

2022 NONPARTISAN VOTER GUIDE



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The League of Women Voters of Florida works day in and day out to educate Florida's voters ahead of each election. The League of Women Voters is proudly nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to our members and the public.

It is a great honor to present our 2022 Nonpartisan Voter Guide ahead of this November's general election. This guide is one of the key ways we can share relevant information about statewide candidates and ballot initiatives with you. This guide also serves as a resource to ensure citizens are prepared to vote and aware of changes in our state's voting laws since 2020.

Please note the following changes in Florida law that could affect how you vote this year:

1. **Drop boxes, or "secure ballot intake stations," are no longer available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.** The boxes will only be available during specific hours, which vary by county. Floridians working double shifts or day shifts during regular business hours will likely need to plan out when they'll drop off

BY CECILE M. SCOON, ESQ., LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT

their completed ballot or ensure that their signed mail ballot is mailed with enough time to reach your local supervisor of elections office by 7:00 p.m. on November 8.

2. **A person can no longer collect and turn in more than two signed vote-by-mail ballots as a volunteer unless the ballots belong to an immediate family member.** This new provision means that many elderly and disabled individuals may not be able to receive assistance in delivering their ballots. These individuals will need to plan to drop off their own ballot, give their ballot to an immediate family member to turn in, or mail the ballot with enough time for it to arrive.

3. The League and other organizations can no longer provide "comfort assistance" within 150 feet of voting precincts. This means **no more water or snacks handed out to those waiting in line to cast their vote on Election Day.** In many locations, the League and other organizations will have volunteers present to help voters and provide refreshments near the precincts, but not within the legally mandated 150-foot exclusion zone.

4. Be aware if anyone is giving you a hard time at the precinct or polling location when you are voting. **Call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) if you think you're experiencing voter**

suppression or intimidation while trying to cast your ballot. Do not suffer in silence!

5. If you know anyone with a **prior felony conviction and they are unsure about whether they can vote**, please ask them to call the League's dedicated help-line at **407-710-5496** or email **canivote@lwvfl.org** so we can refer a pro bono attorney to help them as soon as possible.

Anyone can check their voting status right now by visiting the League's election information website: **VOTE411.org**. At this website, you will be able to see if there are any issues with your voting information, make updates if necessary and conveniently get even more localized election information!

The League of Women Voters is ever vigilant in our efforts to educate, activate, and motivate citizens to become informed voters. If you are interested in helping us carry out our mission, please consider joining the League. **Our democracy depends on the participation of the people. In this time of great political divide, voting brings us together as Americans.** Democracy is not just for the few, but is owed to everyone. **Let's all vote like our lives depend on it, because they do!**

GETTING TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES: U.S. SENATE

The United States Constitution prescribes that the Senate be composed of 100 members (two Senators from each state). One third of the total membership of the Senate is elected every two years. Senators must be at least 30 years of age, a citizen of the United States for at least nine years and be a resident of the State from which s/he is chosen at the time of the election. Senators write and vote in favor of or against final bills and serve on various policy committees.

Val Demmings, Democrat

Campaign Website: valdemings.com

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

In the United States Senate, I will prioritize the issues that matter most to Florida families like lowering the cost of living, including gas prices and housing, and fighting to make our communities safer. Everyone should be able to work hard, play by the rules, and achieve the American Dream, and they deserve to achieve the American Dream while living in safe communities. As Orlando's Chief of Police, we were able to reduce violent crime by 40%, the largest reduction in the city's history. I know what it takes to do the hard work, fight the tough fights, and get things done, and that's exactly what I'll do in the United States Senate.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy?

We know that we need to rebuild trust in our democracy. As a law enforcement officer of 27 years, I know how important it is for people to have trust in the institutions of our country, and how precious that trust is. In the United States Senate, I will work to rebuild trust and foster faith in our democracy. I would support legislation to combat attempts to misinform voters trying to make their voices heard in our elections, secure the right to vote, and make participating in our elections more accessible for more citizens. We must hold America to its promise and ensure that we truly are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

My friend and former colleague John Lewis said the right to vote was precious, that it was almost sacred. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and we must do everything in our power to protect it. As a law enforcement officer, I spent 27 years enforcing the laws, and now I get to write them. In the United States Senate I will fight to pass voting rights legislation that protects the right to vote and establishes national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot box.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support?

