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September 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
lwvcitrus.org Our email address is lwvcc2013@gmail.com

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 5.

Our October 14 meeting features Supervisor of Elections Mo Baird, speaking about election security. Coastal Region Library, 10 am. See Page 6

Our TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 MEETING (PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DAY) will celebrate Veterans, particularly Women veterans. It will be at the Coastal Region Library, 10 am.

Our WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2 MEETING (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. More details to follow.

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
WELCOME!**

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Events in September 2026						
Grid	List	Month	Week	Day	September ▾	2026 ▾ Go < Previous Today
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting 4:00 pm: Citrus County School Board meeting	9 10:00 am: Meet and Greet, Candidates for US Congress District 15, Constitutional Amendments on the Ballot	10	11	12
13	14	15 1:00 pm: National Voter Registration Day	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Cattle Dog Restaurant-Wednesday, September 23, 2026

This calendar is from our website:
Lwvcitrus.org



SEPTEMBER

HOLIDAYS FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

2026 Dates

- 11 Patriot Day
- 07 Labor Day
- 13 National Grandparents Day
- 13 International Chocolate Day
- 19 National Dance Day
- 22 Business Women's Day
- 22 First Day of Fall
- 27 Daughter's Day
- 28 Family Day
- 29 National Coffee Day
- 29 World Heart Day
- Healthy Aging Month
- Self-Care Awareness Month
- World Alzheimer's Month

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



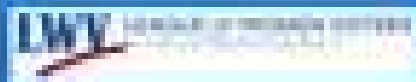
Decisions 2026: Constitutional Amendments on Ballot

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 supporting
candidates or parties.



HAPPY SEPTEMBER EVERYONE!

League of Women Voters of Citrus County
welcomes

Supervisor of Elections Maureen “Mo” Baird

to speak about

Election Security 2026



The public is invited to join us on

Wed. October 14

10:00-11:30 AM

Coastal Region Library

8619 W Crystal St. Crystal River

First elected in 2020 and re-elected in 2024, Ms. Baird has served full-time in the S.O.E. office since 1985. Her extensive, hands-on experience across every phase of election administration underpins her commitment to maintaining accurate, secure, and transparent local elections.

We will also offer important updates 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.





Linda Abels, 2nd Vice President, Membership Chair

Welcome to Fall! It may not technically be fall yet, but once the kids head back to school, fall has arrived. Vacations are wrapping up, and we are all looking forward to cooler temperatures.

Until that happens, please join us for our next meeting, and please **consider bringing a friend or neighbor!** This is an important meeting packed with crucial information everyone will need before casting their vote.

Our main presentation will focus on the constitutional amendments appearing on the upcoming ballot. We have also invited candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives to introduce themselves and participate in a Q&A session.

We would also like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members, **Janet Foy, Lloyd Goodman, Gene Weston, and Carol Kirk**. Please be sure to say hello and introduce yourself to Janet, Lloyd and Carol at our next meeting!

Have a Wonderful Month!

Linda



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

I think a lot about leadership these days. Do leaders make a difference? I believe that they do.

The personality of a leader is critical. Here is what I think good leaders are:

- Good listeners
- Intelligent people
- Even tempered
- Not egotistical. It's not all about them
- They take care of their people

I recently watched "Lincoln", a three-part documentary from 2022, from the History Channel, featuring Barack Obama and renowned historian Doris Kearns Goodwin. I knew how Lincoln was tortured by the brutality of the war, but what I didn't know was:

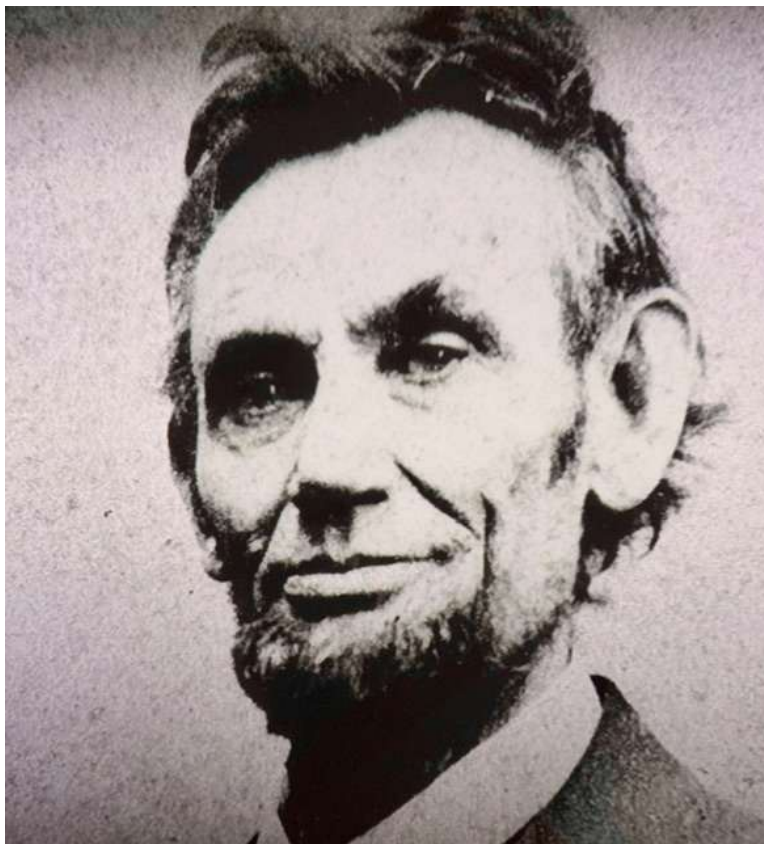
- He actually went to the battlefields, with bullets whizzing past his stove pipe hat.
- He was instrumental in devising military strategy after firing several Generals.
- His opinions evolved into making the war about slavery, and he timed the release of the Emancipation Proclamation so that it would have the most effect.

Although he was President during an unbelievable, horrible war where brother fought brother, and hand-to-hand combat left fields with the debris of dead tortured bodies, he also was responsible for the freeing of slaves.

What would have happened if he had not been assassinated? He was determined to heal the country. He did not arrest the Confederate generals, nor did he take their weapons.

Reunification might have happened with love instead of the vengeance that Andrew Johnson implemented. We will never know, but I think things would have been different.

Most Presidents age, some drastically, as they perform their duties. Abraham Lincoln certainly did. Here is the one picture I have seen him close to smiling, sometime between the end of the war and his death.



I am very sad to say, and I know you all know, that Dolly Parton passed away. What a loss! What a leader! What a woman! Her attitude, her kindness, her philanthropy, her acceptance of human beings, and her endless talent, has impacted literally millions of people's lives. She was what a leader should be – smart, innovative, and always looking out for other people.

Here are two comments from famous people about her:

READ PRESIDENT BIDEN'S **MOVING TRIBUTE** TO DOLLY PARTON:

"Simply put, Dolly Parton was an American original. She was an inspiration to millions. She was a relentless advocate for women and for equality. Through her Imagination Library, she placed the gift of reading into the hands of millions of children because she understood literacy is the foundation of opportunity.

