



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
CITRUS COUNTY FLORIDA**

Vicky lozzia is the Editor of this newsletter.

Our mailing address is LWVCC. P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460

Our website is lwvcitrus.org

Our October 9, 2024 meeting, at 10:00 am, features Supervisor of Elections Mo Baird giving a presentation on Presidential Election Security. Vicky lozzia will give a presentation on the Amendments appearing on the 2024 ballot. It will be at the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River.

Our November 13, 2024 meeting, at 10:00 am, features – you! we Be ready to consider important local and state concerns to be addressed in future programs and actions. The meeting will be a mix of playful decompression and casual brainstorming about where we want to go in 2025. Bring your inner child and your peoplepower Wishlist! At the Coastal Region Library in Crystal River.

Please visit our Facebook page and "like" us!

<https://www.facebook.com/leagueofwomenvotersofcitruscounty>

HEAR YE, HEAR YE! FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO READ THE NEWSLETTER AND ATTEND OUR MEETINGS, THERE WILL BE TWO QUESTIONS ASKED ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE NEWSLETTER. IF YOU KNOW THE ANSWER AND ARE CALLED ON, YOU WILL WIN A PRIZE! STUDY FOR THE NEWSLETTER QUIZ!

HAPPY OCTOBER!

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2 9:00 am: LWV of Citrus County Board meeting on zoom	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: LWV General Meeting – Supervisor of Elections	10 7:00 pm: Live zoom meeting on Amendments 1 and 4. LWV Citrus members Rosemary Nilles and Peg Primeau	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 7:00 pm: Amendments on the November Ballot	18	19
20	21	22 1:00 pm: Board of Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

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**League of Women Voters
of Citrus County
ARE YOU PREPARED
for Election 2024 ?**



- * Mo Baird on “Presidential Election Security”
- * Vicky Iozzia on “Know the Amendments “

**Wednesday, October 9, 2024. 10:00 AM
Coastal Region Library**



Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Maureen “Mo” Baird will be the the guest speaker. She will give a presentation on Presidential Election Security.

Know the Amendments

Vicky Iozzia, LWVCC 1st President, will speak about the six Constitutional Amendments to the Florida Constitution. She’ll explain each amendment, and what a “Yes” or “No” vote will mean for each .

The Public is Invited: For more information please call 352-613-5056 or email lwwcc2013@gmail.com. Visit lwwcitrus.org and Face book page “League of Women Voters of Citrus County”.

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

**Are you prepared to vote on
the six Amendments on
your November Ballot?**

LWVCC is offering TWO
virtual events to help
voters understand the
impact of each.

Thursday October 10, 7:00-8:00 PM

“Ballot Amendments: YES on 4, NO on 1”

Peggy Primeau will explain the League’s position to support Limiting Government Interference with Abortion. Rosemary Nilles will explain our opposition to Amendment 1, Partisan School Board Elections. Speakers will provide time for Q&A.

Thursday October 17, 7:00-8:00 PM

“Florida’s Six Ballot Amendments”

Vicky Iozzia will explain each proposed Constitutional amendment, and what a “Yes” or “No” vote will mean for each. There will be time for Q&A.

Email lwwcc2013@gmail.com
for registration information.



Or go to lwwcitrus.org

then upcoming events then look below the calendar to get the link.

What Next?

For the League of Women Voters Of Citrus County

We're calling our November 13 meeting, "**What Next?**" With the 2024 elections behind us, we will be ready to consider important local and state concerns to be addressed in future programs and actions. The meeting will be a mix of playful decompression and casual brainstorming about where we want to go in 2025. Bring your inner child and your people-power wishlist!

Our meeting will be on Wednesday, November 13 at 10 am at the Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River, FL 34428.

The Public is Invited: For more information please call 352-613-5056 or email lwvcc2013@gmail.com. Visit lwvcitrus.org and Face book page "League of Women Voters of Citrus County".

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.



If you are interested in joining the League of Women Voters of Citrus County,

Fill out the form below and mail it to us at
LWVCC, P. O. Box 1903, Lecanto, FL 34460

Name _____

Address _____

Email address _____

Phone (home) _____

Phone (cell) _____

Individual \$65 _____

Household \$90

Student Free

Susan B. Anthony \$105*

Household \$150*

*Includes \$40 donation

Credit card name _____

Credit card number _____

Expiration Date, month and year _____

Dear Members and Friends of LWVCC, from the Board:

Raise your hand if you learned a lot at the LWVCC Meet & Greet; Greet these past 5 months!!

We sure did. We felt like real yentas, bringing together candidates who wanted to meet voters and voters who wanted to check out the candidates.

We made it look easy, didn't we? Well, it was sweat equity. We are all volunteers. We run on a shoestring budget. We are totally indebted to the Citrus Libraries for providing the venues for free, because we cannot afford to rent a room.

If you liked our programming and want the League to continue with imaginative, useful, nonpartisan, and free activities, please consider making a donation now. How?

