

# A Brief Introduction to Florida Government

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## Author

**John Bertalan, Ed.D.**, is *Professor Emeritus* from Hillsborough Community College (HCC) and Lecturer in U.S. and Florida Government at the University of South Florida (USF) in both Tampa and St. Petersburg. He holds a Doctor of Education (Ed.D. 1977) in Political Science curriculum and instruction, plus an M.A. Degree in Political Science, both at Florida Atlantic University-FAU (he was originally enrolled in the M.P.A. Program at FAU in Boca Raton, Florida, but his studies were interrupted by military service during the Viet-Nam War, although he continued his studies with three semesters in the Urban Studies Program at Georgia State University in Atlanta, before completing his studies at FAU). He also holds a B.A. Degree in Political Science from Seton Hall University in New Jersey. Dr. Bertalan studied under Drs. John DeGrove, Robert Huckshorn, James Nicholas and Michael Giles, who were also his Doctoral committee members, while Dr. Susan MacManus is a colleague now. Dr. Bertalan has taught at Broward Community College, Hillsborough Community College, USF, Florida International University (FIU) and other institutions in Florida. As a young writer he co-wrote the Instructor’s manual to *Florida Government and Politics* with Manning Dauer, who was the founder of the Florida Political Science Association (FPSA).

## Introduction

It is seemingly difficult to find information about the Florida State Government in one concise format. The Florida House and Senate publish booklets about their respective Houses, and the State Executive branch published a list of helpful phone numbers. Information is available also electronically, but it seems to be scattered all around. The compiler knows of two books on Florida Government, and they are complete works both around 400 pages each: *The Florida Handbook*, published by the Clerk of the Florida House of Representatives, and *Politics in Florida*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. by Susan A. MacManus et. al. An attempt has been made in this work to incorporate basic governing principles of the State of Florida within a self-imposed limitation of around 90 pages.

This 2022 (7<sup>th</sup> edition) of *A Brief Introduction to Florida Government*, is compiled mostly from government, political and *Wikipedia* Internet web-sites, and is designed with two main purposes in mind:

1. to provide a supplement to college or advanced placement courses in State and Local government and/or American government and to give a localized value added to each of those courses;
2. this concise 90-pages compilation would also be beneficial for interested citizens who would like to know the basic information on the structure and work of the Florida Government.

It is hoped that this booklet serves well both these audiences.

*John Bertalan, Ed.D.*

**Emeritus Professor John Bertalan, Ed.D., Hillsborough Community College &  
Lecturer in Political Sciences at University of South Florida-Tampa & St. Petersburg**



## I. Demographics

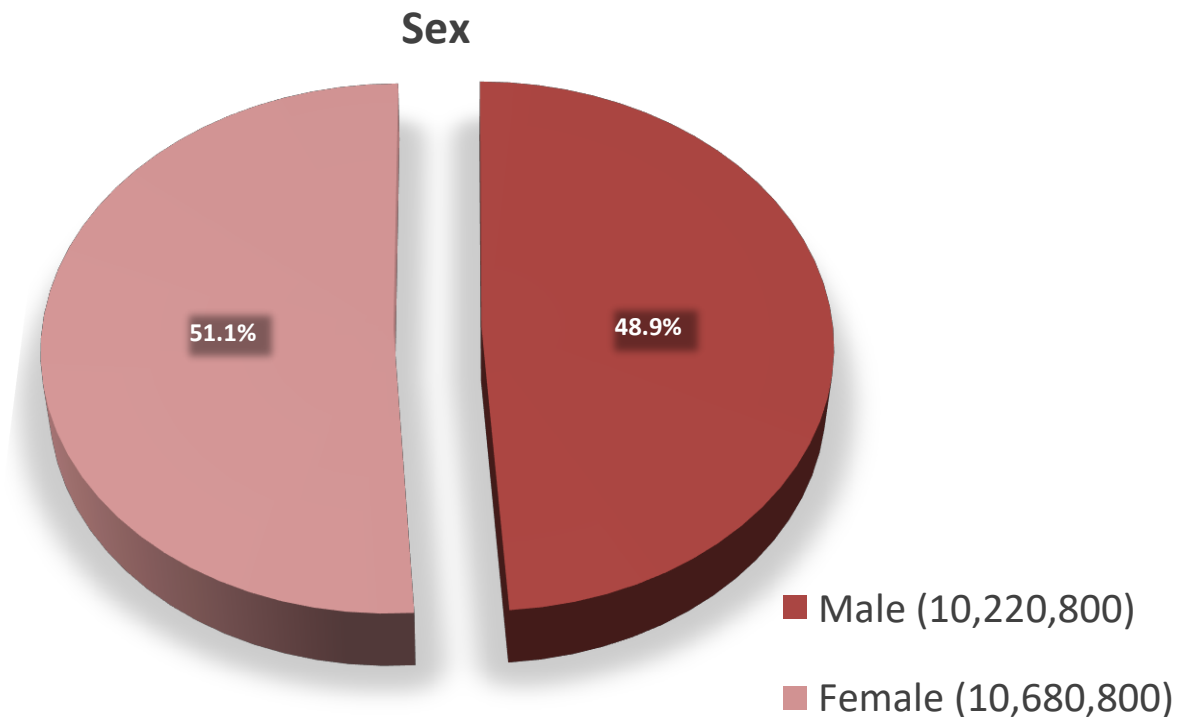
To begin the study of the Florida government, below are a few illustrated charts that help point out the composition of the Florida population. Over the decades Florida's population is becoming older and more Hispanic. According to the 2010 census, Hispanics made up 22% of the population and in 2020 that percentage has risen to over 25%. Individuals over the age of 65 accounted for about 17% of the population in 2010 and now account for over 20% of Florida's population.