I spent 27 years at the Orlando Police Department, so believe me when I say that I take any and all threats to the people of Florida very seriously. I do believe that climate change is an emergency, and that Florida stands to pay a terrible price in the form of stronger hurricanes, sea level rise, and more. Unless we act, climate change will cost countless lives and trillions of dollars in damage, not only in Florida, but across the country. In the United States Senate, I will proudly support climate legislation that will create jobs and grow our economy by investing in new green tech and other efforts to stop climate change and prepare for its impacts.



Marco Rubio, Republican

Campaign Website: marcorubio.com

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

No response.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy?

No response.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

No response.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support?

No response.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

No response.



Important note

Representatives of the League of Women Voters of Florida contacted this candidate via numerous emails to their campaign website and campaign personnel. Several phone calls were also made with no response. This candidate had not submitted a response to the League's questionnaire at the time of publication. Please go to VOTE411.org for any updates.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

Only good federal legislation codifying our rights into federal law will protect our rights. In the House of Representatives, I've fought to pass legislation that would protect a woman's right to choose and keep interstate travel for those seeking reproductive healthcare legal. Anti-choice extremists want to use our law enforcement officers to jail women and doctors, instead of the criminals that they should be trying to catch. I spent 27 years in law enforcement, and I will fight to ensure that our officers can focus on fighting crime and keeping our communities safe, not targeting women and doctors. I will always stand up for a woman's right to choose, and fight to pass federal legislation that codifies Roe and access to contraceptives.

GETTING TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES: GOVERNOR

The Governor is an elected constitutional officer and the highest state officer in Florida. A governor serves as the chief executive officer of a state. Everyday job duties include oversight of the state's executive leaders, policy review, as well as big picture budget management. Serves 4-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. The Governor's 2021 salary was \$134,181.

Charlie Crist, Democrat

Campaign Website: www.charliecrist.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

I am running for governor because I am the candidate who can defeat Gov. DeSantis. I am running to restore the voice of the people in Tallahassee, to restore the voice of reason and civility in government, and to follow the Golden Rule so that all Floridians are treated with respect and dignity by their governor. I am running to protect our freedoms, the right for women to make their own decisions about their health care and their bodies, the right to vote, and the rights of LGBTQ+ Floridians.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy.

What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis?

I will restore billions that have been diverted from the Sadowski Trust Fund back into housing affordability programs, and I will seek to repeal a DeSantis state law that permanently cut funding to the trust fund in half. I will appoint a housing czar to work with local governments on creating local housing affordability solutions. I will take on Wall Street firms that are buying up houses by helping local government limit their purchases and raising the documentary stamp tax on those purchases.

What would you do to protect Florida's environment and address climate change?

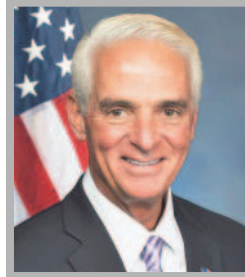
My Clean Water for All plan includes reducing run-off by strengthening regulations and "best management practices" on agricultural lands, implementing recommendations from the harmful algal bloom task force, supporting water storage and wetland restoration on private property, removing all septic tanks and banning new ones in urban areas, and fully funding the Department of Environmental Protection. I will add 1 million new solar roofs and set ambitious renewable energy goals.

How would you expand voter registration and ensure access to the ballot for all eligible voters?

I will reverse the DeSantis limits on mail ballots, allow Florida to automatically register to vote anyone who seeks a driver's license, move the primary election to spring to increase turnout, make Election Day a state holiday, make it easier for the governor and Cabinet to restore felons rights as I did as governor, and demand that lawmakers allow felons who have completed their sentences to register to vote as Amendment 4 intended while continuing to pay fines, court costs and restitution.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

Yes, because women have a right to make their own health care decisions. On Day 1 of my administration, I will issue an executive order to protect the right to choose as it stood under Roe v. Wade, and I will start gathering signatures for a constitutional amendment to erase any doubt that abortions will stay legal in Florida. If DeSantis gets lawmakers to adopt new restrictions in November, I will veto every Republican bill until they are repealed.



Ron DeSantis, Republican

Campaign Website: www.rondesantis.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

No response.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis?

No response.

What would you do to protect Florida's environment and address climate change?

No response.

How would you expand voter registration and ensure access to the ballot for all eligible voters?

No response.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

No response.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence?