But perhaps most importantly, Dolly treated everyone with kindness and respect. She lived her values with a flair and vitality for life that was uniquely her own. She was a trailblazer in every sense of the word, and she will be missed by millions around the world.

Jill and I are keeping her family, her friends, and her millions of fans in our prayers.

God bless Dolly Parton."



**Jane Fonda** ✓

@Janefonda

I am devastated. I just learned that Dolly has moved on. I know that millions are mourning and I want to say this - more than anyone I have ever known, Dolly will always be with us because she was so present, so powerful, so generous and playful that she is woven into all our lives and hearts forever. We have our memories of her, her songs, Dollywood, "9to5," the millions of books she got into the hands of children, all the iconic images that bring her to us. And they are all blessings. Let's be grateful for all that she has left us to ease our sadness now. I never knew anyone like her. She was simultaneously a naughty, playful southern gal from the hollows of Tennessee and a deep, soulful thinker who could see through people right down to their true selves. She was many things...lyricist, songstress, player of many instruments, writer, prankster, visionary, loyal friend, who'd never go to bed before she and her friends had laughed so hard they'd have to cross their legs.

She had a survivor's instinct and seemed to always know just what to do, just what to say, to make things right...and then she's stick her butt out the car window and moon Kenny Roger's home. She was the voluptuous embodiment of empathy. That's something of hers she'd want us all to take with us.

To her gay and trans fans, I want you to know that she loved you. You know that without me telling you. She loved all her fans and they are legion. And you know she doesn't want y'all to mourn now. Dress up and celebrate her spirit. But first, watch the final episode of Grace and Frankie where she's an Angel, the head honcho working class angel in Heaven.

RIP, beautiful woman. We love you.



August 8 meeting of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County

Dr. BJ Ezell presenting, and I just had to include this second picture! What a sweetie she is!

On Saturday, August 8, 2026, the League of Women Voters of Citrus County had a special meeting featuring as our guest speaker our very own board member Dr. BJ Ezell. It commemorated the anniversary of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and was titled: "Empowering Citrus County: Restoring the Voting Rights Act – A Day of Remembrance and Action".

Rather than telling you all of the details of what she said, I am going to give you a summary and then you can watch it yourself using the link at the bottom of this article.

Dr. BJ discussed what our community can do to protect our vote, gave a summary of current voting laws, explained and emphasized the critical importance of the Voting Rights Act and how it has been disempowered in recent years, and gave the attendees that opportunity to impact what happens by learning to use the Five Calls app to contact elected officials.

So often we go to hear a speaker, get information, and then don't know what to do with it. At the League of Women Voters, we aim to give our members and the public information that they can learn and use.

<https://youtu.be/9Vpt1YsoGKc>

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



Peg says this says it all! I agree!



YOUR TAX DOLLARS ARE FUNDING UNACCOUNTABLE PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Did You Know:

Private school "scholarships" (vouchers) are used mostly (70%) by Floridians who before vouchers were available had sent their kids to private schools and paid out of their own pocket.

These "scholarships" - open to everyone – **WILL COST FLORIDA'S TAXPAYERS nearly \$5 BILLION** for the 2026-2027 school year.

TEACHERS at these voucher schools **DO NOT** have to be certified to teach, and if they have certification **DO NOT** have to teach in their subject field.

The Florida Department of Education clearly states: Private elementary and secondary schools in Florida are **NOT LICENSED, APPROVED, ACCREDITED, OR REGULATED** by the Department.*

These schools are **NOT REQUIRED** to use state tests or standards; most **DO NOT** publish results for the public to see students' academic achievement.

Private schools taking vouchers **DO NOT** have to accept economically disadvantaged children or those with special learning needs and can expel students who are not achieving.

These schools do not provide transportation.

Tuition costs at private schools often exceed the amount provided by the scholarship.

Private schools are **NOT INCLUDED** in reports of the state's graduation rate.

Florida has two scholarship funding organizations (SFOs). The largest SFO **received \$143 million** for 2026 to process applications to the voucher program. None of it goes to school programs.

Voucher administration has been plagued with problems, including **\$47 million inappropriately allocated** last year.**

What's happened to YOUR MONEY?

**IT'S UNCLEAR HOW VOUCHER SCHOOLS ARE SPENDING YOUR BILLIONS, BUT WE HAVE
NO ASSURANCE THEY ARE SPENT ON HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION FOR FLORIDA'S STUDENTS.**

* <https://www.fldoe.org/schools/school-choice/private-schools/#?text=A%20private%20school%20is%20defined%20in%20section.in%20a%20statewide%20directory%20of%20private%20schools>

** https://flauditor.gov/pages/pdf_files/2026-046.pdf

Redistricting 2026.... Hmmm.... How did that work out for Citrus County?

By Rosemary Nilles, 1st VP

Think out loud with me...



Why will voters in Citrus County, come November, be voting for two Congressional Candidates from Tampa?

Why are we now in District 15 instead of District 12? Why does our new district 15 have such an unusual shape? Didn't we learn the word 'gerrymandering' in grade school?

The answers are easily explained, but not likely forthcoming from the governor and legislators who voted to redistrict in Florida.

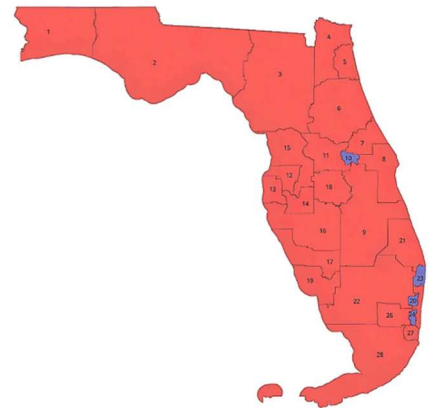
President Trump was much more transparent last June, when he first called for redistricting in Texas, in order to protect his House majority in the November midterms.

Gov. DeSantis jumped on the bandwagon soon afterwards, calling for redistricting in Florida. Over the months between July and April, he claimed several different reasons why redistricting was needed. But not once did he mention increasing his party's seats in Congress. Finally, at great cost to taxpayers, he called a special session of the legislature in late April. Before redistricting, Florida had 28 districts: 20 R and 8 D.

At right is Gov. DeSantis' new map, color-coded to show 24 of the 28 districts likely "red" for his party, with four likely "blue" districts left. He released this map to Fox News on April 27, the day **before** it was shown to the legislators.