Figure 1: Florida Demographic Statistics

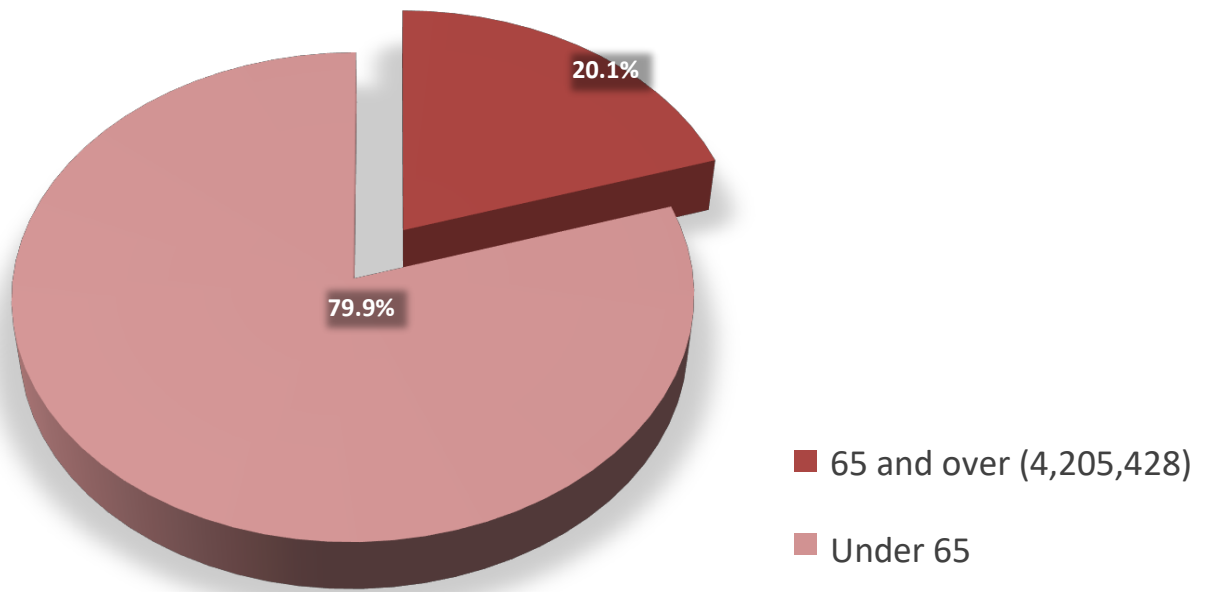
Total Population

21,944,600

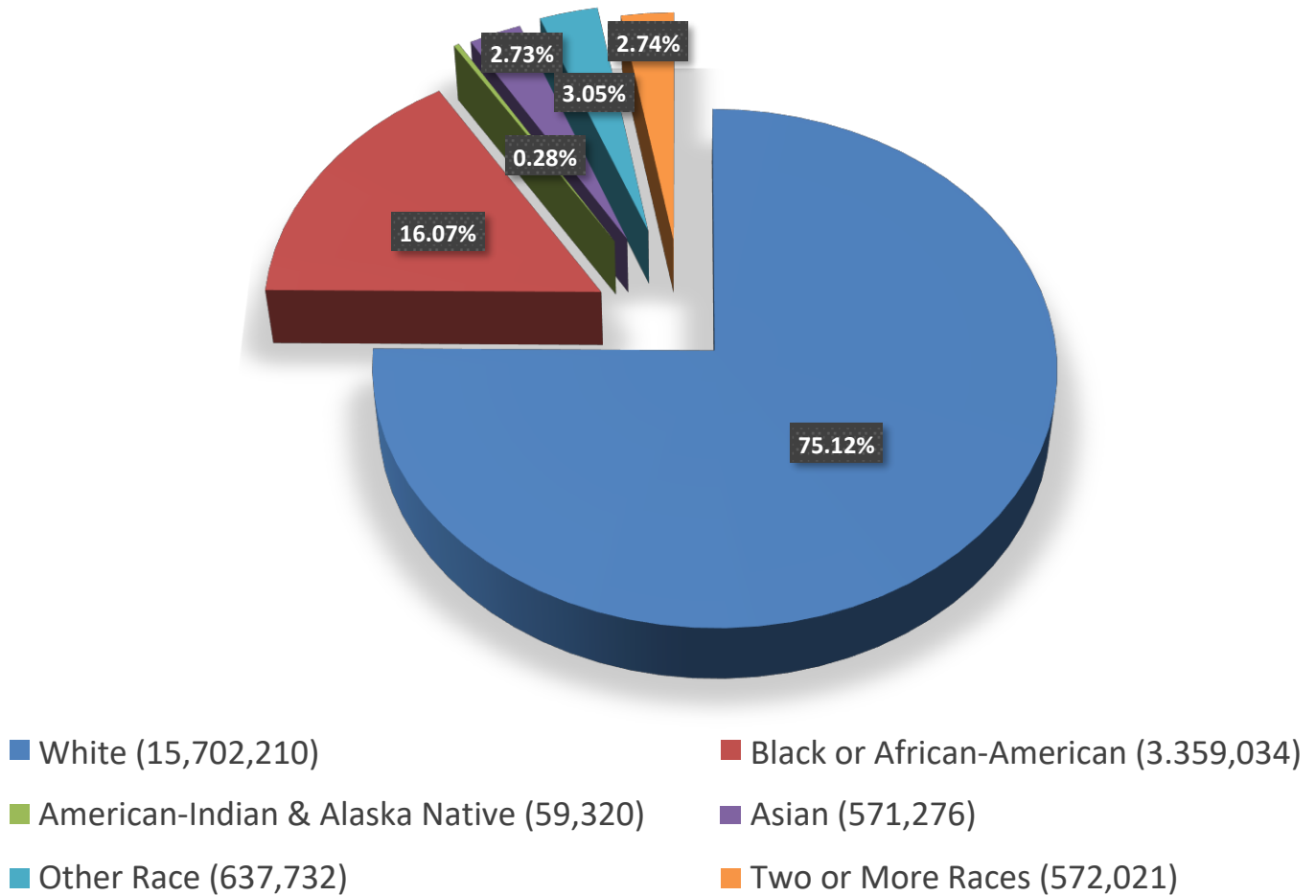
100%



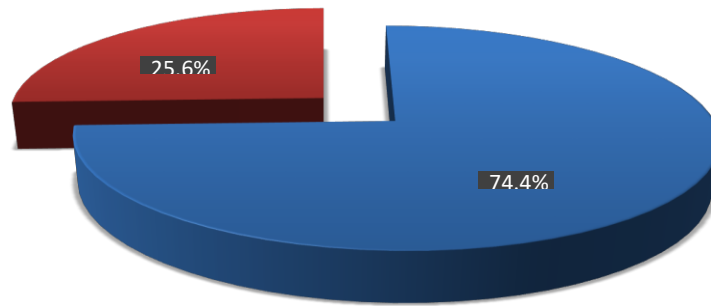
### Florida Population by Age



### Florida Population by Race



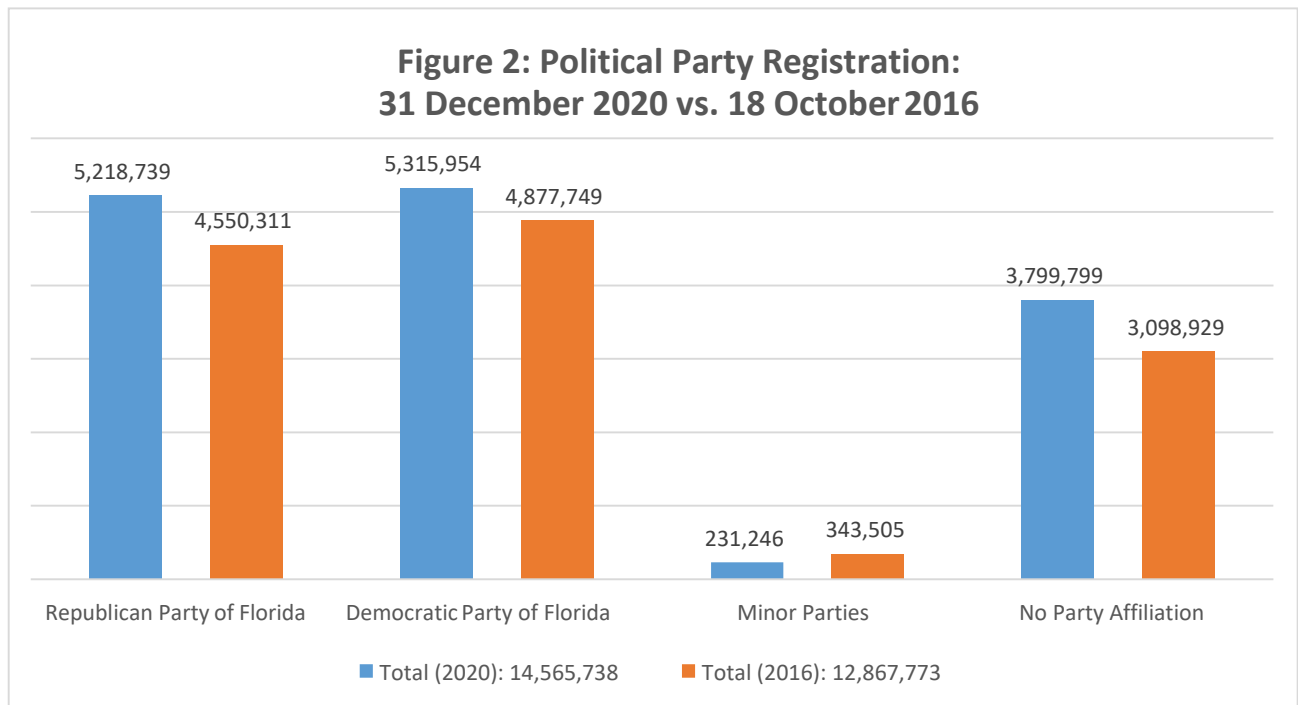
### Hispanic/Latino



■ Non-Hispanic/Latino      ■ Hispanic or Latino (of any race)

Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/states/florida-population>

As of December 2020, Floridians have registered to vote by a political party as noted in Figure 2. Please take note of the large number (almost four million) of voters who claim no political preference, nearly 25% of voting public. At bottom are voters data by 30 November 2022.



Source: Florida Secretary of State

### Registered Voters in Florida as of 30 November 2022

Year	Republican Party of Florida	Democratic Party of Florida	Minor Parties	No Party Affiliation	Total
2022	5,325,589	4,969,377	264,802	4,037,098	14,596,866

Source: Florida Secretary of State

## **II. A Brief History of Florida**

**Figure 3: Historic Timeline**



### **Timeline**

- 1775-1783 American Revolutionary War
- 1811-1814 War of 1812
- 1817-1818 First Seminole War
- 1824 Capital moved to Tallahassee
- 1835-1842 Second Seminole War
- 1838 Constitutional Convention
- 1855-1858 Third Seminole War
- 1861 Ordinance of Secession
- 1861-1865 Civil War
- 1865 3<sup>rd</sup> Constitution
- 1865-1868 Reconstruction
- 1868 4<sup>th</sup> Constitution
- 1885 5<sup>th</sup> Constitution
- 1910-1930 Great Migration
- 1925-1929 Land Boom
- 1941 World War II brings U.S. troops training to Florida
- 1961 Expansion of the Space Program
- 1968 6<sup>th</sup> Constitution
- 1971 Disney World opens
- 2000 *Gore vs. Harris* 2000 Presidential Election

## History

The history of Florida can be traced back to when the first Native-Americans began to inhabit the peninsula as early as 14,000 years ago.<sup>[1]</sup> They left behind artifacts and archeological evidence. Written history begins with the arrival of Europeans to Florida when the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León in 1513 made the first textual records. The state was the first mainland area of the United States to be settled by Europeans. Thus, 1513 marked the beginning of the American Frontier as St. Augustine on Florida's north-east Atlantic coast is considered to be the oldest permanent European settlement in the United States.