No response.



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Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence?

I support closing loopholes regarding background checks, cracking down on ghost guns and gun trafficking, requiring the reporting of guns that are lost or stolen, banning the sale of assault weapons, lengthening the waiting period for buying a gun from three days to five days, strengthening our red flag law so that family and household members can petition the court to remove guns from persons at extreme risk to commit violence, and allowing local communities to make decisions on gun safety.

GETTING TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES: CABINET CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer (CFO) is responsible for overseeing the state's finances: paying bills, collecting taxes, monitoring investments, and auditing state agencies. Also serves as the State Fire Marshal and oversees the insurance, banking, and funeral industries. Is one of three elected members of the Governor's Cabinet. Serves 4-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. The 2021 salary was \$132,841.

Adam Hattersley, Democrat

Campaign Website: www.adamforflorida.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

Service has been the main focus of my professional life (from nearly a decade in the US Navy to serving in the Florida House of Representatives), and the CFO's office hasn't had a true public servant occupying the position since Alex Sink finished her term. Florida's citizen's need a watchdog on the Cabinet that is going to look out for their interests instead of the political interest of the CFO's party. Major issues: Insurance and Government Accountability

What do you believe is driving Florida's property insurance crisis? What do you plan to do as the CFO to remedy the situation?

Bad regulations/regulators, poor legislative framework, and a CFO's office that doesn't protect consumers. We need an Insurance Commissioner who has a strong background in insurance, and who prioritizes consumer protection. Additionally, we have to revamp current regulations to make FL attractive for both insurance companies AND consumers to see benefit from the industry, that way we can bring new providers back to the state, lower risk, increase competition, and reduce rates for policyholders.

What do you think should be done to stabilize the housing and business insurance markets against major environmental disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and fires?

Look at what other states in similar risk zones have done to be successful, and implement those good policies. Nearly all other southern states face the same hurricane risk FL does, yet we are the only ones in an insurance crisis. We can't be afraid to adopt working policies just because the idea didn't originate in the CFO's office.

The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated a major flaw in the Florida unemployment system, in both technical and monetary compensation aspects. What would you do to fix both problems?

Re-design the system from the ground up with beneficiaries in mind, instead of the current system (which is a roadblock to assistance).

Identify improvements that you would make to the State Board of Administration.

Take partisan politics out of the decision-making process - for example, FL could have divested from Russian companies at the start of the Ukraine invasion. Instead, the SBA stayed in Russia (and in fact has increased investments there) even in the face of nearly 90% losses - seemingly only because Democrats asked them to divest.



Jimmy Patronis, Republican

Campaign Website: www.joinjimmy.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

No response.

What do you believe is driving Florida's property insurance crisis? What do you plan to do as the CFO to remedy the situation?

No response.

What do you think should be done to stabilize the housing and business insurance markets against major environmental disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and fires?

No response.

The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated a major flaw in the Florida unemployment system, in both technical and monetary compensation aspects. What would you do to fix both problems?

No response.

Identify improvements that you would make to the State Board of Administration.

No response.



Important note

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GETTING TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES: ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer of the the state, responsible for enforcing laws, protecting consumers, protecting civil rights, and defending the state in court actions. Is one of the three elected officials who make up the Governor's Cabinet. Serves 4-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. The 2021 salary was \$132,841.

Aramis Ayala, Democrat

Campaign Website: www.aramisayala.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

Floridian's fundamental rights are being attacked and big corporations continue to corrupt the process. We need a fighter, As Florida's next Attorney General I will fight to protect our constitutional rights, build safer communities, and establish an economy that works for everyone. When elected I will make an immediate difference protecting women's rights and bodily autonomy. I will also ensure that our voting rights are protected and our democracy not only survives but thrives.

Will you pledge to uphold constitutional amendments approved by the voters?

Support.

The fines and fees system disproportionately impacts people of color and people living in poverty. What would you propose to change this situation?

Yes. As a former Assistant Public Defender, Assistant State Attorney and elected State Attorney I witnessed first-hand the poverty penalty it is impact on Black, Brown, and poor people. We must start addressing this harmful practice that eliminates driver's license suspensions based on failure to pay court fines. Additionally, juveniles should be exempt from these fees in order to avoid the lifelong trap and cycle of incarceration often unrelated to violent crime.