Write a check to LWVCC and mail to:

LWVCC

PO Box 1903

Lecanto, FL 34460-1903

OR

Go to lwvcitrus.org Then go to the membership section and press "donation"

Find the DONATION button and fill in your info for payment by card.

Thank you!!

We are a nonprofit (501(c)4) but not a charity, and donations are not tax deductible.



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

The most stupid thing anyone ever told me

Many, many years ago, probably fifty years ago, someone said something to me that I will never forget. I can see right where we were, in the front yard of my neighbor's house in New York. He was a retired police officer. We were talking about elections and voting, and he said, "Nothing that happens in this election will ever have any impact on your life."

That was one of the most stupid things anyone ever said to me. That's why I remember it to this day.

Elections matter. Voting matters. What happens during an election can have a subtle or profound effect on people's lives. Whether people vote or not matters. Whether the cards are stacked against a group of people with gerrymandering maps matters. That is one of the reasons I am proud to be involved with the League of Women Voters.

This election is important. The League has been prohibited from registering voters as we have always done. Thousands of people who would be registered are not registered and will not have a vote. They will not have a say in what happens to our County, State, and Country.

No matter what happens, we will have issues to face, issues to fight for. Who will fight? Will people just go back to their day-to-day lives and not get educated, not participate in our governments?

After this election the League of Women Voters will still be here. We will educate and advocate. We will be available to speak at community meetings. We will have our monthly meetings. We will be there for you.

Will you be there for us? Please join us. Get to know us and participate in the activities we will do. Work on something you are passionate about. Time is precious, but we will not waste your time.

If you are interested in working on a project with the Board, please contact Vicky or Jan. There are many projects that we can participate in if we have the right people to do them. Contact Vicky at vickyiozzia@gmail.com, Jan at janhalldesigns@yahoo.com

Vicky's letter was published in the Citrus County Chronicle on August 31, 2024

Vote for a Successful American Economy

Although the polls are changing, they have said that Americans trust Trump more than Kamala Harris to handle the US economy. Let's look at the statistics.

Here are the companies that went out of business under Trump's leadership and how long each one lasted: Trump Steaks 7, Go Trump (travel website) 1, Trump Airlines Shuttle 3, Trump Vodka 3, Trump Mortgage 1, Trump: The Game 27, Trump Magazine 12, Trump University 5, Trump Ice Natural Spring Water 7, Tour de Trump Cycling Race 8, Trump Network (sold vitamins and health products) 14, and Trumped! Radio Program 4.

The following Trump companies sought bankruptcy protection: Trump Taj Mahal, Trump's Castle, Trump Plaza Casinos, Trump Plaza Hotel, Trump Hotels and Casinos Resorts, and Trump Entertainment Resorts/

Kamala Harris bankruptcies ---wait for it -----Zero. Vote like your pocketbook and the economy of this country depends on it, because it does.



Our **August 14, 2024 meeting** featured **Attorney Denise Dymond Lyn** to speak about the judicial system. If you were foggy on the judges and courts, you were clear when she explained it to our audience.

She explained the types of courts (appellate, trial, county, circuit, and district), the different districts in Florida, the differences between trial and appellate courts, and the various courts' jurisdiction.

By the time you read this the primary will be over, but here are the candidates who spoke. They each had a maximum time of three minutes to speak. After introductions each participant was at a table space to answer questions and speak to our attendees.



Citrus County Judges Group 3, Amber May Thomas and Lisa Elaine Yaeger



Fifth Circuit Judges Group 7

Erin Daly

H Derek Saltzman



Fifth Circuit Judges Group 13

Judge Heidi Davis



Zach McCormick



Fifth Circuit Judges, Group 20

Ben Boylston



Barbara Kwotkosky Kissner

If you missed these presentations, we missed you. You can see it and the rest of the meeting on youtube, <https://youtu.be/joR8RVmDJvM>

September 11, 2024 General Meeting

Our September 11 meeting at the Coastal Region Library at 10:00 am featured Vicky Iozzia taking about Misinformation and Disinformation. Candidates were invited for the Meet and Greet, with the following results: in the US House District 12 contest, Gus Bilirakis appeared in a recording. The two candidates for the Citrus County Mosquito Control Board Seat 2, John Cino and Stephanie Adams, appeared in person. Vicky Iozzia, with her “Madam President” hat and “Vote” earrings, spoke about



Building Resilience
to
Mis/Disinformation



Stephanie Adams and John Cino, candidates for Mosquito Control, spoke.

For those people who read the newsletter, we will be offering the opportunity to answer a question about one of the articles to get a prize.

