de las siguientes cantidades: 750 millones de dólares o la cantidad necesaria para alcanzar el 25 % de los ingresos generales recaudados cada año, a menos que se cumplan ciertas determinadas condiciones, y permitir a la legislatura retirar fondos para necesidades estatales críticas. ☐ Yes / Si ☐ No / No	No. 3 Constitutional Amendment, Article VII, Sections 4, 6 and 9, Article XII Increased Homestead Exemption; Lower Cap on Increases in Non-Homestead Property Assessments N.º 3 Enmienda Constitucional, Artículo VII, Secciones 4, 6 y 9, Artículo XII Mayor Exención Por Vivienda Familiar; Tope Inferior a Los Aumentos en las Valoraciones de los Bienes Inmuebles que no sean por Viviendas Familiares This amendment increases the homestead exemption, for all non-school taxes, to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, and adjusts for inflation thereafter. It requires the Legislature to prescribe a uniform procedure for counties and municipalities, for their respective levies, to increase the homestead exemption up to full assessed value, and allows special districts, subject to referendum approval, to do the same. Persons who are not Florida residents on December 31, 2026, will receive the existing homestead exemption upon qualifying for a homestead exemption, with the increased homestead exemption beginning with the fifth year of exemption, to the extent permitted by the U.S. Constitution. This amendment reduces the annual cap on assessment increases for non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%.
No. 2 Constitutional Amendment, Article VII, Section 3, Article XII Exemption of Tangible Personal Property on Agricultural Land from Taxation N.º 2 Enmienda Constitucional, Artículo VII, Sección 3, Artículo XII Exención Impositiva de los Bienes Muebles Tangibles Situados en Terrenos Agrícolas Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to exempt tangible personal property habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural, used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land from ad valorem taxation. If approved this amendment would first apply for tax years beginning January 1, 2027. Propuesta de enmienda a la constitución estatal para eximir impositivamente los bienes muebles tangibles que se encuentren habitualmente o estén normalmente presentes en terrenos clasificados como agrícolas, que se utilicen en la producción de productos agrícolas o para actividades de agroturismo, y que sean propiedad del propietario o del arrendatario de dichos terrenos agrícolas de impuesto ad valorem. Si se aprueba, esta enmienda empezaría a aplicarse a los periodos fiscales que comiencen el 1 de enero de 2027. ☐ Yes / Si ☐ No / No	This amendment requires counties and municipalities to use property taxes solely for public safety, education and schools, infrastructure, natural resources, bond debt service, retirement benefits for employees, and operations and administration. Other expenditures may be approved by county officers or county or municipal governing bodies unless prohibited by general law, notwithstanding Article VII, Section 9(a) of the Florida Constitution, which allows counties and municipalities to levy property taxes for their respective purposes. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2027. Esta enmienda aumenta la exención por vivienda familiar, para todos los impuestos no escolares, a \$150,000 en el año 2027 y a \$250,000 en el año 2028, y a partir de entonces, se ajustará en función de la inflación. Esta enmienda exige a la Asamblea Legislativa que establezca un procedimiento uniforme para que los condados y los municipios, en lo que respecta a sus respectivos impuestos, aumenten la exención por vivienda familiar hasta el valor catastral total, y permite a los distritos especiales, previa aprobación mediante referéndum, que hagan lo mismo. Las personas que no sean residentes de Florida el 31 de diciembre de 2026 podrán acogerse a la exención por vivienda familiar actualmente vigente en el momento en que cumplan los requisitos para ello, y la exención ampliada se aplicará a partir del quinto año de exención, en la medida en que lo permita la Constitución de los Estados Unidos.
	Esta enmienda reduce el tope anual de los aumentos de valoración para las propiedades que no sean viviendas familiares del 10 % al 5 %. Esta enmienda exige a los condados y municipios asignar los impuestos sobre la propiedad exclusivamente a la seguridad pública, la educación y las escuelas, las infraestructuras, los recursos naturales, el servicio de la deuda mediante bonos, las prestaciones de jubilación de los empleados y las operaciones y la administración. Otros gastos podrán ser aprobados por los funcionarios del condado o por los órganos de gobierno del condado o del municipio, salvo que lo prohíba la legislación general, sin perjuicio de lo dispuesto en el artículo VII, sección 9(a), de la Constitución de Florida, que permite a los condados y municipios recaudar impuestos sobre la propiedad para sus respectivos fines. Esta enmienda entrará en vigor el 1 de enero del año 2027. ☐ Yes / Si ☐ No / No



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
Website: 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.
- ★ 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

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WHEN YOU CAN REGISTER

New Registrations

You may register to vote at any time. However, there is a 29 day deadline prior to each election for registering to vote or for changing party affiliation.