How would you enforce the Florida Sunshine Law and Public Records Law to ensure public access to governmental meetings and records?

Enforcement of Sunshine Law and Public Records Law must be consistent. The failure to consistently investigate and enforce the law send the message that it is flexible and easily undermined. Justice requires consistency. As Attorney General I would promote legislation that increases penalties for violations of Sunshine and Public Records Laws. The increased penalties would prove how serious of a crime it is to investigators, prosecutors, and those who may be tempted to violate the laws.

How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the special agents dedicated to investigating alleged election law violations and ensuring transparency on their findings to the public?

It will be important to hear from and include local election officials in the process. They have taken seriously their obligation to the people of Florida, long before what seems to be a manufactured problem, as best.

The effectiveness will be based upon comparing investigative activity, looking for consistency and not discriminatory a practice. At all times, my office will remain a distinct entity so that our findings will be independent and will not require approval from another agency.

Many Floridians are concerned about becoming a victim of consumer fraud or identity theft. What additional protections, if any, will you pursue as Attorney General?

One of the first things I am prepared to launch when I take office is an investigative unit that focuses on insurance company practices in Florida. Not only are we facing high insurance premiums, many have paid for coverage for years, only to see companies pack up and close business. This has left far too may Floridian's paying the price of fraud. Focusing on economic injustices will lead to more freedom and justice for all.



Ashley Moody, Republican

Campaign Website: www.ashleymoody.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

No response.

Will you pledge to uphold constitutional amendments approved by the voters?

No response.

The fines and fees system disproportionately impacts people of color and people living in poverty. What would you propose to change this situation?

No response.

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No response.

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No response.



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GETTING TO KNOW THE CANDIDATES: COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

The Commissioner of Agriculture safeguards the public through testing and inspection of food products, regulation of deceptive and unfair business practices, reduction of wildfires, promotion of environmentally safe agricultural practices, and management of public lands. The Commissioner also supervises the issuing of various state vocational licenses licenses to carry concealed weapons or concealed firearms. Is one of three members of the Governor’s Cabinet. Serves 4-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. The 2021 salary was \$132,841.

Naomi Blemur, Democrat

Campaign Website: naomiblemur.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

As the granddaughter of farmers, a community advocate, a local business owner, and a mother, I am running because we need a strong leader in Tallahassee that will advocate for small farmers, clean water, renewable and sustainable energy, and a better environment for our families and children. My two most important causes are to create community farming and advocate for small farmers to get access to capital.

What steps would you take to address food insecurity?

I want to analyze what our state is able to produce and expand on Community food farming. As a commissioner of agriculture, I will build a robust community food farming that will empower families across the state to grow their own fruits and vegetables. I will advocate for and support the development of those small, family owned market businesses.

What are the key issues of concern for Florida consumers, and what ideas do you have to improve the Division of Consumer Services?

Families and individuals being unable to purchase homes is the largest issue facing Florida consumers, forcing them into an unregulated renting environment. Additionally, too many firearms are making it into the hands of those who shouldn’t have them through unregulated loopholes. These issues are consumer regulation issues and are among the first I’d address. I would advocate for a statewide tenant bill of rights and vet concealed weapon licenses applications because our lives depend on it

What is the most important issue facing agriculture and forestry in Florida? Please explain why it is important.

Drought, produce protection, and our farmer’s mental health. Our markets need to protect our farmers and reduce consumption from other countries on what we can produce. Droughts are affecting livestock and farmers’ mental health triggering an increase in suicide rate; this is an issue that has gone unaddressed and is severely impacting our agriculture industry.

What measures do you propose to better manage agricultural runoff of fertilizers and other pollutants which contribute to harmful algae blooms and reduced water quality?

I would advocate to invest in water recycling & recollection. I will hold the parties responsible for the contaminated water, responsible and meet with experts to educate farmers on best practices to avoid pollutants being in ground water and other running water.



Wilton Simpson, Republican

Campaign Website: www.wiltonsimpson.com

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

No response.

What steps would you take to address food insecurity?

No response.

What are the key issues of concern for Florida consumers, and what ideas do you have to improve the Division of Consumer Services?

No response.

What is the most important issue facing agriculture and forestry in Florida? Please explain why it is important.

No responses.

What measures do you propose to better manage agricultural runoff of fertilizers and other pollutants which contribute to harmful algae blooms and reduced water quality?