The new map was easily passed along party lines and remains in place now. [FL new congressional districts 2026](#)

Keep in mind that Florida's Constitutional Amendments expressly forbid drawing new



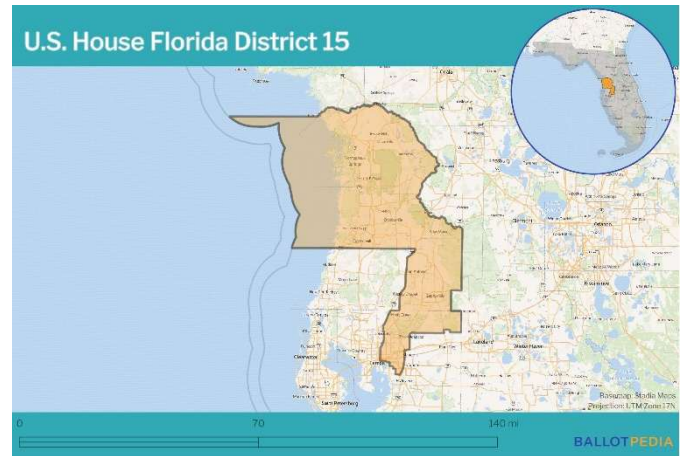
maps for partisan gain! And 63% of Florida voters passed those amendments in 2010! [FL Fair Districts Amendments 2010](#)

Before redistricting, Citrus was in District 12. We knew our incumbent, Rep. Gus Bilirakis. And then redistricting happened!

Citrus is now in a new district that snakes its way all the way into Tampa! See map at right.

We had to learn about our new District 15 incumbent, Rep. Laurel Lee, from Tampa. Candidates who wanted to challenge the two incumbents had to rethink their plans.

Two main challengers ended up on the August 18 primary ballot.



When the August 18 primary results came in, they showed that the challenger who lives closest to Citrus won the votes in Citrus but still lost the primary. The challenger who won the primary lives 72 miles away, in Tampa. That challenger got more votes from voters in that part of the district. [Citrus County Chronicle District 15 Primary Results](#)

Citrus County residents will have two main choices on the November ballot.

Both candidates are from Tampa!

This is the result of partisan gerrymandering for partisan gain!

This column isn't about my opinion about the candidates. This is instead to point out what happens when maps are contorted to keep a party in power.

We have our governor and our elected state legislators to thank for being the most gerrymandered congressional district in Florida.

***This column reflects my personal opinion as a voter and does not reflect LWV positions.*

Community Meetings September - October 2026

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Regular Meetings

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

Tues. Sept. 8, Mon. Sept. 21, Tues. Oct. 13, Mon. Oct. 26

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: Sept.8, Oct. 13

Workshops: 4th Tuesdays, 9:00 AM: Sept. 22,

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>

8/22

**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.



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.

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

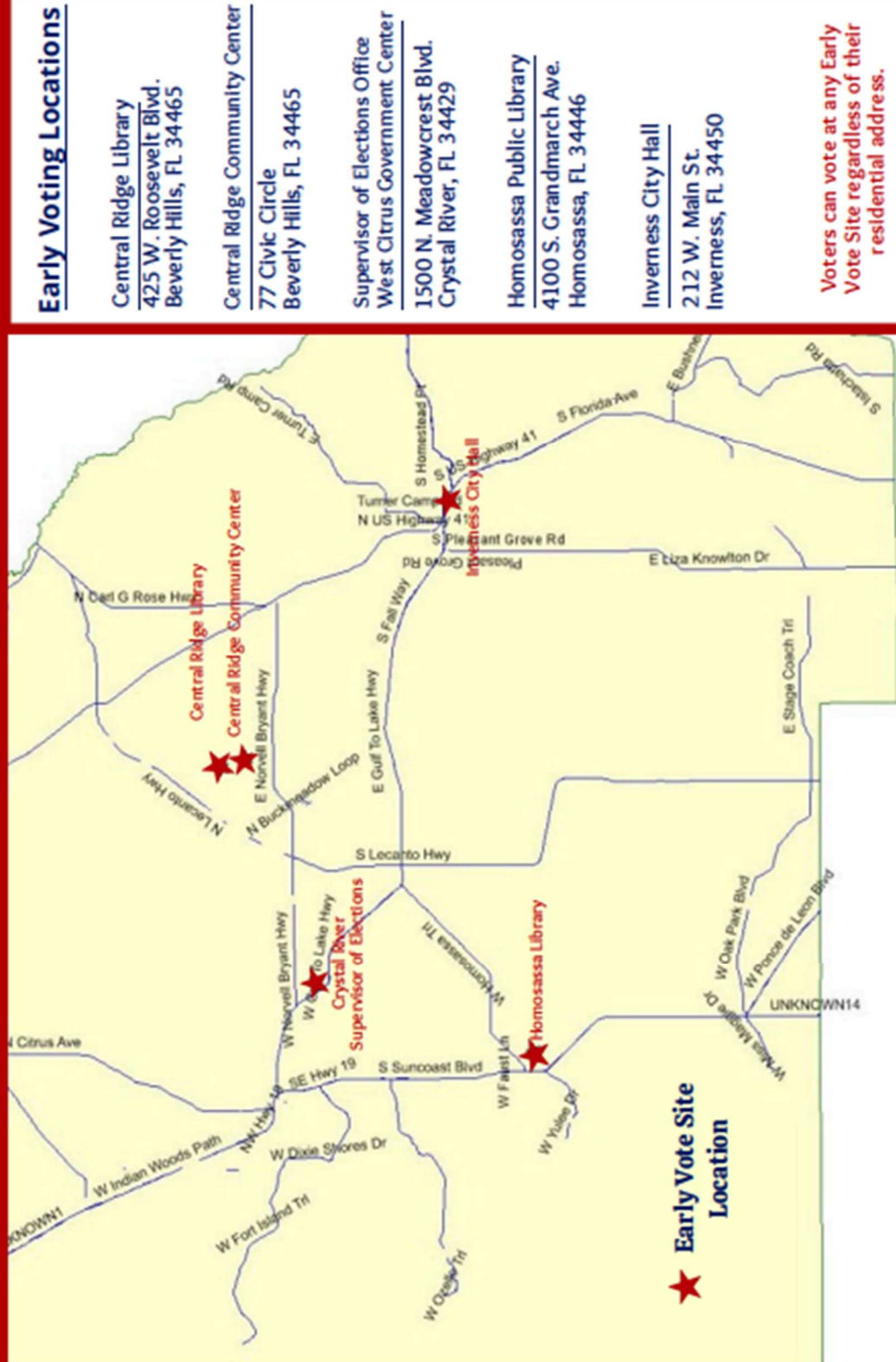
If you wish to research the platforms of local candidates, profiles and financial reports on local candidates are available at our website:

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



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

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

Civics Presentations

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

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



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



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
FOR FLORIDA CITRUS COUNTY

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>



This is an August, 2025 article by CNN. It features information on Rachel Newman, LWV of Citrus County member, by her permission.

Campuses reopen under Trump administration sexual assault rules critics say protect the accused more than survivors

College students are heading back to campus under sexual assault rules created during President Donald Trump's first term – ones that survivor advocates say offer more protections for students accused of sexual assault than those who survive it.

The Trump administration told schools in January that Title IX, the federal law that bans discrimination based on sex and governs how schools respond to complaints of sexual misconduct, will be enforced under 2020 rules after the Biden administration's version of the rules were only in place for a few months in 2024.

The policy change comes amid the Trump administration's monthslong campaign to pull funding from universities that refuse to toe the line on a host of issues, from diversity programs to transgender athletes and pro-Palestinian protests.