The date your voter registration application is postmarked or hand delivered to your county Supervisor of Elections will be your registration date.

When the registration deadline has passed for an election, address and name changes can still be made. Voter registration and party changes will be accepted, but only for the purpose of subsequent elections. (FS. 97.055)

UPDATE YOUR VOTER RECORD

It is the Voter's Responsibility to Notify the Supervisor of Elections Office if You:

- ★ Changed your address within Citrus County - Notify us by phone, fax, e-mail, or in writing.
- ★ Moved into Citrus County from another county in Florida - Notify us by phone or fill out a Voter Registration Application by mail, in person at the Supervisor of Elections Office, the library, or online at registertovoteflorida.gov.



ELECTION WORKERS

Apply to be an Election Worker:

- ★ Applications are available online at votecitrus.gov
- ★ Must be able to read and write in the English language
- ★ Must be registered to vote in Citrus County
- ★ Must attend mandatory training classes
- ★ Need workers with technical and computer skills
- ★ Must have a valid email and computer access
- ★ We are also in search of workers who can speak, read, and write Spanish



2

CLOSED PRIMARY STATE

What is a Closed Primary?

In a Primary Election, voters are limited to choosing candidates of the party in which they are registered.

If you register with the Republican Party, you are allowed to vote only for republican candidates.

If you register with the Democratic Party, you are allowed to vote only for democratic candidates.

If you register with a minor party or no party affiliation, you are allowed to vote for non-partisan candidates and referenda in the Primary Election.

NOTE: An applicant who fails to designate a political party affiliation will be registered without party affiliation.

UNIVERSAL CONTEST

What is a Universal Contest?

"Universal Primary Contest" refers to a contest in a Primary Election in which all candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner of that contest will have no opposition in the General Election.

When this happens, ALL voters, regardless of party affiliation, will have the opportunity to vote in this race.

VOTER INFORMATION CARD

A voter information card will be mailed to you after your voter registration application is processed.

Please review this card to make sure all of your information is correct, and be aware that your precinct may have changed since the last election.

You do not need this card to vote; however, you do need a valid photo and signature ID. See page 4 of this guide for a list of acceptable photo and signature IDs.

You will receive an updated voter information card if there are any changes.

A new voter information card will be mailed to you when there are any changes to your polling place.

This card is for information purposes only. This card is proof of registration but is not legal verification of the eligibility to vote. It is the responsibility of a voter to keep his or her eligibility status current.

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 votecitrus.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.

3

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 > [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 -	
☐	YOUR CHOICE
☐	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 > Voter Education > How to be an Informed Voter