This month's winners are: Gabrielle Satchel and Karen Rittweger



YOU can see the meeting on youtube, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joR8RVmDJvM&t=270s>



Jeanne Messersmith, Secretary

Voters who receive a ballot for the November 5th General Election will see on the ballot that they need to vote for two of our State Supreme Court Justices and seven 5th District Court of Appeals Judges. Who are these people and why are they on the ballot? The justices and judges on the November ballot were appointed by Governor DeSantis in 2022 and 2023, upon recommendation of a judicial nominating commission (with the majority of its members appointed by the Governor). They serve terms of six years and are eligible for successive terms under a “merit retention vote” by the electors in their district. Newly-appointed justices must stand for merit retention by the voters in the first general election following their appointment - they face voters in a “yes” or “no” vote as to whether they should remain in office.

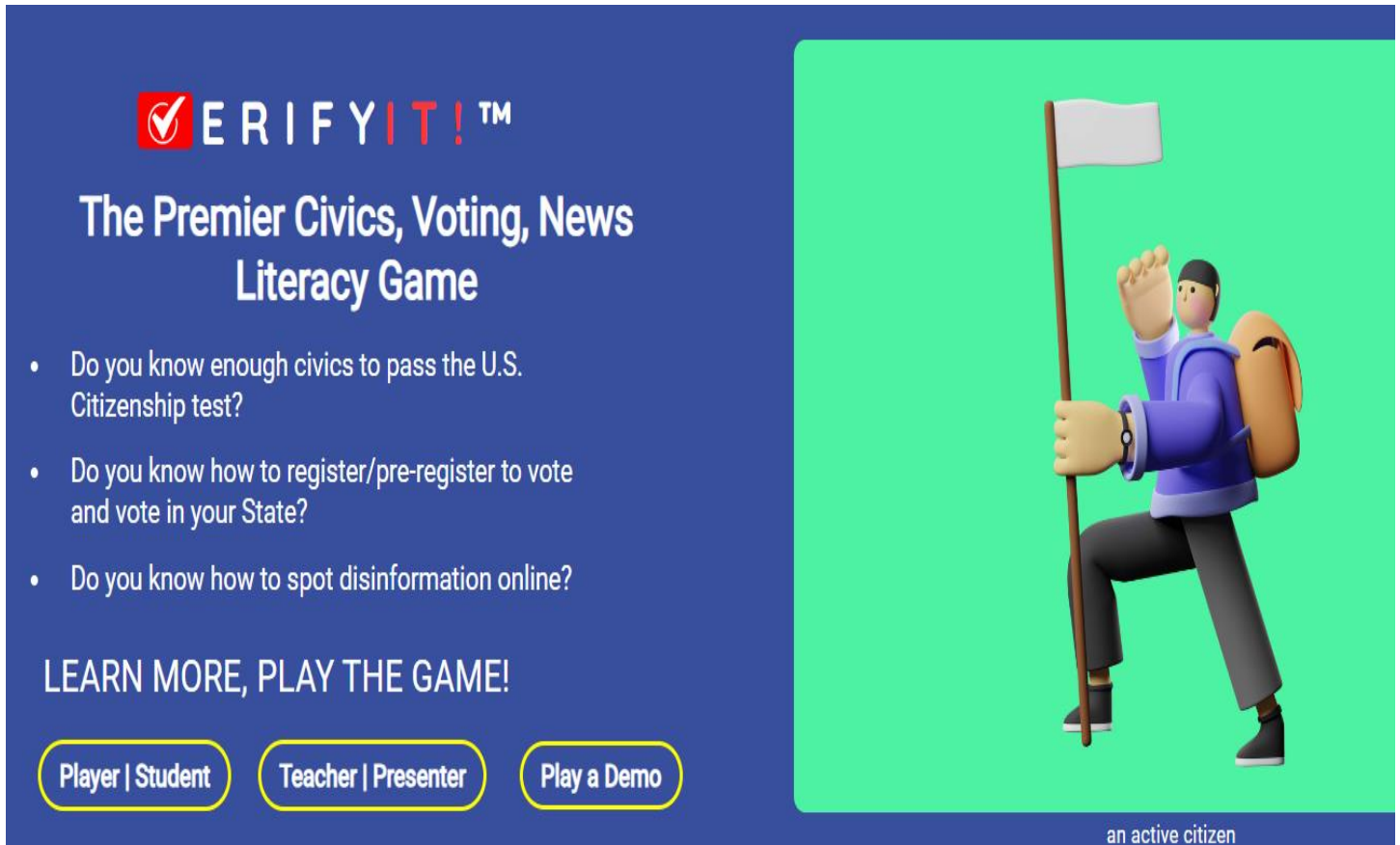
All judicial races are required, by Florida statute, to be non partisan (Statute Section 105.701). Judges are to make impartial decisions that relate to the law on the cases before them without prejudging any issues. They swear an Oath to Office and abide by a Code of Judicial Conduct’ Voters can search for further information online at

<https://supremecourt.flcourts.gov/About-the-Court/Florida-s-Court-System>

Or <https://5dca.flcourts.gov/>

IN THE NEWS:

Did you know that the League of Women Voters has a civics, voting, news, and literacy game called “Verify it?”? To play, go to playverifyit.org and you can test your knowledge.