The revived 2020 guidance narrows the definition of sexual harassment, extending protections for students accused of sexual misconduct and adding requirements like live hearings with the potential for cross-examination.

Now survivor advocates are urging students to understand how these rules impact them as they head back to school and into the so-called red zone that puts students at an increased risk for sexual assault.

About 13% of all college students experience rape or sexual assault, with women ages 18 to 24 particularly at risk, according to RAINN, the nation's largest advocacy organization against sexual violence. And sexual

violence occurs at a higher rate from August to November, when students are making their way through their first semesters in college, RAINN's data shows.

Title IX's recent history

Enacted in 1972 to prevent discrimination based on sex in educational settings where federal money is funneled, Title IX allows for the government to terminate federal assistance to institutions that do not comply.

With precious funding on the line, universities have tiptoed through a maze of changing regulations over the years, with many developing specialized offices and staffing coordinators whose sole job is to help them stay compliant.

But Title IX's approach to sexual assault cases has never been perfect. It's often bogged down by bureaucracy and policy shifts between administrations, experts say.

In a 2011 "Dear Colleague" letter, the Obama administration implored institutions to take a more proactive approach to combatting sexual harassment, including sexual violence specifically.

"The era of rule by letter is over," then-Education Secretary Betsy DeVos announced in 2017, saying the Obama policies would be discarded and replaced with new guidance.

A 'pervasive' issue arises

Emma Grasso Levine was a student when the 2020 rules came out. She now helps students navigate those rules as a senior manager for Title IX policy and programs at Advocates for Youth, which fights for sexual health and equity for young people.

The new rules create a higher bar for requiring schools to intervene in cases of sexual harassment, stating the behavior must be so "severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive" that it deprives victims of access to their education.

“For instance, because the word ‘pervasive’ is in there, oftentimes that’s interpreted as having to have happened multiple times,” Levine said. “And so a student could report something that happened once, but that was pretty severe, but because it hadn’t happened multiple times, to meet that pervasive standard, the school is not required to respond to it.”

The 2020 policy also does not cover instances of sexual harassment or assault that occur outside official school settings, like off-campus apartments or study abroad trips, Levine said.

Some, like the free speech advocacy group Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression, support the 2020 regulations and the strengthened protections they bring to accused students.

The live hearings with cross-examination are essential to maintain due process amid sexual assault allegations, where so much is at stake, said Tyler Coward, FIRE’s lead counsel for government affairs.

“If a student is branded by their university to be essentially a sex criminal, and that’s on their record, and they face expulsion, good luck getting into any other college anytime in your lifetime,” Coward said.

“If we’re tasking universities to make these sometimes very difficult factual determinations, we should be doing everything we can to make sure that they’re actually getting these things right,” he noted.

While some lauded the rules as protecting the rights of accused students, sexual assault survivor advocates immediately expressed concern back in 2020, and it wasn’t long until the real-world impacts of the rules were revealed.

A ‘grueling’ process

Rachel Newman was a freshman at New College of Florida in October 2022 when she says she was raped in her dorm room, setting off her own experience with Title IX under 2020 rules, she told CNN.

“It happened when I was asleep, so I woke up to the rape, and I basically kind of ran through that night what I was going to do in the morning and who I was going to reach out to,” she said.

In the morning, she reached out to close family and friends and decided to get a rape kit.

Newman reached out to campus police, who engaged the school's Title IX office, and she started a complaint, she said. Despite a helpful Title IX coordinator, Newman said, it was the start to a "grueling" endeavor.

"I was just completely impacted. I did not leave my dorm room for weeks on end. I did not go to class," Newman said, for fear of running into her alleged attacker on campus – which she did. Her academic performance and mental health suffered, she said, and she developed a severe eating disorder.

Students involved in Title IX complaints are allowed to have an adviser of their choice to assist them through the process – be it a friend, parent, coach, lawyer or someone else. When the other student got a lawyer, Newman said she felt the pressure rising.

"I personally felt I would have been unprepared if I didn't get my own attorney, and I felt a lot of pressure to get an attorney. Luckily, I was able to find a resource that provided me an attorney pro bono, but so many people do not have that opportunity as a complainant," she said.

Because the other student unenrolled at the university, the school dismissed Newman's complaint, which it has the right to do under Title IX rules. Newman attempted to appeal the decision to no avail, she said.

"I felt like that was kind of like my last chance to kind of have any sort of justice in the situation," she said.

Newman also pursued a criminal case, she told CNN, but the state attorney decided not to pursue charges after the Title IX case was closed.

Because criminal charges were not filed and the Title IX case was dismissed, there is no record of the alleged rape beyond Newman's initial complaint with the university, she said.

New College of Florida confirmed a student with Newman's name was registered from 2022 to 2023, but declined to provide additional details, citing the sensitive nature of the matter. A spokesperson with the university directed CNN to its current Title IX policy.

The Twelfth Judicial Circuit Office of the State Attorney of Florida did not respond to CNN's requests for comment.

The whole process lasted about six months, most of Newman's freshman year. Dealing with the current Title IX process stoked a desire to make it more manageable for other survivors.

"In a lot of ways, it mimics the legal system and that can be a deterrent," she said. "It feels very intimidating."

In the nearly three years since her alleged assault, Newman sought treatment for their eating disorder and transferred to another university, where she is studying psychology and pre-law. She joined the group Know Your IX, led by Advocates for Youth, where she educates students about the regulations and push for policy changes. After graduating, she hopes to work in Title IX law.

"It leaves its mark, of course, but I look at all the work I've had the opportunity to do, and I know that it wouldn't have been possible if it weren't for what happened," Newman said.

Concerns about live cross-examination

Advocates for Youth created a 2021 report on the impact of the Title IX process on students, citing victim blaming, procedural issues and complaints that take more than a year to resolve.

The report describes a nine-hour hearing that a student who revealed intimate relationship details described as "utterly humiliating."

The live hearing process can be traumatic for sexual assault survivors, says Zoey Brewer, policy and grassroots coordinator with RAINN.

"From the students I've spoken with in the past, the live cross-examination is one of the biggest things that deter students from engaging in the Title Nine process," she said. "It's something that can be so retraumatizing if it's not handled in a really delicate and trauma informed way that it can entirely dissuade from some somebody from pursuing a formal investigation as an option at all."

Levine and other college students around the country spent years advocating for a change to the policy, which eventually came when the Biden administration released a new policy in November 2024.

The new rules expanded the definition of sexual harassment and eliminated the requirement for live hearings. They also included off-campus and international incidents and provided added protections for LGBTQ+ and pregnant students.

“Those pieces of the rule really came from the demands of student activists, youth survivors and Title IX advocates,” Levine said. “Many of us thought – or hoped – that we may have just won a huge victory for student civil rights under the Biden rule.”

That victory was short lived. The 2024 policy faced legal challenges in multiple states, and this January a federal judge issued a ruling that blocked the policy nationwide. Soon after, the Trump administration issued its own “Dear Colleague” letter, advising schools they must return to the 2020 policy created under DeVos.