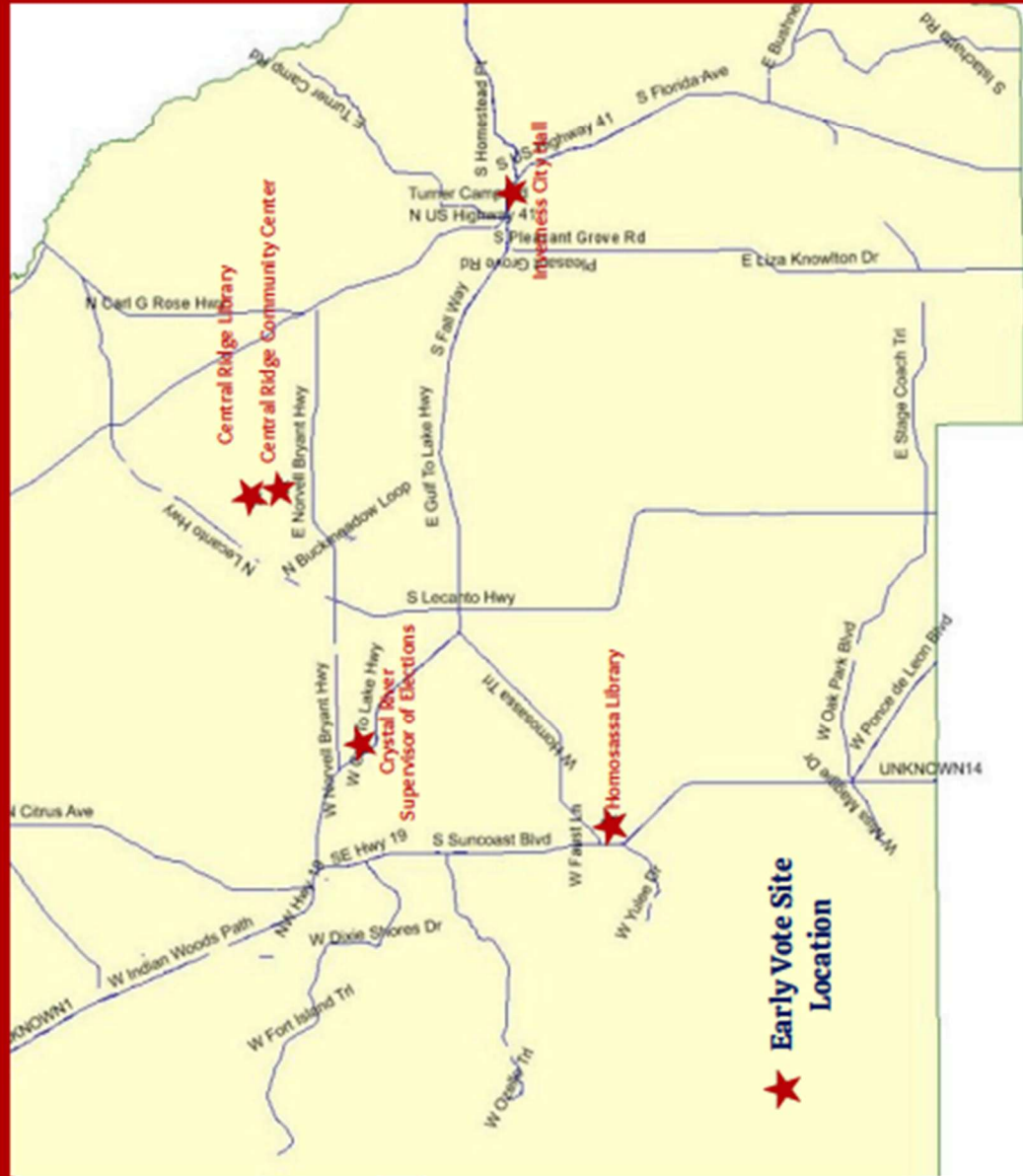
If you wish to research the platforms of local candidates, profiles and financial reports on local candidates are available at our website:

votecitrus.gov > Candidates > Candidate Profiles and Financial Reports

Sample Ballots are also available at 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, 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 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

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

Voting and Elections Presentations for Florida 2026

- Decision 2026: Florida's Constitutional Amendments *An impartial explanation*
- Get Ready to Vote in 2026 *What Florida voters need to know before the Nov. elections*
- Your Vote. Your Community. Your Future. *Understanding local impact of your vote*
- Protecting Your Voting Rights *Historic & current look at voting rights*
- Election Security vs Access: A Delicate Balance *Florida's election safeguards*
- Your Local Power: How State & Local Government Work *Specific to Citrus County*
- Write-In Loophole *How some primary races become closed to certain voters*
- Voting Rights for Returning Citizens *Current procedures to regain voting rights*
- New Congressional Maps for Florida *Update on 2026 redistricting*
- Your Voice. Your Vote. Your Power *Youth engagement*

Civics Presentations

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

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



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

8/17/26



Vicki Boody Mourer – Great Women Series Vicki will be back next month.



From Vicky Iozzia: I knew Florence from the time I was a child. I heard about her every Christmas and she was always volunteering. We became good friends for the last 5 years of her life. I will always admire her for the way she dedicated herself to helping people.