VERIFY IT!™

The Premier Civics, Voting, News Literacy Game

- Do you know enough civics to pass the U.S. Citizenship test?
- Do you know how to register/pre-register to vote and vote in your State?
- Do you know how to spot disinformation online?

LEARN MORE, PLAY THE GAME!

Player | Student Teacher | Presenter Play a Demo

an active citizen

Did you know that you can go on Ballotpedia.org/Sample_Ballot_Lookup and it will load your sample ballot? Now you know.



Peg Primeau, 2nd President, Reproductive Rights Chair



Another reason to vote Yes on Amendment 4.
(IPV is intimate partner violence.)

"Once pregnant, women in abusive relationships are at even greater risk for violence. Peripartum women are twice as likely as nonperipartum women to be killed, and rates of homicide against peripartum people are higher in states with more restrictive abortion laws.² Firearms are used in two thirds of IPV-related homicides against peripartum people.² Most states with abortion bans don't require relinquishment of firearms by people who have been convicted of domestic violence (see [table](#)), leaving abusers with the means to usurp women's reproductive autonomy and endanger their lives. The combination of high rates of IPV and broad access to firearms in the United States puts women at particular risk for violent death. Black women are at greatest risk for homicide during the peripartum period.² "

Elizabeth Tobin-Tyler and Samuel Dickman
 New England Journal of Medicine, July 20, 2024 (391:289-292)



VOTE NOV 5TH
YES ON 4

Limit Government Interference with Abortion

End the 6-week Abortion Ban

Learn more about the campaign, volunteer, and support the work. Scan the code or visit yes4florida.com

Paid political advertisement paid for by Floridians Protecting Freedom, Inc., Post Office Box 4068, Sarasota, FL 34230.

Messaging “Do’s”

- Center patient impact always. A compelling story highlights the devastation caused by Florida’s extreme abortion ban.
- Always bring up that Florida’s ban has no real exceptions for rape, incest, and health of the woman.
- Remain nonpartisan. Remember that this campaign isn’t partisan or connected to any political party.
- Lean into the binary choice voters will have in November:
 - A “yes” vote means: Ending Florida’s extreme abortion ban, saving women’s lives and health and getting government out of our exam rooms & medical decisions.
 - A “no” vote means: Keeping Florida’s extreme abortion ban, putting government/politicians in charge of our healthcare and putting women’s health & lives at risk.



VOTE YES ON AMENDMENT 4 TUESDAY NOV. 5

END THE EXTREME ABORTION BAN!

YES ON 4 yes4florida.com

Paid political advertisement paid for by Floridians Protecting Freedom, Inc., Post Office Box 4068, Sarasota, FL 34230.

What Is Amendment 4?

IT'S SIMPLE: IT STOPS FLORIDA'S EXTREME ABORTION BAN.

No. 4
Constitutional Amendment
Article I, New Section

Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion

No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.

Stops the extreme ban that has no real exceptions, and puts politicians in charge of women's healthcare.

Gives women and doctors the freedom to make healthcare decisions.

Maintains existing parental rights protections in Florida's constitution.

VOTE YES ON 4

Keep Government Out of Our Healthcare Decisions

Does this initiative undo parental consent?

No. What this Amendment WILL do is end Florida's extreme abortion ban.

We agree strongly that parents should have the right to advocate for their child's health, safety, and well-being. And the voters have already spoken on that subject. As it says in the Amendment itself, it does not change.

Does this initiative provide taxpayer funding for abortion?

No. It ends Florida's extreme abortion ban.

Does this initiative allow people who aren't doctors to provide an abortion?

No. It ends Florida's extreme abortion ban.

Healthcare Providers must be licensed to provide healthcare: "Healthcare provider" is used throughout Florida law. They are regulated by the state and must follow medical ethics and the standards of practice or risk losing their licenses. Healthcare providers must be licensed and qualified to provide the particular healthcare at issue. Nothing in Amendment 4 changes that.

You don't go to your dentist for heart surgery, and no one would go to a massage therapist for an abortion. Healthcare providers are all bound by their scope of practice, standards of care, and ethics. Many doctors, like ophthalmologists for example, are not qualified to administer abortion care. These ridiculous, false claims are only meant to scare and confuse voters.

Does this initiative allow elective abortion up until nine months, or abortion after birth?

No. Abortions this far into a pregnancy are extremely rare and are the result of a fetal abnormality or serious risk to the health of the mother. Deborah Dobert's story is a tragic example of what happens when this care is banned.

Abortion after birth is not abortion. It's murder, which is a felony. Amendment 4 does not change that.

What does viability mean?

Viability is defined in Florida law as "the stage of fetal development when the life of a fetus is sustainable outside the womb through standard medical measures." [390.011\(15\)](#) Every pregnancy is different and so is the exact determination of viability. A hard cutoff is politicians making a decision that should be made by a doctor, and is harmful to women.