Live hearings seen as ‘barrier’

The initial introduction of the 2020 policy sent ripples through the world of education, said Kayleigh Baker, a senior consultant who sits on the board of the Association of Title IX Administrators. The group helps support and train the coordinators who often staff these specialized roles.

“The 2020 regulations moved it from something that was administrative to something that often feels like a courtroom,” Baker said, who served as a Title IX coordinator under these policies.

The 2020 policy was implemented on campuses during the Covid-19 pandemic. Some of the live hearings for sexual assault complaints were virtual, but they still required live participation, Baker said.

The advisers students choose are tasked with assisting them through the hearing and cross examination. Some have raised concern this could disadvantage students who can’t afford a lawyer for the process.

Cross-examination under Title IX “isn’t what you see on TV. It’s a more moderated process,” she said. Coordinators are tasked with making sure the questioning is relevant and respectful, Baker said.

“This is not that scene in ‘Legally Blonde’,” Baker tells hearing participants, referring to the 2021 movie starring Reese Witherspoon. “If you as an adviser hope that this is your moment, you have come to the wrong place, because I’m not going to let that happen.”

Still, the prospect of a live hearing can be so daunting for students that some decide to forgo it altogether, she noted.

“I have talked with coordinators who say, ‘We have just as many reports (of sexual assault or harassment) but we have fewer complainants who are willing to go through the formal process,’” she said.

“I think the idea of this live hearing with adviser-led cross-examination is a barrier,” she added. “Even if the idea of it doesn’t necessarily match reality, right? There’s a perception problem.”

Baker emphasized resources are still available under Title IX for students who do not want to go through the formal complaint process. That could mean schedule changes, no-contact orders or academic flexibility, she said.

The brief introduction of the 2024 Title IX regulations sent some schools scrambling to make changes to adhere to the new regulations, which they now have to walk back, Baker said.

“It’s a tough pivot. They put a lot of work into changing their policies, and are having to go back to policies that, you know, they created four years ago,” she said.

The back-and-forth has been difficult for schools, some of which have had a hard time keeping Title IX coordinator positions filled, she said.

These coordinators now need to understand multiple versions of the law, experts note.

What happens next

The Department of Education hosts regional sites under the Office for Civil Rights which provide some oversight for the process and can handle claims from students who feel their schools are mishandling

sexual assault complaints. However, experts say many of those local offices have shuttered this year under the Trump administration's cuts to the Education Department.

With the 2020 regulations likely in place for the foreseeable future, student and survivor advocates say schools and states can implement their own policies, alongside Title IX requirements, to improve the process.

"There's no rule that says that schools and states both can't go above and beyond what the real bare minimum of Title IX is right now," Levine, with Advocates for Youth, said.

That's where the group's network of student advocates, like Newman in Florida, comes in. They are working to encourage schools to strengthen protections for sexual assault survivors, like extending school policy to include off-campus incidents.

Newman believes the Title IX process should continue even if a student unenrolls in a school. She would also like survivors to have greater access to legal support.

"I think that no complainant should have to pay for counsel," she said. "They didn't choose for any act of violence to occur against them, so they should not have to pay for an attorney."

Advocates are also pushing for state-level protections, which can provide some recourse for students who choose to forgo Title IX and pursue outside legal action, Levine said.

Across the nation, survivor advocates have been pushing to close intoxication loopholes in state laws that can prevent sexual assault survivors from getting justice if they were unable to consent after becoming voluntarily intoxicated.

The National Women's Law Center, which fights for gender justice, is involved in ongoing legal action to challenge the Trump administration's rules.

The back-and-forth on Title IX doesn't exist in a vacuum, Shiwali Patel, a senior director with the center, told CNN.

"This backlash that we saw was very much in tandem with backlash we were seeing around the #MeToo movement, this general outcry against survivors rights, allegations being treated seriously," she said. "The backlash also emerged in the Title IX context."

Advocates are drawing on practices that have proven to work for sexual assault survivors in other settings.

"There are ways to ensure due process is protected while still acknowledging the experience of sexual assault survivors, like using indirect questioning," Patel said.

"When they claimed due process protections," she said, "it was actually used as a dog whistle to require weakened protections against sexual harassment."

If you or someone you know has experienced sexual assault, you are not alone. Visit RAINN's National Sexual Assault Hotline for help. Call 800.656.HOPE (4673), chat at [hotline.RAINN.org](https://hotline.rainn.org) or text "HOPE" to 64673.



Vicki Boody Mourer – Great Women Series



Madam C.J. Walker: The Laundress Who

Built a Beauty Empire and Empowered Generations

Madam C.J. Walker proved that a woman's circumstances do not define her destiny. Born Sarah Breedlove in 1867 to parents who had been enslaved, she faced severe poverty, was orphaned at age seven, and became a widowed mother by age twenty. For years, she earned a meager living as a washerwoman. Yet, she transformed her struggles into a multimillion-dollar hair care empire, becoming America's first self-made female millionaire and a blueprint for women's economic independence.

Like many Black women of her era, Sarah suffered from severe scalp ailments and hair loss due to poor sanitation and harsh chemicals. Instead of accepting the status quo, she experimented with ingredients until she created her own healing formula. Renaming herself Madam C.J. Walker, she launched her signature product, "Madam Walker's Wonderful Hair Grower." She did not just sell ointment; she sold confidence, hygiene, and self-worth to women whom mainstream society ignored.

What truly sets Madam Walker apart is her commitment to lifting other women as she climbed. At a time when career options for Black women were largely limited to domestic service, Walker created a direct-sales model that offered real economic freedom. Her message to her agents was: "I want you to understand that your first duty is to humanity."

She opened beauty schools and trained a network of over 20,000 "Walker Agents." She paid them lucrative commissions, teaching them how to build their own businesses, budget their money, and achieve financial security. She famously stated, "I want the great masses of my people to understand that because a woman is born in a cabin, she does not have to remain there."

Walker believed that wealth was a tool to drive social change. She became a fierce activist and philanthropist, funding scholarships for women at Tuskegee Institute, donating to orphanages, and organizing her agents into civic clubs to fight against racial injustice. Madam C.J. Walker's life reminds us that true success is measured by how many doors we open for others. She reshaped the beauty industry, but her greatest achievement was proving that when women are given the tools to succeed, they can reshape the world.



This is from our August 12 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, September 23, 2026

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.



BE A KING: Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Dream and You

By Carole Boston Weatherford

You can be a King.
Marvel at creation.
Keep the faith of your ancestors.

You can be a King.
Know that bigotry hurts.
Remember how you felt when treated unfairly.

You can be a King.
Admit that you've done wrong.
Just say, "I'm sorry," and mean it.

You can be a King.
Know that dividing walls should come down.
You have glimpsed the other side.

You can be a King.
Break the chains of ignorance.
Learn as much as you can.

You can be a King.
Stand for peace.
Band together against bullies.

You can be a King.
Sing a song of freedom.
Keep your eyes on the prize; hold on.

You can be a King.
Stamp out hatred.
Put your foot down and walk tall.

You can be a King.
Answer your critics.
Believe in your cause and state it plainly.

You can be a King.
Have a dream.
Make yours great enough to grow into.