From the time of that first contact, Florida has had many waves of immigration, including French and Spanish settlement during the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, as well as entry of new Native American groups migrating from elsewhere in the Old South, including both free Blacks and fugitive Black slaves who became known as Black Seminoles.

Florida remained under colonial rule by Spain and briefly by Great Britain during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries before becoming a territory of the United States in 1821. Two decades later, in 1845, Florida was admitted to the Union as the 27<sup>th</sup> U.S. State. Since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, further immigrants have arrived from Europe, Latin America and Asia.

Florida is nicknamed the "Sunshine State" due to its warm climate and long days of sunshine, which have attracted Northern migrants and "Snow Bird" vacationers since the 1920s. The late-1800s completion of railroads down both coasts of Florida and the invention of air-conditioning in the 1950s also contributed to rapid local growth, developing a diverse population and urbanized economy.

At the outbreak of World War II, thousands of U.S. troops were sent to Florida to train and wait for embarkation to battle. Airstrips were built, dockyards deepened and soldiers quartered into new barracks. Some soldiers returned after the war to make Florida their permanent residence. In the 1960s, President Kennedy announced the American goal to land a man on the Moon by the end of the decade. The rockets were to take-off from a Space exploration center in Cape Canaveral on Florida's east coast.

In the 1970s Walt Disney World opened near Orlando its largest facilities outside California as Disney's second world-wide attraction, bringing tens of millions of visitors to Florida since its opening. Not long after, Sea World and MGM studios (both also located near Orlando) brought additional domestic and foreign visitors to the Sunshine State as well as major expansions to all of their theme parks.

In 2011, Florida had over 19 million people, surpassing New York to become the third largest U.S. state in population.<sup>[2]</sup>

Florida's economy has developed over time, starting with natural resource exploitation in logging, mining, fishing and sponge diving, as well as cattle ranching, farming and citrus growing. The tourism, real-estate, trade, banking and retirement destination businesses followed.

Source: Wikipedia and the editor

### **III. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

#### **Brief Facts**

Florida has had six constitutions, three of them clustered around the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction, which in turn led to the 1885 Constitution which was a reaction to the last reconstruction constitution, which had a strong executive. Consequently, the 1885 document diffused executive authority in several Cabinet agencies, among other changes.

That lasted until the 1968 rewrite.

Since the 1968 Constitution (and not counting the Article V re-write left undone until 1972), there have been over a hundred amendments proposed to the Florida Constitution. Of those, a majority have passed, and at least three were removed by the Florida Supreme Court for infirmities in the ballot language or other problems. Figure 4 below was gathered from information provided by the Secretary of State's office and the tables document the success of various amendment proposals since 1978. There are five ways to amend the State Charter. The first is a Constitutional Convention (which has not been used in recent times) and the second is the legislature that can send an amendment to voters by a three-fifths vote of both Chambers. Then there is a citizen initiative method, the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC), which is appointed by state leaders and meets every 20 years, and the Tax and Budget Reform Commission, which meets in-between the CRC meetings and is limited to fiscal matters. Appendix III gives a more detailed statement about the state's Liberal amendment policy.

The Florida Legislature leads the way in the state's amendment sweepstakes, having proposed 88 Amendments from 1978 to the 2022 Mid-Term Elections, of which 71 have been ratified and 17 rejected. Additionally, 40 Amendments have reached the ballot by referendum initiatives, of which 31 have been approved (see Figures 4).

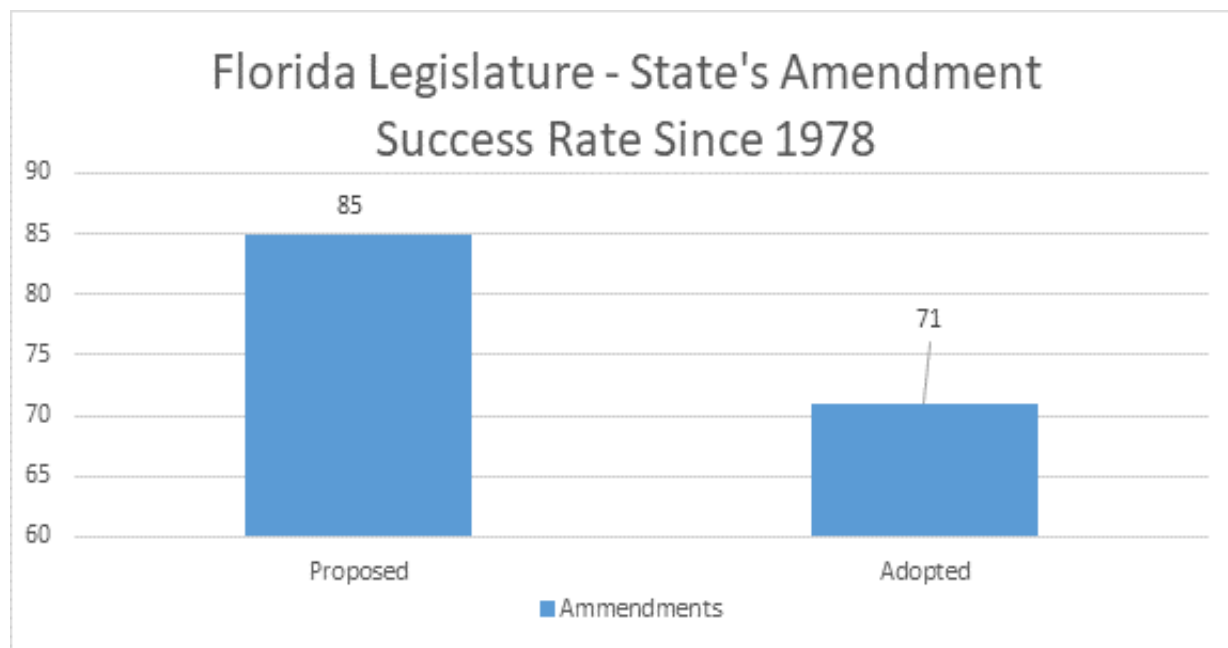
The Constitution Revision Commission has had an almost all or nothing record. The 1977-78 CRC proposed eight amendments, all rejected by voters, although some of its proposals were incorporated in later amendments which were approved. The 1997-98 CRC proposed nine amendments, eight of which were adopted and in 2017-2018 all eight proposed amendments were passed by the voters.