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Florida’s Supreme Court

The League of Women Voters of Florida believes an independent judiciary is crucial to the administration of justice at both the federal, state and local levels. In Florida, Supreme Court and appeals court judges are appointed by the governor from a list of candidates compiled by a nominating commission.

For a FAQ on Florida’s Supreme Court go to LWVFL.org

The Florida Bar has published a survey of its members on whether judges on the ballot should be retained. The survey can be found at this link: bit.ly/3SprIW9



Guide to Proposed Constitutional Amendments for 2022

Amendment 1

Limits on increased property assessment for flood improvements

Source: Florida Legislature

Quick summary: Many home improvement projects ultimately increase the assessed value of a home, which means the homeowners pay higher property taxes. This amendment would allow the Florida Legislature to pass laws that would make improvements intended to protect homes from flood damage exempt from higher assessments. The amendment is in response to the threat to Florida homes from rising sea levels.

A YES VOTE ON AMENDMENT 1 WOULD:

- Authorize the Florida Legislature to pass laws that would exempt flood resistance improvements from contributing to increases in property assessments. That means property owners wouldn't pay higher taxes because of those improvements.
- Exempt flood resistance improvements such as "elevating structures, filling basements, and waterproofing," as well as improvements "to allow for stormwater runoff, waterproofing basements, installing check valves capable of preventing water backup, and elevating furnaces, heaters, and electrical panels."
- Take effect Jan. 1, 2023.

A NO VOTE ON AMENDMENT 1 WOULD:

- Maintain the status quo, which means homeowners' flood resistance improvements might result in higher property assessments and higher taxes.



Amendment 2

Abolish the state Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)

Source: Florida Legislature

Quick summary: An amendment to Florida's Constitution can get on the ballot several ways, including through a vote by the Legislature, a citizen-led petition drive, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission and the Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC), which convenes every 20 years and whose 37 members are appointed by the governor, legislative leaders and the chief justice of the Florida Supreme court. This amendment would abolish the CRC, which last convened in 2017-18 and placed eight amendments on the 2018 ballot, several of which bundled different amendments into one question. Several of the amendments bundled different proposals into one ballot question. The League finds it important to note that this amendment comes after repeated attempts by the state Legislature to significantly restrict Florida's citizen-led initiative process.

A YES VOTE ON AMENDMENT 2 WOULD:

- Eliminate the Constitution Revision Commission, which was created in 1968 and meets every 20 years to consider changes to the state Constitution.
- Leaves four ways for a constitutional amendment to get on the ballot: through the Legislature, a citizen-led initiative, constitutional convention, or the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission.

A NO VOTE ON AMENDMENT 2 WOULD:

- Preserve the state's Constitution Revision Commission and its ability to present amendments to the voters every 20 years.



For additional information on how amendments get on the ballot go to [LWVFL.org](https://www.lwvfl.org)

Amendment 3

New \$50,000 homestead exemption for certain public service employees

Source: Florida Legislature

Quick Summary: This amendment would authorize the state Legislature to create a new, homestead exemption of up to \$50,000 for certain public service employees, including "classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and members of the Florida National Guard." The exemption means property owners in these professions can subtract up to \$50,000 from the assessed value of their property, which will reduce their local property tax bills. The exemption would be in addition to the standard \$50,000 homestead exemptions Floridians already receive on their primary residence. The new exemption would not apply to assessments for school taxes. The Legislature has already passed a companion bill that, if the constitutional amendment is passed by 60% of Florida's voters, will create the new exemption and make it effective on Jan. 1, 2023.

A YES VOTE ON AMENDMENT 3 WOULD:

- Allow the Legislature to create a new, homestead exemption of up to \$ 50,000 for people in certain public service professions
- Exclude the exemption from assessments for school property taxes.
- Cost local governments \$85.9 million in lost revenue for fiscal year 2023-24, growing to \$96 million in fiscal year 2026-27. The state would make up for the losses in Florida's 29 "fiscally constrained" counties, primarily rural counties in the Panhandle and South Florida's interior.
- Trigger a companion bill that puts the new exemption into effect as of Jan. 1, 2023.

A NO VOTE ON AMENDMENT 3 WOULD:

- Reject giving lawmakers the ability to create a new homestead exemption for certain public service occupations of up to \$50,000
- Have no effect on property tax revenue collected by local governments.
- Render moot the bill that would have created the new homestead exemption if the amendment had passed.