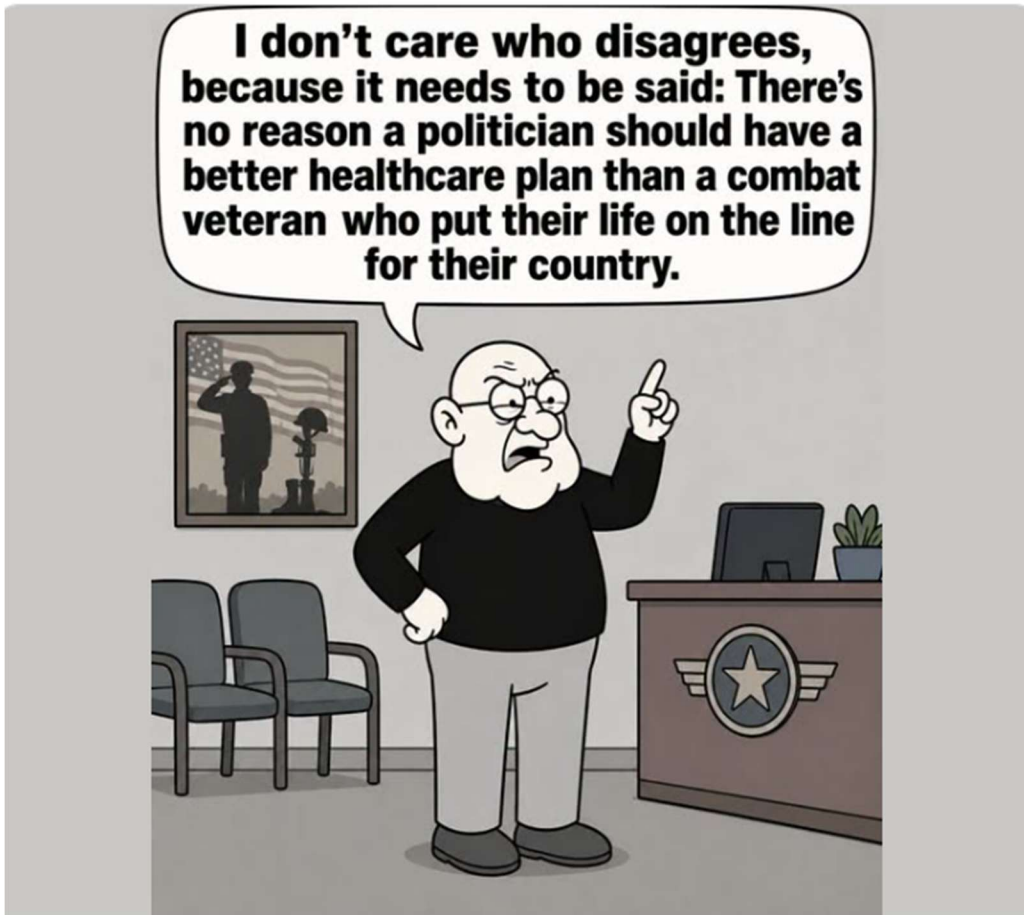
You can be a King.
Make the world take notice.
Do your best at whatever you do.

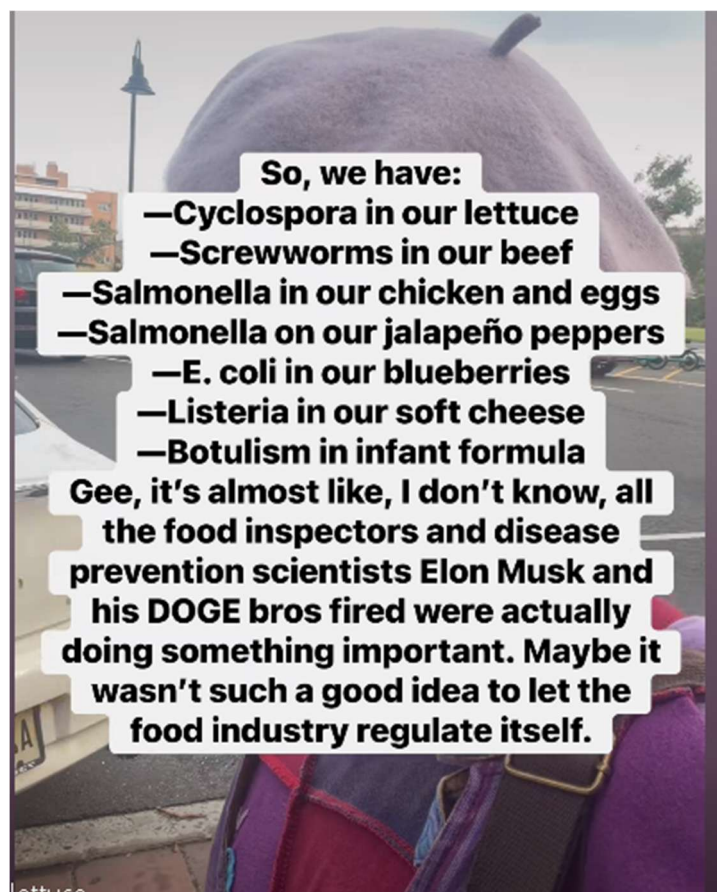
You can be a King.
Beat the drum for justice.
March to your own conscience.

You can be a King.
Lift up the less fortunate.
Be the King or Queen of Help.

You can be a King.
Set your sights on the mountaintop.
Climb a little higher every day.

IN THE NEWS for your consideration.







"THERE ARE DAYS WHERE I GET DISCOURAGED. THERE ARE MOMENTS WHERE I AM DEEPLY, DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED. AND, YES, THERE HAVE BEEN MOMENTS WHERE I HAVE STOPPED AND SAID, 'IS THIS WORTH IT ANYMORE?' AND EVERY TIME I DO THAT, I LICK MY WOUNDS FOR A WHILE, SOMETIMES I CRY. AND THEN I SAY, 'OK, LET'S FIGHT.'"

JUSTICE SONIA SOTOMAYOR



YES SHE CAN



Jimmy Carter **survived** brain cancer, a broken hip, and a fall that left him needing **14 stitches** at age **95**. The very next day, he **showed up** with a black eye... to **help** build homes for strangers and families in **need**.

FACTS & KNOWLEDGE

MY FELLOW AMERICANS,
WE ARE AND ALWAYS
WILL BE A NATION
OF IMMIGRANTS.
WE WERE
STRANGERS ONCE, TOO

Barack Obama

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
- Prevent complications
- Learn mindful choices for proper nutrition
- Enhance physical activity
- Strengthen personal support systems
- Build relationships with health care providers

August 27 – October 15, 2026

**Class meets every Thursday
2 – 4 p.m.**

Catholic Charities
6741 W. Gulf to Lake Hwy
Crystal River, FL 34428
(Next to Daystar)



Registration is Required

352-513-6137



Scan here to
register.