The Florida Tax and Budget Reform Commission has proposed seven amendments, of which five passed and two were rejected.

There are an average of 50 citizen initiatives/referenda as constitutional amendment petitions currently circulating in Florida, although historically, most do not gather enough signatures to make the ballot. Please see Appendix III for a more in-depth look at the amending process.

Source: <https://www.floridabar.org/divcom/jn/jnnews01.nsf/Articles/32C14170D9E65067852570C70054EB39>

**Figures 4: Amendment Success Rate by Method, 1978-2020**



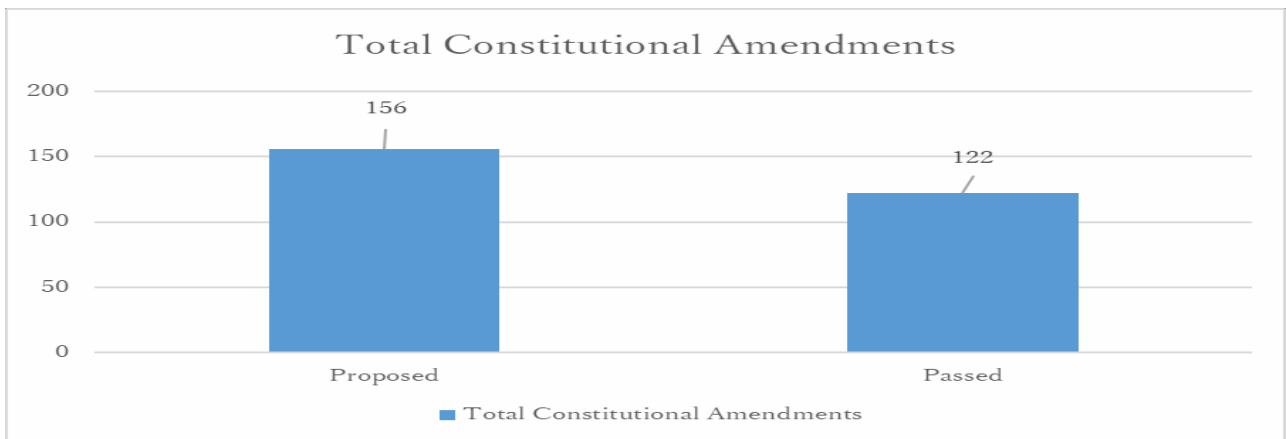
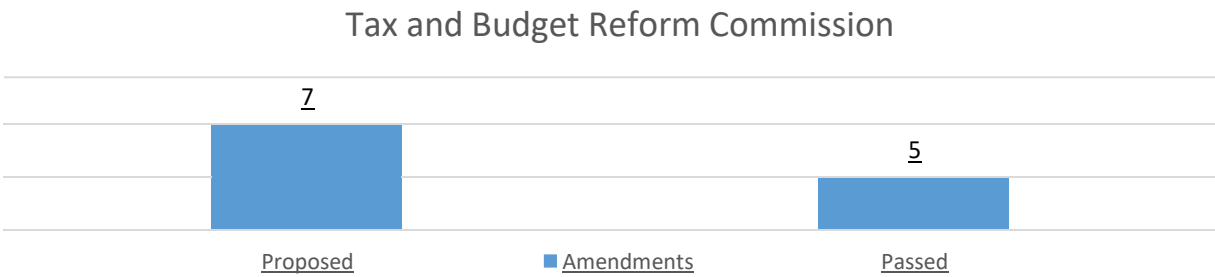
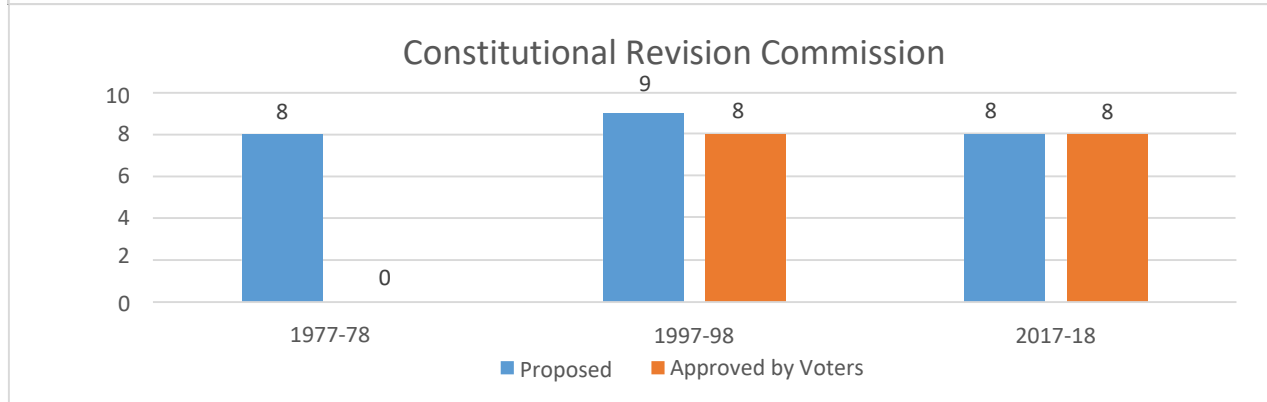
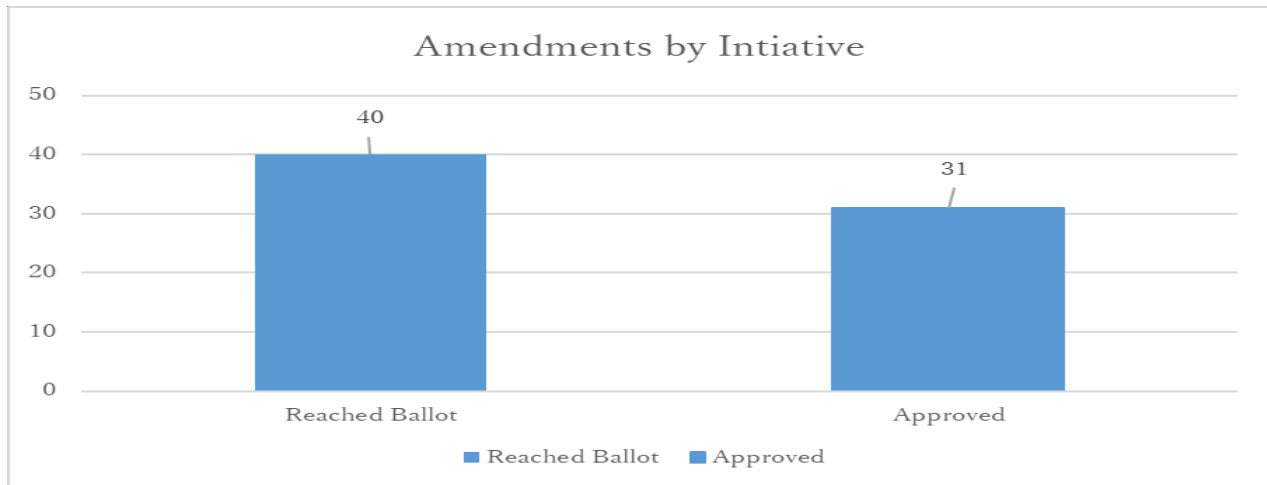
**Revised Amendments as of Mid-Term 2022**