What does healthcare provider mean?

A healthcare provider is defined by law in Florida's Patient Bill of Rights as "a physician licensed under chapter 458, an osteopathic physician licensed under chapter 459, a podiatric physician licensed under chapter 461, or an advanced practice registered nurse registered under s. 464.0123." [381.026](#)

 **YES ON 4**
yes4florida.com



Rosemary Nilles, LWVCC Education Chair, 1st Vice President

What a successful spring and summer it has been for League of Women Voters of Citrus County! This column will wrap up LWVCC's election events to date, and inform you of our election related activities yet to come.

First, we want to thank each candidate who participated in our Meet & Greet series which began in April and just ended. It has been a pleasure to interact with so many thoughtful individuals. Your voices helped to inform voters about the important choices ahead. LWVCC offers our sincere congratulations to each candidate who was elected to the office s/he was seeking. For those who didn't win their primaries, we trust that you will find other opportunities for public service.

Special thanks to the staff of Citrus County Libraries, particularly those at Coastal Region Library, who graciously helped to accommodate each candidate and participant. And thank you to the staff of the Citrus Springs Community Center for working with us! We sincerely appreciate each of the speakers who led off the meetings by sharing important and timely information. And of course, we are grateful to the many members and friends who take seriously their responsibilities as voters.

In the final weeks before the November election, LWVCC will continue to offer voters the information needed to make informed choices.

At our October 9 meeting, Citrus County Supervisor of Elections Maureen "Mo" Baird will speak first about presidential election security. Next, Vicky Iozzia, LWVCC 1st President, will speak about "Florida's Six Ballot Amendments."

She'll explain each proposed Constitutional amendment, and what a "Yes" or "No" vote will mean for each. Our meeting takes place at 10:00 AM on Wednesday October 9th at Coastal Region Library, 8619 W. Crystal Street, Crystal River FL 34428. All our meetings are open to the public.

LWVCC is also hosting two virtual events, to ensure that voters understand the Amendments. These Zoom meetings are open to the public, and advance registration is required.

On Thursday October 10, from 7:00-8:00 PM, LWVCC officers Peggy Primeau and Rosemary Nilles will host a virtual meeting, "Ballot Amendments: Yes on 4, No on 1." This live Zoom meeting will focus on Amendment 1, Partisan School Board Elections and Amendment 4, Limit Government Interference with Abortion and will explain the League's positions on each. The speakers will provide time for QandA. Click on this link to register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkde-orz4iHdGtsbf_UfAIMJiqbwkJYGS4. (Also found on our lwvcitrus.org webpage under Upcoming Events.) Or, contact lwvcc2013@gmail.com.

On Thursday October 17, from 7:00-8:00 PM, Vicky Iozzia will host a live Zoom meeting. She will review "Florida's Six Ballot Amendments" for anyone who missed our in-person meeting. Click on this link to register:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclcemqT8sH9KHe_NKqKk5MSp78XhSbxPB. (Also found on our lwvcitrus.org webpage under Upcoming Events.) Or, contact lwvcc2013@gmail.com.

As another avenue for informing the electorate about Florida's Six Ballot Amendments, LWVCC will also publish a column in the Citrus County Chronicle. The column will offer basic facts, background information, the meaning of Yes and No votes, and pros and cons of each.

Our LWVCC Speakers Bureau is available to speak at your community meeting

or event. We can speak on various election, legislative, and voting topics. Contact lwwcc2013@gmail.com to arrange a speaker.

Finally, we remind voters to visit the Citrus County Supervisor of Elections website, www.votecitrus.gov. There you will find information about updating your registration information or signature, requesting a mail in ballot, early voting, sample ballots, and other important election information.

CITRUS COUNTY PUBLIC MEETINGS

Make your voices heard!

Public comments welcome at specified times at each meeting.

Board of County Commissioners (BOCC)

Meetings 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 1:00 PM

Citrus County Courthouse, 110 Apopka Ave. Inverness

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Go to Citrus County BOCC/Departments/Commissioners

Citrus County Government meetings are livestreamed on the Citrus County Government You Tube Channel.

Also broadcast live:

Comcast - Channel 71, Spectrum - Channel 643

Citrus County School District (CCSD) School Board

Meetings 2nd Tuesday, 4:00 PM

1007 Main St. Inverness 34450

Agenda & watch meetings online:

Go to Citrus County School District/School Board tab/ Board

Agenda and Minutes or View School Board Meetings

Citrus County Library Advisory Board

Meetings 4th Tuesday of every other month, 8:00 AM

Tues. Aug. 27, Oct. 22, Dec. 3, 2024

Lecanto Gov't Bldg., 3600 W. Sovereign Path, Lecanto 34461

For more information:

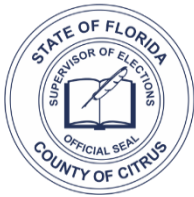
Go to Citrus Libraries/Support/Library Advisory Board

OR Citrus County/BOCC/Special Library Board



Linda Abels, Membership Chair

WELCOME NEW MEMBER
MARCIE TUEGEL!