Citrus.FloridaHealth.gov





Maxine Connor, Natural Resources Chair

**NEWSLETTER ARTICLE FROM LWVCC NATURAL RESOURCES CHAIR
SEPTEMBER, 2026**

**LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Monthly Statewide Zoom Sept. 16 @ 5 pm-6 pm
with Dory Larsen, MPH,
Senior Electric Transportation Program Manager
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)**

**Don Wright Presentation on Hot Seas, Future Storm Threats, and the Impacts of Climate Change on
Florida's Gulf Coast – Available upon Request**

**Rethink Energy Florida Virtual Training Available
Webinar on Energy Affordability – Sept. 3 at 6 pm
Webinar on Effective Advocacy through Public Comment – Sept. 17 at 5:30 pm**

**Sierra Adventure Coast MeetUp September 16
with Don Hall on
Regeneration: Transform Yourself to Transform the World
Zoom and In Person – Open to the Public**

**31st Annual Save Our Waters Week
September 19-26, 2026**

**Chassahowitzka
River & Coastal Clean-Up - Sat., Sept. 19th**

**Sierra Club Florida: Stop Hyperscale
Data Center Expansion in Florida**

**Controversial Hearings
Betz Farm and River Oaks**

LWVFL Clean Energy Action Team Monthly Statewide Zoom Sept. 16 @ 5 pm-6 pm
with Dory Larsen, MPH
Senior Electric Transportation Program Manager
Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE)

Dory Larsen, MPH, Senior Electric Transportation Program Manager for Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, will be our guest speaker, and her topic will be the Transportation Electrification in the Southeast Report update as well as the I Drive a Used EV! Campaign. She will also share SACE's updated Toolkit and Fleet support for municipal governments. All LWVCC members will receive an email invitation with a link to register for the Zoom meeting. If you are not a member of the League of Women Voters of Citrus County and would like the link, email maxineconnor@gmail.com

The meeting is open to the public; please share with anyone interested.

<https://cleanenergy.org/resource/transportation-electrification-in-the-southeast-report-updated-2025-state-and-regional-data/>

Dr. Don Wright's Presentation Available upon Request:
Hot Seas, Future Storm Threats, and the Impacts of Climate Change on Florida's Gulf Coast

Dr. Don Wright has a PhD from the Coastal Studies Institute at Louisiana State University. He has been studying and continues to study Marine Science for all of his life. He a Dean Emeritus of the School of Marine Science and Director Emeritus of the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, College of William and Mary, as well as being Professor Emeritus there. More recently he was Director of Coastal and Environmental Research, Southeastern University Research Association (SURA), a Washington DC consortium of 60 universities. He is a renowned expert and author of over 230 publications including co-authoring a textbook, " Tomorrow's Coasts: Complex and Impermanent."

He has recently given his presentation via Zoom hosted by the League of Women Voters of Florida's Clean Energy Action Team, live and via Zoom to the League of Women Voters of Citrus County's monthly meeting, and live and via Zoom to the Sierra Adventure Coast Group (Hernando and Citrus County). He has graciously shared his slides and his PowerPoint narrative. Please email maxineconnor@gmail.com if you would like a copy of this critical information.

Here is a brief description of the first talk he gave:

Ocean heat content is the most robust indicator of climate change we have, and it is a key factor in forecasts of tropical cyclones (hurricanes, typhoons). The amount of heat stored in the oceans reached a record high in 2025. Florida's Gulf Coast is among the world's most vulnerable coasts due to warming seas. Global warming is a proven, non-political fact, not a hoax. We must prepare for, not deny, the coastal risks that lie ahead.

The dismantling of ocean and climate research by the current administration endangers us all.

Also, on August 25th, Sierra Club Florida posted some of the slides from Don Wright's presentation on their Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14oFW6RwN9k/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

Rethink Energy Florida Virtual Training Available
Webinar on Energy Affordability – Sept. 3 at 6 pm
Webinar on Effective Advocacy through Public Comment – Sept. 17 at 5:30 pm

Webinar on Energy Affordability: ReThink Energy Florida has partnered with Food & Water Watch to host a statewide webinar on **Thursday, September 3rd at 6 PM ET** to discuss how to build local power for affordable energy in your community!

During the webinar, they will discuss why electricity bills in Florida have skyrocketed, explore local solutions to make energy more affordable, and share how you can organize in your community to pressure elected officials to take action.

They will also share helpful resources and tools so that you'll leave feeling informed, empowered, and ready to take on the fight for affordable energy in Florida.

When Floridians are struggling with an affordability crisis and the threats posed by climate change and AI data center expansion, we must make our voices heard. Now is the time to learn, take action, and urge our elected leaders to support solutions that will win real improvements for our communities.

Sign up for the Energy Affordability Webinar, Thursday, September 3 at 6 pm ET here:

https://actionnetwork.org/events/how-to-win-affordable-energy-for-your-community?source=direct_link&

Webinar on Effective Advocacy through Public Comment: Also, join ReThink Energy Florida's Laura Pinto-Alton at **5:30 pm ET on Thursday September 17** for their next Training: **Effective Advocacy Through Public Comment.**

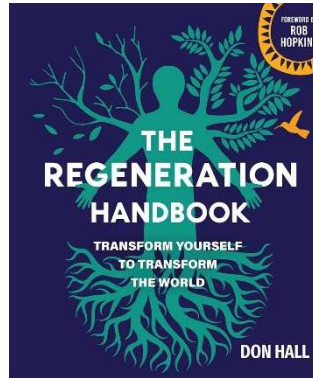
Whether in legislative delegation hearings or legislative committee meetings, there is often time for public comment. This is an effective way to gauge legislators' stances on issues and to let yourself be heard in a public setting. At this training, they will discuss and workshop speeches for committee and legislative delegation meetings.

Sign up for the Training Webinar: Effective Advocacy Through Public Comment
Thursday, 9/17/2026 at 5:30 ET

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/o5SdJtkWSE2NaNa5bgR27g>

Information from ReThink Energy Florida - <https://www.rethinkenergyflorida.org/>

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



**Join us for the September 16th 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.
Open to the Public**

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

If this hot link doesn't work when you click on it, copy and paste it into your address bar.

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, email sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com or call 352 277-3330. Find us on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and Bluesky.

Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group



31st Annual Save Our Waters Week
Theme: Conserve Water Today for Tomorrow
FEATURED ACTIVITIES
September 19-26, 2026

County Wide Annual Lakes, Rivers & Coastal Cleanup

Citrus County's 31st Annual Save Our Waters Week (SOWW), sponsored by Keep Citrus County Beautiful Inc., will be September 19-26, 2026, with the theme, "CONSERVE WATER TODAY FOR TOMORROW". The week, which promotes public appreciation and awareness to save our irreplaceable waters, features activities offered free to the public.

The week kicks off with the 37th Annual Lakes, Rivers and Coastal Cleanup on Saturday, September 19. Individuals and groups across the county are encouraged to participate. [Click here to register](#). Deadline to register is Friday, September 4. For more information call: (352) 201-0149. All participants will receive a Save Our Waters Week T-shirt.