88 Proposed

vs.

71 Adopted





Revised Constitutional Amendments by Mid-Term 2022

159 Proposed

vs.

122 Adopted

## **IV. Executive Branch**

The executive branch of the government of Florida consists of the Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Florida Cabinet (which includes the Attorney-General, Commissioner of Agriculture and Chief Financial Officer), and several executive departments.<sup>[1]</sup> Each office term is limited to two four-years terms.<sup>[2]</sup>

### **Governor**

The Governor of Florida is the chief executive of the government of Florida and chief administrative officer of the state, responsible for the state's planning and budgeting, and also serves as Chair when the Governor and Florida Cabinet act as decision-making body in various constitutional roles.<sup>[3]</sup> The Governor has the power to execute Florida's laws and call-out the state militia to preserve public peace, being Commander-in-Chief of the state's military forces that are not in the active service of the United States. At least once every legislative session, the Governor is required to deliver a "State of the State Address" to the Florida Legislature regarding the condition and operation of the state government and to suggest new legislation.

The Governor of Florida must share executive duties with the other members of the cabinet and a variety of boards and commissions. In addition to the duties mentioned above, the Florida Constitution does grant the Governor some strong administrative powers (see the *Florida Constitution* in Appendix 1).

The Governor, for cause and by statute, can suspend state and local officials and, if necessary, replace them until the next election. He can also fill county and municipal that are vacated by resignation until the next scheduled election. The Governor appoints members to a variety of state and regional boards and commissions including 15 members of the Constitutional Revision Commission every 20 years. The Governor can initiate judicial proceeding against State and local officials for failure to

enforce state laws and regulations. The Governor may also request the opinion, in writing, of the Florida State Supreme Court as to the interpretation of the State Constitution in relation to the Governor's executive and administrative duties. Likewise, the Governor can request the opinion of all State, local and municipal officers in regards to their duties and obligations.

### **Lieutenant-Governor**

The Lieutenant-Governor is a constitutionally elected officer of the state elected every four years on the same partisan ballot as the Governor. The Lieutenant-Governor may serve up to two consecutive four-year terms and must meet the same age and residency requirements as the Governor. His constitutional mandates are to fill the office of the Governor when a vacancy occurs and to perform duties assigned to him/her by the Governor.

### **Cabinet**

Florida is unique among U.S. states in having a strong cabinet-style government. Members of the Florida Cabinet are independently elected and have equal footing with the Governor on issues under the Cabinet's jurisdiction. The Cabinet consists of the Attorney-General, the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Chief Financial Officer (although in the recent past there have been as many as six independently elected cabinet officers). Along with the Governor, each member carries one vote in the decision-making process. In the event of a tie, the side of the Governor is always the prevailing side. Cabinet elections are held every four years on even-numbered years not divisible by four (as 2010, 2014, 2018, 2022, etc.). Some have likened this system to a "Board of Directors" for the Florida Departments under the control and supervision of the Governor and Cabinet.