From the Nevada Appeal Publication

Florence Hathaway

December 4, 1930 - May 10, 2026

Florence Gland Phillips Hathaway, beloved mother, volunteer, educator, activist, and founder, passed away peacefully at home on May 10, 2026, at the age of 95, following a brief battle with lung cancer.

Born on December 4, 1930, in the Bronx, New York, Florence was the youngest daughter of Jack and Fannie Gland and the beloved younger sister of Estelle Gland. The daughter of immigrants, Florence grew up witnessing firsthand the challenges faced by those striving to learn English and build a new life in America. Those early experiences would later inspire the work that became her life's legacy.

Florence's life was defined by resilience, service, and a deep commitment to helping others. Among her early accomplishments was a civil service tour in Japan with the Department of

the Army in 1959. After returning to the United States, she married Robert Phillips, and together they welcomed their daughter, Joanne.

Widowed at the age of 37, Florence faced profound loss in the years that followed, including the deaths of both parents and her sister. Through these challenges, she found strength in recovery and community. Beginning in 1978, she embraced a life of sobriety through Alcoholics Anonymous, a commitment she maintained faithfully for nearly 48 years until her death. She often credited the program and its fellowship with helping her build a meaningful and purpose-filled life.

Most people retire in their sixties. Florence began a new chapter.

In 1990, after a successful career in management, she joined the Peace Corps and embarked on an adventure that would shape the rest of her life. She completed three Peace Corps assignments, serving in Guatemala, Jamaica, and Kenya. During these years, she developed a profound appreciation for the challenges faced by people seeking educational and economic opportunities through language acquisition and literacy.

Between Peace Corps tours, Florence served with VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America). One assignment brought her to Carson City, Nevada, where she worked with the Washoe community and ultimately made Northern Nevada her home. It was there that she found love again, marrying Pierre Hathaway. Together, they shared a passion for service and adventure, and in 1997, they served with the Peace Corps in Kenya.

After retiring from VISTA in 2004, Florence once again reinvented herself. Drawing upon her experiences as the daughter of immigrants and her years of service abroad, she founded the English Language Learners' In-Home Program of Northern Nevada (ELL). As Founder and Executive Director, she built a volunteer-based nonprofit dedicated to providing free, one-on-one English tutoring to low- and moderate-income adults who had little or no ability to speak, read, or write English.

What began as a vision grew into a program that served thousands of adult learners in Carson City and beyond. Florence believed that English proficiency was more than a language skill—it was a pathway to employment, education, confidence, citizenship, and community. Up until the week before her death, she continued working tirelessly to ensure that anyone who wanted to learn English would have that opportunity, regardless of their ability to pay.

Her dedication and impact were widely recognized. In 2009, she was honored as the Reno Gazette-Journal Citizen of the Year. In 2019, she was recognized as a CNN Hero nominee, among numerous other awards and acknowledgments celebrating her lifelong commitment to service.

To her family, Florence was known for her determination, independence, intelligence, and boundless energy. To her volunteers, she was a mentor and advocate. To her students, she was often the person who opened a door to a better future. To her daughter, ELL was affectionately known as a "sibling," because Florence's devotion to the program was constant and unwavering.

In February 2025, Florence moved to Washington State to be closer to her daughter, Joanne Royer. At 94 years old, she remained remarkably independent. The move also allowed her to spend precious time with nieces and extended family. Just days before her passing, she enjoyed an early Mother's Day gathering surrounded by family, laughter, and love.

Florence was preceded in death by her parents, Jack and Fannie Gland; her sister, Estelle Gland; her first husband, Robert Phillips; and her second husband, Pierre Hathaway.

She is survived by her daughter, Joanne Royer; her beloved nieces and extended family; countless friends from the recovery community; devoted volunteers; and the thousands of learners whose lives were transformed through her work.

In accordance with her wishes, no memorial service or celebration of life will be held.

Those wishing to honor Florence's memory are encouraged to plant or enjoy daisies, especially Shasta daisies, her favorite flower.

Florence often wondered what would become of the program she built. The answer can be found in the thousands of lives she touched, the volunteers she inspired, and the belief she carried throughout her life: that one person, willing to serve, can change the world for another. Her legacy lives on in every learner who finds their voice and every volunteer who continues the work she loved.