Go here to see the **many featured activities** people can participate in. <https://www.kccbinc.org/save-our-waters.php>

Chassahowitzka River & Coastal Clean-Up Sat. Sept. 19th

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 37th Annual Lakes, Rivers & Coastal Clean-Up scheduled for Saturday,

Sept. 19th 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 3rd 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 to sign up.

Article Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Sierra Club Florida: Stop Hyperscale Data Center Expansion in Florida



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

Sierra Club Florida supports local community efforts to “hit pause” on hyperscale data centers by local governments. August 13, 2026, Sierra Club Florida committed to strengthen the efforts of residents and community organizations facing the growing threats and impacts of hyperscale data center development around the state. These data centers present more extreme environmental concerns than traditional facilities due to their large size and higher resource demands that result in extreme strain on energy grids, massive water consumption, wildlife habitat destruction, and severe noise pollution. Despite taking up vast amounts of land and receiving major state tax breaks, completed data center warehouses also employ very few permanent workers, offering little to no long-term economic benefit to local communities.

Brooke Alexander-Goss, Sierra Club Florida Organizing Manager, said, “Our communities need access to clear, reliable information and practical resources to address the impacts of AI-data center expansion around Florida. Sierra Club Florida’s

new citizens' toolkit will help empower residents to advocate for protections for the environment and the well-being of their communities."

Javier Estevez, Sierra Club Florida Political and Legislative Director, said, "Florida has a key opportunity to learn from residents across the country who have already experienced the impacts of hyperscale data centers and address those risks before they happen here. While the Legislature took the first step this session in addressing increased costs, we must do more to protect Floridians from the other impacts associated with AI-data centers, including dangers to public health and the environment. Sierra Club Florida is committed to helping residents understand these proposals, engage with local officials, and prepare their communities to meet the challenges ahead."

Robin Orlandi, Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group Citrus Conservation Committee Co-chair, said, "Citrus County residents showed what communities can accomplish when they come together to protect their water, environment, and quality of life. More than 200 residents turned out for a nearly nine-hour public hearing, and the county ultimately voted unanimously to deny the proposed data center application. This victory demonstrates the power of informed, organizing community advocacy, but the fight is far from over. As counties around Florida develop new protections against data center proposals, continued education and engagement will be essential."

Sierra Club Florida opposes poorly planned hyperscale facilities based on the energy, climate, water and ecosystem impacts. Hyperscale Data Centers are extremely large, resource intensive facilities designed to support cloud computing and artificial intelligence. Facilities are 100,000 to over 1,000,000 square feet, some spanning multiple millions of square feet for 5,000 to hundreds of thousands of servers, including dense GPU clusters for AI. They use from 100 to more than 500 megawatts of electricity, consume enormous amounts of electricity and water, and generate noise and air pollution from industrial cooling systems and diesel backup generators.

What's at Stake: In recent months, it has become clear that local governments aren't prepared for the rapid arrival of these types of facilities; there also aren't any regulations in place for them.

Extreme Strain on Energy Grids: A single large AI data center can consume as much electricity as 50,000 households. To support this massive demand, electric companies must upgrade infrastructure, which often drives up electricity rates for local residents.

Massive Water Consumption: Data centers require up to 5 million gallons of water a day for cooling systems to keep server racks from overheating. They often consume water directly from local drinking and municipal water sources, worsening water scarcity in vulnerable areas.

Public Health and Noise Pollution: A data center's industrial cooling fans and HVAC systems run continuously, creating a permanent high-decibel drone that disrupts sleep

and increases stress for residents, drives homeowners away, and decreases local property values.

Minimal Economic Benefit: Despite use of vast amounts of land and receiving major state tax breaks, completed data center warehouses employ very few permanent workers.

Sierra Club Florida Requirements for responsible development include 100% renewable energy standards, water and cooling standards, community protections from noise and infrastructure needs, location and site principles to prioritize already disturbed or developed sites, and resource responsibility on the use of water and electricity produced onsite or purchased locally. Hyperscale data centers can support technology innovation, but only if planned responsibly. Florida communities should not bear the environmental or financial costs of poorly designed facilities.

Take Action: Together, we can push back against data centers in our communities. Sign up for updates, support our work, follow us on social media, and check out our toolkit at

<https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/datacenters>

for information, resources, and materials to join us in this fight!

The first draft for public comment of the new **Citrus County Data Center Ordinance Amendment** will be released in early September, with a public feedback form available online, followed by a public Board of County Commissioners workshop before the final draft is scheduled for review before the Planning and Development Commission. Contact us at sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com.

Article and Opinion Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Two Recent Controversial Hearings

Betz Farm

PDC Hearing was August 20 - Denied

BOCC hearing will be October 13

The Citrus County Planning and Development Commission on August 20 at 9 am heard PUD (Planned Unit Development amendment) 2733, **Betz Farm Development of Regional Impact (DRI) – Pigeon-Ardurra LLC, on behalf of Bravo Land Group, LLC**. The amendment proposes 1,466 dwelling units at 3406 N Turkey Oak Drive in Crystal River. It was rejected by the PDC. It is 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. Our local Sierra Club believes that 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.

This paragraph and Opinion Expressed Herein Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

River Oaks – PDC Denied BOCC Approved

The County Commission on August 25th, 2026 at 5pm at the Citrus County Courthouse, 110 N. Apopka Ave, Room 100, Inverness, FL heard the following application: Kimley-Horn on behalf of Pulte Home Company, LLC had 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 BOCC approved this request with a 3 to 2 vote. Find the video of the BOCC meeting here:

<https://www.citrusclerk.org/728/BOCC-Meeting-Portal>

The Planning and Development Commission (PDC) denied this request on July 2nd, 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.

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 .

Excerpts Courtesy of Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group

Updated 8/27/26

LWV NATIONAL FROM THE WEBSITE

Voting Rights Groups React to Supreme Court Order in Trump v. California

The following statement can be attributed to counsel and Plaintiffs in *League of Women Voters Massachusetts v. Trump*:

"We're disappointed by this interim ruling by the Supreme Court in the separate but related case brought by certain states. However, the district court's order in our case blocking USPS from proceeding with the Rule remains in place, and we will fight to keep it that way or to secure new relief. It is important to note that today's ruling only addresses the timing of the state plaintiffs' challenge. It does not affect any voters' ability to cast a mail ballot. The Supreme Court did not rule on the merits of the executive order, and made clear: 'If the Postal Service's final rule harms the States, they may challenge that rule.'

"Voting rights organizations like the plaintiffs in this case have experienced first-hand the significant confusion that President Trump's executive order is causing right now. With the November election right around the corner, nonpartisan voting rights groups should be fully engaged in the vital work of educating all eligible voters to prepare to cast their ballots. Instead, plaintiffs and similar organizations are scrambling to understand how the rules may change while fielding inquiries from voters who rely on mail ballots and who are confused and fearful about how they will exercise their right to vote.

"President Trump's attempt to seize control of election rules from the states and Congress is clearly unconstitutional and unlawful, and with today's ruling, we will continue to vigorously pursue all available avenues to challenge this executive order. We are committed to protecting the right to vote, including full access to mail ballots for the millions of eligible voters who rely on them."