The Florida Attorney-General is the State's chief legal officer. As defined under the Florida Constitution,<sup>[4]</sup> the Attorney-General appoints

a state-wide Prosecutor who may prosecute violations of criminal law occurring in or affecting two or more judicial circuits. The Attorney-General is responsible for the Department of Legal Affairs<sup>[5]</sup> and is also head of the Florida Department of Legal Affairs.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

The Florida Chief Financial Officer's duties include monitoring the state's finances and fiscal well-being, auditing and assuring that state programs are properly spending money, and overseeing the proper management of the revenue and spending of the state.<sup>[8]</sup> The Chief Financial Officer is the head of the Florida Department of Financial Services (FDFS).<sup>[6]</sup>

The Florida Commissioner of Agriculture is the head of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). The Commissioner of Agriculture has many divisions including inspections and management of fruits, dairy, vegetables, meats, pesticides, food safety forestry and aquaculture.

## **Agencies and Departments**

The purpose of all agencies is to promulgate rules to implement legislation. In April 2014, there were 25,362 administrative rules and eight agencies have over 1,000 rules each, of which the most heavily regulated agencies are the Department of Financial Services and Department of Health.<sup>[9]</sup> The *Florida Administrative Register* (FAR) is the daily publication containing proposed rules and notices of state agencies.<sup>[10]</sup> The regulations are codified in the *Florida Administrative Code* (FAC).<sup>[11]</sup> There are also numerous decisions, opinions and rulings of state agencies.<sup>[12]</sup>