Redistricting & The Sunshine State

BY CECILE M. SCOON, ESQ., LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA PRESIDENT

Since the 2020 election, Florida's state Legislature has enacted numerous measures that impact how Floridians vote and how their voices are heard. One of the ways that Florida citizens' voices are either elevated or muted is by the process of **redistricting**.

Redistricting is the process of drawing new district maps for states and local communities. By determining which neighborhoods, cities, and other jurisdictions are included in each mapped boundary, redistricting affects how our communities are represented in the federal, state, and local government, as well as determining how resources are distributed. Redistricting lines are drawn every 10 years after the conclusion of the decennial Census. The state Legislature is tasked with redrawing maps for congressional districts as well as their own state House and Senate districts. The results of the Census determine the number of representatives each state will receive in the U.S. Congress. The results of the 2020 census reflected that Florida's population had grown, and our state in turn was awarded one additional congressional seat, giving Florida 28 representatives out of the 435 in total.

Below are key terms related to the process of redistricting that all voters should know:

- **Gerrymandering** is the process where redistricting lines are drawn unfairly to favor one political party over another, sometimes harming racial minorities and language minorities.
- **Cracking** is a type of gerrymander. Cracking is when mapmakers break up a cluster of a certain type of voters — people from a specific party, race, or language group — and spread them among several districts, diluting their vote.
 - *Cracking example: If a district were comprised of 60% racial minority, that allows voters to elect a representative who meets the needs of that 60%. Then a line was drawn leaving 25% of the population in one district and 35% of the population in another district, then neither of the two districts would have enough of a minority population to select a representative to meet their needs.*
- **Packing** is another type of gerrymander.



This is when members of a political party, race or language minority are all packed into one district so that they only get one representative of their choosing when they should have been divided up so that the party or minority group could select two representatives of their choosing.

- *Packing example: In some areas, it would take around 48% of a minority group to select a representative of their choosing. When 90% of the minority group is placed in that district, all votes over the 48% are wasted, as they do not get an additional representative. It would be preferable to leave the 48% in one district and place the 42% in the next district so minorities have an opportunity to select two representatives of their choosing.*

- In Florida, the people have the right to propose amendments to the Florida Constitution through a petition process, this is commonly known as a **Citizen's Initiative**. Sponsors of these initiatives must secure the required number of valid signatures for their initiative to be placed on a general election ballot. Citizen initiatives reflect the priorities of the people, not politicians.

Relevant Florida Redistricting History

- In 2010, using a Citizen's Initiative, the citizens of Florida voted overwhelmingly to enact the Fair Districts Amendments to the state's Constitution, imposing constraints on the worst abuses of gerry-

mandering and racially discriminatory redistricting. The Fair Districts Amendments came from the will of everyday citizens and demanded fairness from the state Legislature when drawing redistricting lines.

- In 2012, the Florida state Legislature publicly promised to follow the newly minted Fair District Amendments. Instead, breaking their promise, the Legislature intentionally violated the Fair District Amendments and drew political boundaries that unfairly favored the majority party and also unfairly limited the voting power of Black Floridians. The League of Women Voters of Florida and other civic-minded organizations sued the state legislature over the unfair maps shortly after their enactment. After many years of litigation, the legislature admitted in court that they had violated the Fair Districts Amendments and had illegally drawn lines to favor one party over the other. The Florida Supreme Court enforced the provisions outlined in the Fair Districts Amendments and protected against diminishing racial or language minorities' voting power.

- In 2019, the United States Supreme Court, in the case *Rucho v. Common Cause*, pointed to Florida's Fair Districts' Amendments as an example for the other 49 states to follow in enacting laws to prohibit gerrymandering.

- In 2022, the League of Women Voters of Florida and other voting groups advocated for adherence to the Fair District's provisions. Unfortunately, in the League's view, the Legislature failed to abide by the Fair District's provisions. The League alongside other voting rights groups including Equal Ground, Black Voters Matter, and Florida Rising, and several individual citizens have filed suit challenging the 2022 congressional map. The League and the other plaintiffs' in the lawsuit are asking the court to block the map enacted in the spring of 2022 and order the creation of a new map that complies with the Fair Districts Amendments. However, the map enacted in the spring of 2022 is currently in effect for the Nov. 8 election as this litigation is ongoing before a trial court.