In the weeks before her passing, Florence often spoke about her "next adventure." She imagined herself roaming the galaxies, traveling from one to another with the same curiosity and enthusiasm that guided her throughout her life.

She would tell her family, "If you see a shooting star, that's me flittering from one galaxy to another and enjoying every second of it."

For those who knew her, it is easy to picture her doing exactly that.



880 Come join us for our Monthly Social! Have a cup of something or a snack. Join the conversation or listen.

Our next meetings are at the Cattle Dog Restaurant in Inverness, 4:00,
Wednesday, October 21, and November 18, 2026. No social in December.

African American Read-in

The 18th Annual African American Read-in took place on Sunday, February 22, 2026, at the Curtis Peterson Auditorium. It was a well-executed presentation which was positive and often emotionally moving. I will be including the literary pieces which were read in future newsletters. Once a year is not enough to enjoy this literature.



Life Doesn't Frighten Me

Maya Angelou

Shadows on the wall
Noises down the hall
Life doesn't frighten me at all
Bad dogs barking loud
Big ghosts in a cloud
Life doesn't frighten me at all

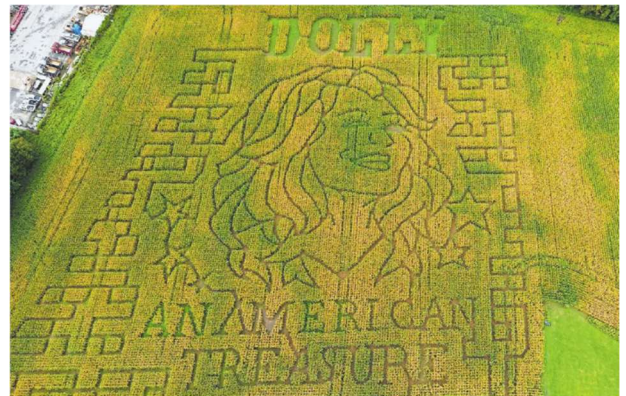
Mean old Mother Goose
Lions on the loose
They don't frighten me at all
Dragons breathing flame
On my counterpane
That doesn't frighten me at all.

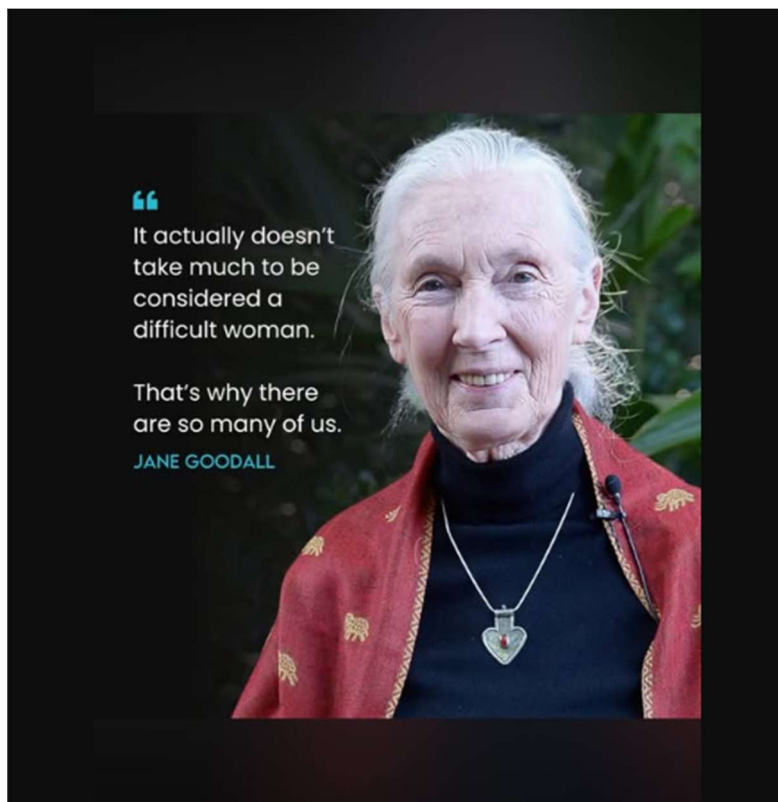
I go boo
Make them shoo
I make fun
Way they run
I won't cry
So they fly
I just smile
They go wild
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Tough guys fight
All alone at night
Life doesn't frighten me at all,
Panthers in the park
Strangers in the dark
No, they don't frighten me at all.