Maureen "Mo" Baird
Supervisor of Elections

2024 CANDIDATE DATES TO REMEMBER

ELECTIONS

REGISTRATION BOOK CLOSINGS ♦ F.S. 97.055

General Election

October 7, 2024

EARLY VOTING ♦ F.S. 101.657

General Election

October 21, 2024 to November 2, 2024

Primary Election dates listed are tentative and subject to change by the Florida Legislature.

VoteCitrus.gov

352-564-7120

Citrus County Supervisor of Elections ~ PO Box 1870 ~ Lecanto, Florida 344



Jan Hall, 2nd Vice President, Events, Media

SAVE THE DATE !!

**For the LWVCC Holiday Luncheon
Wednesday, December 11, at Glory Days Grill
Guest Speaker: Sheriff Elect David Vincent**



The luncheon is in the making. For now, please mark your calendar. We will send out invitations and more details when we have the plans in place. You won't want to miss this celebration!

From the Department of Health



A MATTER OF
BALANCE

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT FALLING?

Many older adults experience concerns about falling and restrict their activities. A MATTER OF BALANCE is an award-winning program designed to manage falls and increase activity levels.

This program emphasizes practical strategies to manage falls.

Participants Learn to:

- View falls as controllable.
Set goals for increasing activity.
- Make changes to reduce fall risks at home.
- Exercise to increase strength and balance.

Who Should Attend?

- Anyone concerned about falls.
- Anyone interested in improving balance, flexibility and strength.
- Anyone who has fallen in the past.
- Anyone who has restricted activities because of falling concerns.



Coastal Region Public Library

8619 W. Crystal Street,
Crystal River, FL 34428

Thursdays

9:30am to 11:30am
10/17/2024-12/12/2024

To Register Contact:

Kathryn Defranco

Kathryn.Defranco@flhealth.gov
352-513-6083

Or Scan



SPACE IS LIMITED!

This is a FREE 8-week workshop. Each class is 2 hours long and meets once a week. We look forward to having you!



Elder Affairs
FLORIDA



We can help YOU take CONTROL of your diabetes!

Program Goals Include:

- Enhance and maintain your quality of life.
- Prevent complications.
- Learn mindful choices for proper nutrition.
- Enhance physical activity.
- Strengthen personal support systems.
- Foster relationships with healthcare providers.

Central Ridge Library
 425 W. Roosevelt Blvd., Beverly Hills, FL 34465
 Dates: 1/27/25 - 3/17/25
 Day: Mondays
 Time: 4PM-6PM

This is a FREE 8 week workshop.

Registration is Required

Contact:

Kathryn DeFranco

Kathryn.DeFranco@flhealth.gov

OR

Mark Pagan

Mark.Pagan@flhealth.gov

Scan QR code:





Maxine Connor, Natural Resources Chair

PROPOSED LAND SWAP

Sierra Club Florida is circulating a sign-on letter to organizations and businesses to oppose a land swap. This land is in the northwestern section of Hernando County along the southwestern border of Citrus County.

The issue:

“Right on the heels of the attempted assault on our state parks is the proposal to declare as surplus a 324-acre parcel of land in the Withlacoochee State Forest (WSF) in order to facilitate a swap of the parcel for a privately owned 860-acre stand of pine plantation in Levy County. For another golf course.

- Tampa Bay Times: Florida OK'd giving 324 acres of state forest to golf course company The land swap, which still need final approval, was separate from the controversial initiative embroiling Florida's environmental agency (9/2)
- Golfweek: Cabot, environmentalists at odds over proposed state land swap to expand Citrus Farms in Florida (9/6)”

The 324 acres of land Cabot has tried to acquire in a land swap sits just west of Citrus Farms golf course (formerly World Woods) and stretches less than a mile wide to the Suncoast Parkway, a major toll road. Highway 98 runs just south of the resort and the patch of Florida State Forest, which provides a wildlife corridor since the toll road was completed.

The LWVCC board will vote on whether to sign on to the letter. A copy of the sign-on letter will be sent to members of LWVCC. Please share this information with any other businesses or organizations that you belong to or who may be interested.

FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL ACTION ALERT: TAKE ACTION NOW

RE: FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DRAFT HARM RULE – PLEASE SHARE THIS MESSAGE:
COMMENT DEADLINE OCT. 2

Copy and paste this address: <https://mailchi.mp/1b3137b0a5dc/harmrule2023-6414765?e=7c69ade77d>

The Department's blatant and continued disregard for its mission and the law has eroded the faith of the people of Florida in a once respected institution. It has become so captured that it now represents only the most greedy and destructive part of Florida's regulated industries lobby.

Will you take 30 seconds to tell FDEP to put the brakes on permits that harm our springs?

If you've advocated against the "Nestle" permit in the past or made a donation for a "Bottle This" t-shirt, then this is the next action you should take to protect our springs from over-pumping. We know our springs are suffering significant harm from over-pumping. But, it shouldn't be this way. FDEP is required by law to adopt a strong water use permitting rule that prevents harmful withdrawals. We need you to speak up for our springs and tell FDEP to adopt the Florida Springs Council's more protective rule. Over 620 activists have already sent emails this year telling FDEP to adopt rules that would actually prevent harm to Outstanding Florida Springs. At the Harm Rule Workshop, DEP said the public comment period will end on Oct. 2 - Help us reach our goal of 800 emails sent before the comment period ends!

COPY AND PASTE THIS LINK TO SEND AN EMAIL TO THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION!

<https://floridaspringscouncil.good.do/springsharmrule/HarmRule2024/>

What's wrong with FDEP's proposed draft rules?

After delaying action for eight years, FDEP proposed a draft rule that is essentially a copy and paste of past, ineffective rules. The Florida Springs Council drafted a water use permitting harm rule that will actually protect Outstanding Florida Springs. We're asking FDEP to adopt this rule instead. You can find a copy of FSC's draft rule attached to the appendix of our letter to DEP

here: COPY AND PASTE <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1n6KOscDj8NzomKHss3DUTd>

x2t0ZCOh65/view?usp=sharing

“Florida’s been messing up both by handing out water consumption permits with all the restraint of an unscrupulous dentist handing out Halloween candy to trick-or-treating future patients...Send him emails and leave him voicemails with the same message. As we learned during the Great DeSantis State Parks Debacle, he does respond to public shaming.” - Craig Pittman, Florida Phoenix, “DeSantis ignores law requiring new rules to protect Florida springs”

Read the full article by Craig Pittman: COPY AND PASTE <https://floridaphoenix.com/2024/09/26/desantis-ignores-law-requiring-new-rules-to-protect-florida-springs/>

We ask that you take 30 seconds out of your day to send an email to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. We’ve even made it easy by creating a pre-written email. All you have to do is fill in your information and a subject line. Then, you can share the action with your network of springs lovers!

Send an email to FDEP. COPY AND PASTE here: <https://floridaspringscouncil.good.do/springsharmrule/>
Let’s work together to save our springs and stop harmful withdrawals. If you’ve already taken action, attended FDEP’s public workshop or shared the information on social media, thank you!

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FLORIDA SPRINGS COUNCIL SPRINGS SUMMIT – OCT 19 TH AT STETSON LAW SCHOOL, GULFPORT, FLORIDA

A one-day event, free to attend, but you must register: COPY AND PASTE <https://www.floridaspringscouncil.org/>

HEAT IN THE WORKPLACE: FOCUS OF OCTOBER 16 TH @ 5 PM LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA CLEAN ENERGY ACTION TEAM MONTHLY ZOOM
LWVCC members: watch your email inboxes for a notice coming soon. If you’re not a member, email maxineconnor@gmail.com for the meeting invitation.

RIGHT TO CLEAN WATER FLORIDA CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT
The petition drive for the 2025 ballot is now underway.

Learn more or volunteer here: COPY AND PASTE

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

CLIMATE ACTION NOW APP

Download the Climate Action Now App (free) and take planet-saving action on your phone in seconds. COPY AND PASTE

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

From our Florida League Co-Presidents

Hello League members,

I want to take this opportunity to give special thanks to our fabulous voter services team of volunteers that has been working for months to produce the Voter Guide and update VOTE411 this year. We all look forward to getting the Guide, either online or in print before each general election. Well, the final version has gone to press and will be delivered on September 29, 2024.



I'm going to start at the top with Monica Elliott. In addition to being on the Board of Directors and LWVFL Secretary, Monica also chairs the state's Voter Services committee. Her management team is made up of three incredible leaders who assist in ensuring fair voting processes and smooth-running elections. Lanelle Phillmon manages voter registration and GoTV, Ronnie Heller is LWVFL's election protection guru, and Heidi Davis helms Vote411 and the Voter Guide.

Today, I want to acknowledge and give special thanks to Heidi and her Vote411/Voter Guide team. Without Heidi's skilled hand, our award-winning election product would not be available. All of the behind-the-scenes computer work that allows voters to simply enter their name and address on the site and have their ballot magically appear was done or overseen by her. The candidate's responses to questions can be viewed and compared easily and the voter's choices can be readily printed to be carried to their polling location if they vote in person. Heidi gathered the team, set the schedule, and shepherded the troops to finish ahead of schedule. She is quite simply, amazing.