IN THE NEWS for your consideration.









**KEEP
CALM
AND
VOTE**

Florida Department of Health in Citrus County

Diabetes Empowerment Education Program

We can help YOU take CONTROL of your diabetes!

FREE Workshop Series



What You'll Learn:

- Improve your quality of life
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August 27 – October 15, 2026

**Class meets every Thursday
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**NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FROM LWVCC NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR, MAXINE CONNOR
OCTOBER, 2026**

**LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Monthly Statewide Zoom Oct. 21 @ 5 pm-6 pm
Solar Updates with Heaven Campbell
Florida Program Director
Solar United Neighbors**

**Citrus County Data Center Ordinance
Comment Period Now Open**

**Florida Springs Council Reaches
Historic Settlement to Protect
Suwannee & Wekiwa Springs on September 3**

Rethink Energy Florida

**Don Hall, Author
The Regeneration Handbook
Recent Speaker at Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group September Meetup**

**LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Monthly Statewide Zoom Oct. 21 @ 5 pm-6 pm
Solar Updates with Heaven Campbell
Florida Program Director
Solar United Neighbors**

Members: watch your email inbox for an Zoom invitation to register for this monthly LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Statewide Zoom. This month's Zoom will be on October 21 @ 5-6 pm with solar updates from our long-time partner Heaven Campbell, Florida Program Director, Solar United Neighbors. Our meetings are open to the public and you can share the invitation.

**Citrus County Data Center Ordinance
Comment Period Now Open**

Citrus County is currently under a temporary moratorium that prohibits the development of data centers. The moratorium was enacted to give the county time to develop land development code standards specific to data centers. The county has now drafted data center regulations with initial community input.

These regulations can now be viewed at https://www.citruscounty.gov/departments/growth_management/data_center_regulations.php . To share your feedback, please email comments@citruscounty.gov and identify the section(s) of the draft you are referring to. After approximately 30 days of community feedback, the draft ordinance will be scheduled for public hearings, where additional public input will also be allowed. Please take the time to review the ordinance and share your comments. The [Florida Sierra Club Data Center Toolkit](#) is available to help inform your comments. At this time, we feel that the ordinance needs significant additional work to address water, energy use, and climate impacts to provide strong guardrails to ensure that damaging data center projects not be developed in Citrus County. We are also asking that the 30-day cutoff for comments be extended. This is a complex issue, and the existing moratorium remains in effect until May 2027; instead of rushing to complete the ordinance, we need to focus on doing the work to get it right. *Article and Opinion Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast*

Florida Springs Council Reaches Historic Settlement to Protect Suwannee & Wekiva Springs



After intense litigation, on September 3rd, the Florida Springs Council (FSC) and Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), reached a significant settlement agreement to protect and restore seven outstanding springs on the Suwannee River, as well as Wekiwa & Rock Springs. The settlement addresses agricultural and septic tank pollution, the largest pollution sources in Florida, and, respectively, the largest pollution source in each basin. It also improves the current BMAPs, provides for at least 16 new water quality monitoring stations, and requires FDEP to initiate compliance assistance and enforcement actions.

The Florida Springs Council, of which Sierra Club is a board member, is the only non-profit winning battles for Florida's springs in the Capitol and Courthouse. This is not by chance; it is what FSC was designed to do.

"This is an excellent outcome," says FSC Board Member Bob Palmer, "but FSC will not sleep on it. We are the only organization with the ability to verify that the agreement will be carried out in full and on schedule." "The challenge to DEP's 2025 Suwannee and Wekiwa BMAPs has resulted in a successful settlement," says lead attorney Doug MacLaughlin. "The Florida Springs Council and the Friends of the Wekiva River were seeking commitments from DEP for actions that would achieve the ultimate goal of the BMAPs - to meet water quality standards in the springs by 2038. By initiating this challenge, FSC and Friends now have those commitments from DEP.