In addition to Heidi, who worked on all aspects, she had an incredible team that supported the effort including, Monica Elliott, Amy Keith, Kelly Williams, Ronnie Heller, and Lanelle Phillmon who reviewed Federal and State candidate questions along with Cecile and me. Spanish language translations were done by Poder Latinx, David Williams, Pamela Maldonado, and others. Heidi trained our local Leagues on data entry and processing in coordination with LWVUS.

The very heavy lift of Candidate Outreach (contacting State and Federal candidates) was done by Jody Lehman, Jane Gross, Pam Militello, Sandy Frank, Marsha Ellis, Gwen Wagner, Lanelle Phillmon, Ronnie Heller, Baylene Finn, Amanda Ortscheid, Lynn Paul, Patti Bartels, Monica Elliott, Vicki Smaridge, Jo Crook, Denise Elliott, Jo Hoffman, Laura Hansen Reynolds, Victoria Olson, Diane Phillips Deb Shimon, Larry Pearson, Joyce Sullivan, Kris King, Terry Rimer, and Mary Hanrahan who made over 450 calls!

Our state leaders did not act alone. Local Leagues worked hard getting their candidates to respond to the questions. It is not an easy task, but these diligent members called, emailed, begged and coerced candidates to respond with remarkable results.

Palm Beach County, the only local League that produces a printed version of their local Guide, once again did a fabulous job raising funds for the printing, layout design, and distribution. The guide will be taken to local libraries, assisted living facilities, and other locations for the public to access. It will be in the October 6 print issue of the Palm Beach Post and Sun Sentinel.

The local PBC members who worked on 2024's Voter Guide at the direction of Joyce Sullivan are Carol Carnevale (Copy/Editing), Kris Serbesoff-King (Candidate Contact), Becky Haltermon Robinson (Vote411 specialist), Maria Velez (Graphic Artist/Production), Christene Campbell-Gabor (Distribution), Rebecca Cohen (Local Questions), 27 member volunteers distributing 40,000 copies in Palm Beach County, and 16 others that supported each facet of the process.

It takes a great team to produce such a wonderful product, and we are proud to have the best. Please join Cecile and me in honoring each of these hard workers and thanking them for their tireless dedication and service to the League.

In League,



Debbie Chandler, Esq.
Co-President

Dear League members,

Today, on a dock, I watched two Florida pelicans fly across a bay. They were unfettered and glided by me as I heard the sound of their flapping wings. **What freedom!**

At the same time, I thought sadly of the ways that Floridians are having their freedoms stripped away every day by government intrusions and citizen-attacking investigations.

Debbie and I have received many emails and texts about the governor's efforts to try to challenge the integrity of the signed Amendment 4 right to an abortion petition. SOEs are providing names and investigators are knocking on doors and asking questions. **To our knowledge, this attempt to decertify a citizen's initiative, already on the ballot, has never been done before. What a scary effort to try to hold onto power and to diminish the voices of citizens who worked hard to get a citizen initiative passed.**



We have heard of similar efforts in Texas, where investigators are checking on Hispanic organizations that register people to vote. They are pushing this false claim that illegal citizens are fraudulently voting across the nation. When you hear that comment or concern, please share that the Brennan Center and the CATO Institute both found that the evidence of non-citizens voting is minimal and that non-citizens do not vote illegally in detectable numbers.

This fall, we can fight against some of these intrusions and falsehoods. **We need to express to our friends and our communities, that each of our votes is our opportunity to protect our freedoms as is this message that rings true in almost every citizen's ears.**

We can say to our neighbors and people that we meet, that we need to work together, by voting, to return Florida to the freedom-loving place that it used to be—free from unreasonable book bans, free from deletion of Black history because some may be uncomfortable, free from the government telling women and their healthcare providers when and how health care will be given and when a woman's life must hang in the balance before her doctors can intervene and provide needed care. These limitations and assaults on our fundamental rights are not freedom!

By activating ourselves and energizing those around us and sharing how every vote impacts something that each one of us, cares about, we can turn the tide against the belief that a person's vote does not matter. Once we help citizens connect the dots between voting and issues close to their hearts, then we will be able to work to remove some of these voter suppression bills and these oppressive voting investigations.

We all want to return to our sense of safety and freedom which was exemplified by my feathered friends early this morning. **Let's address everyone where they are and speak to their concerns as we uplift the power of a vote protect democracy and empower voters!**

In League,



Cecile M. Scoon, Esq.
Co-President

From Debbie and Cecile,

If someone knocks on your door or contacts you to ask about your signature on the petition to put Amendment 4 on the ballot, please make sure the person identifies themselves and displays a badge when asked to. **Write down the name of the person and the agency they are with BEFORE you respond to their questions.**

If you have been contacted or are contacted regarding your signature on the petition, please contact League co-presidents Cecile Scoon (cecile@lwvfl.org) & Debbie Chandler (debbie@lwvfl.org).

And, if you know of family, friends, or colleagues anywhere in the state who have been approached regarding their signature on the Amendment 4 petition, we would appreciate knowing that also.