This victory for Florida's springs is thanks to our co-litigants, Friends of the Wekiva River; our incredible legal team of Doug MacLaughlin and Matt Farmer; the attorneys and law students at the Jacobs Law Clinic at Stetson College of Law; agricultural expert Dr. George Hochmuth; and FSC Board Members Bob Palmer and Mike Cliburn. We also want

to express our appreciation to the FDEP attorneys and staff who worked with us to make this win-win outcome possible.

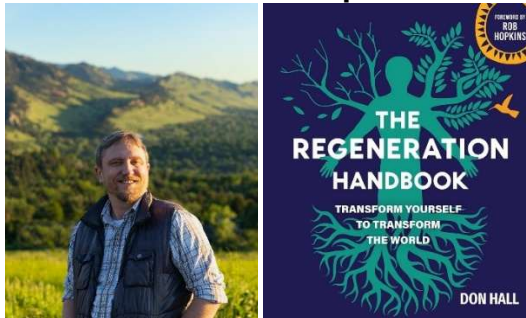
If you value having a Florida environmental non-profit that wins battles in the legislature and courtrooms - where most orgs. won't even engage - [please consider supporting the Florida Springs Council](https://www.FloridaSpringsCouncil.org). The legal team is already discussing our next campaign, but we can't do this work without your support. Learn more at: <https://www.FloridaSpringsCouncil.org>.

Rethink Energy Florida

ReThink Energy Florida's Mission is to educate, engage, and empower Floridians to take action and achieve a just transition to clean energy for a healthier, more sustainable environment through youth education, adult engagement, and community organizing. Stay informed. Sign up for their monthly newsletter.

<https://www.rethinkenergyflorida.org/>

Don Hall, Author The Regeneration Handbook Recent Speaker at Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group September Meetup Followup Information



Don Hall was the speaker for the Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group September monthly meetup. He is the author of The Regeneration Handbook. He explains how communities can work toward sustainable living one person at a time and collectively. He advised interested people to start with reading the book. A couple helpful websites are evolutionarychange.org and transitionnetwork.org.

Updated 9/30/26

LWV NATIONAL FROM THE WEBSITE

Case Summary

LWV and LWVMA filed a lawsuit challenging an illegal Executive Order targeting mail voting and voter eligibility and asking for a declaration that the Executive Order is unconstitutional and a grant of injunctive relief. The court granted the injunction, prohibiting implementation of Section 3 of the Order.

On March 31, 2026, President Trump signed [Executive Order \(EO\) 14399, “Ensuring Citizen Verification and Integrity in Federal Elections.”](#) The EO seeks to seize control of election administration from Congress and the states, which no constitutional text allows. There are two major focuses of the EO: (1) mail voting and (2) citizenship verification.

First, the EO attacks mail voting by instructing the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to create a list of “approved” mail voters and refuse to deliver ballots from voters who are not on that list. It also threatens states with failure to deliver their voters’ ballots unless each state submits lists of eligible mail voters to USPS at least 60 days before every federal election.

Second, the EO directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to compile lists of citizens from various federal databases, including the Social Security Administration, and send those lists to states before every federal election. These [databases are out-of-date and unreliable](#), which will almost certainly lead to the disenfranchisement of eligible voters.

On April 2, 2026, the League of Women Voters (LWV), the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts (LWVMA), and multiple partners filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. LWV and LWVMA filed the complaint alongside Association of Americans Resident Overseas, US Vote Foundation, OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The plaintiffs asserted that (1) the EO violates the constitutional separation of powers; (2) is outside the President’s authority to instruct USPS in violation of Congress’s postal statutes; (3) violates the Tenth Amendment and principles of federalism by forcing states to change their election laws; (4) burdens the right to vote; (5) violates Section 11(a) of the Voting Rights Act by directing USPS to refuse to deliver lawful ballots to eligible voters; and (6) violates the Privacy Act by requiring the creation and sharing of Americans’ sensitive personal data without required process.

The plaintiffs asked the court to declare the EO unconstitutional and grant injunctive relief to stop its implementation. Litigation is ongoing.

LWV and LWVMA are represented by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Voting Rights Project, ACLU of Massachusetts, Brennan Center for Justice, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC, and Latino Justice PRLDEF.