The state had about 122,000 employees in 2010.<sup>[13][14]</sup>

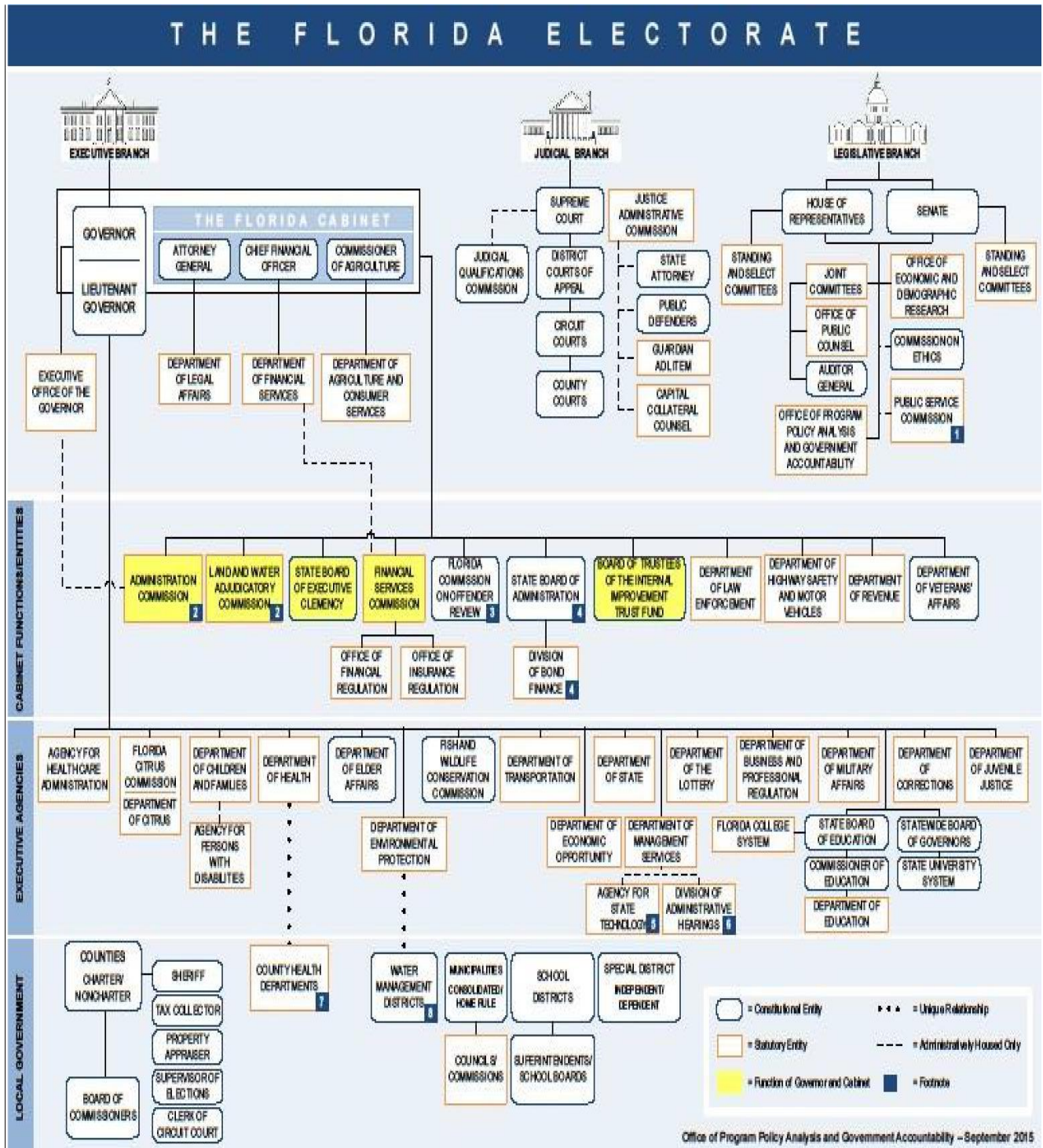
Source: Wikipedia

**Figure 5:**  
**Salaries of Key State Office Holders**

<b>Elected Florida State Officials and Full-Time Commission Members</b>	<b>Salary</b>
<b>Governor</b>	<b>\$ 141,400</b>
<b>Lieutenant-Governor</b>	<b>\$ 135,516</b>
<b>Chief Financial Officer</b>	<b>\$ 139,988</b>
<b>Attorney-General</b>	<b>\$ 139,988</b>
<b>Commissioner of Agriculture</b>	<b>\$ 139,988</b>
<b>Florida Supreme Court Justice</b>	<b>\$ 239,442</b>
<b>Judges - District Courts of Appeal</b>	<b>\$ 202,440</b>
<b>Judges - Circuit Courts</b>	<b>\$ 182,060</b>
<b>Judges - County Courts</b>	<b>\$ 172,015</b>
<b>Judges of Compensation Claims</b>	<b>\$ 160,000</b>
<b>State Attorneys</b>	<b>\$ 202,440</b>
<b>Public Defenders</b>	<b>\$ 202,440</b>
<b>Commissioner - Public Service Commission</b>	<b>\$ 143,314</b>
<b>Public Employees Relations Commission Chair</b>	<b>\$ 106,142</b>
<b>Public Employees Relations Commission Commissioners</b>	<b>\$ 50,322</b>
<b>Commission on Offender Review Chair</b>	<b>\$ 135,000</b>
<b>Commission on Offender Review Commissioners</b>	<b>\$ 125,000</b>
<b>Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsels</b>	<b>\$ 130,295</b>
<b>Senate President and House Speaker</b>	<b>\$ 41,181</b>
<b>Senate and House Members</b>	<b>\$ 29,697</b>

Source: <http://edr.state.fl.us/Content/local-government/reports/finsal22.pdf> & [https://ballotpedia.org/Florida\\_state\\_government\\_salary](https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_state_government_salary)

Figure 6: Florida Executive Branch



**Florida Executive Branch Explanation**

1. The Public Service Commission is an arm of the legislative branch of government (s. 350.001, *Florida Statutes*).
2. The Administration Commission and the Land and Water Adjudicatory Commission are composed of the Governor and the Cabinet (ss. 14.202 and 380.07, *Florida Statutes*).
3. Chapter 2014-191, *Laws of Florida*, renamed the Parole Commission as the Florida Commission on Offender Review.
4. The Commissioner of Agriculture is not a member of the State Board of Administration (Article IV, Section 4(e), *Constitution of the State of Florida*).
5. Chapter 2014-221, *Laws of Florida*, created the Agency for State Technology within the Department of Management Services. The agency is a separate budget program and is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the Department of Management Services.
6. The Division of Administrative Hearings is created as a division of the Department of Management Services, but the director/chief administrative law judge, who is appointed by the Administration Commission, is the agency head for all purposes. The division is a separate budget entity and is not subject to control, supervision, or direction by the Department of Management Services (s. 120.65(1), *Florida Statutes*).
7. County health departments have a contractual relationship with the Florida Department of Health (s. 154.01(3), *Florida Statutes*).
8. Water management districts have individual governing boards but the Department of Environmental Protection may exercise general supervisory authority over water management districts (s. 373.028(7), *Florida Statutes*).

Prepared by the Office of the Secretary of the Senate

## V. Legislative Branch



Chamber of the Florida Senate

The Florida Constitution mandates a bicameral state legislature, consisting of a Florida Senate of 40 members and a Florida House of Representatives of 120 members.<sup>[15]</sup> The two bodies meet in the Florida State Capitol. The Florida House of Representative members serve for two-year terms, while Florida Senate members serve staggered four-year terms, with 20 Senators up for election every two years.<sup>[16]</sup> Members of both houses are term-limited to serve a maximum of eight years.<sup>[17]</sup>

### **Terms and qualifications**

State representatives are elected to two-year terms during even-numbered years. A representative must be at least 21 years of age, a resident of the district in which he or she will serve, and a resident of Florida for at least two years before being qualified to run for election. Once elected, representatives are limited to four consecutive terms but can run again after sitting out one election.<sup>[19]</sup>

State senators must be at least 21 years of age, an elector and resident of their electoral district, and a Florida resident for at least two years before an election. They take office upon election.<sup>[20]</sup>

The Florida Constitution requires state senators to be elected to staggered, four-year terms.<sup>[21]</sup> Senators in odd-numbered districts are elected in U.S. Presidential Election years, while senators in even-



numbered districts are elected in Mid-term election years. However, to reflect the results of the U.S. Census and the redrawing of district boundaries, all seats are up for election in redistricting years, with some terms truncated as a result. Thus, Senators in even-numbered districts were elected to two-year terms in 2012 (following the 2010 Census), and Senators in odd-numbered districts will be elected to two-year terms in 2022 (following the 2020 Census).

## **Session**

The entire Florida Legislature meets every year in a session beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March and lasting 60 calendar days.<sup>[22]</sup> Special sessions may be called either by the Governor or by the leaders of both Chambers acting jointly. The Speaker of the House is elected by the representatives for a two-year term. The Speaker has the power to preside over the chamber during a session, appoint committee members and chairs of committees, influence the placement of bills on the calendar and rule on procedural motions.

The Speaker *pro-tempore* presides if the Speaker leaves the Chair, or if there is a vacancy.

The legislature's session is part-time, meeting for 60-day regular sessions annually. The regular session of the Florida Legislature commences on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March with the Governor's State of the State speech before a joint session and ends on the last Friday in April or the first Friday in May. The Florida Legislature often meets in special sessions, sometimes as many as a half dozen in a year, that are called for particular purposes, such as budget reduction or reforming property insurance. A special session may be called by the governor, by joint proclamation of the Speaker of the House and Senate President or by a three-fifths vote of the members of both houses.<sup>[22]</sup> Outside of these regular and special sessions, the members of both houses participate in county delegation meetings and interim committee meetings throughout the year, mostly from November to February in advance of the regular session.

The Florida Constitution authorizes the state legislature to create and amend the laws of the U.S. State of Florida. State Senators propose legislation in the forms of bills drafted by a non-partisan, professional staff.<sup>[23]</sup> Successful legislation must undergo committee review, three readings on the floor of each house, with appropriate voting majorities, as required, and either be signed into law by the Governor or enacted through a veto override approved by two-thirds of the membership of each legislative house.

Its session laws are compiled into the *Laws of Florida*,<sup>[24]</sup> and the *Florida Statutes* are the codified statutory laws of the state which have general applicability.

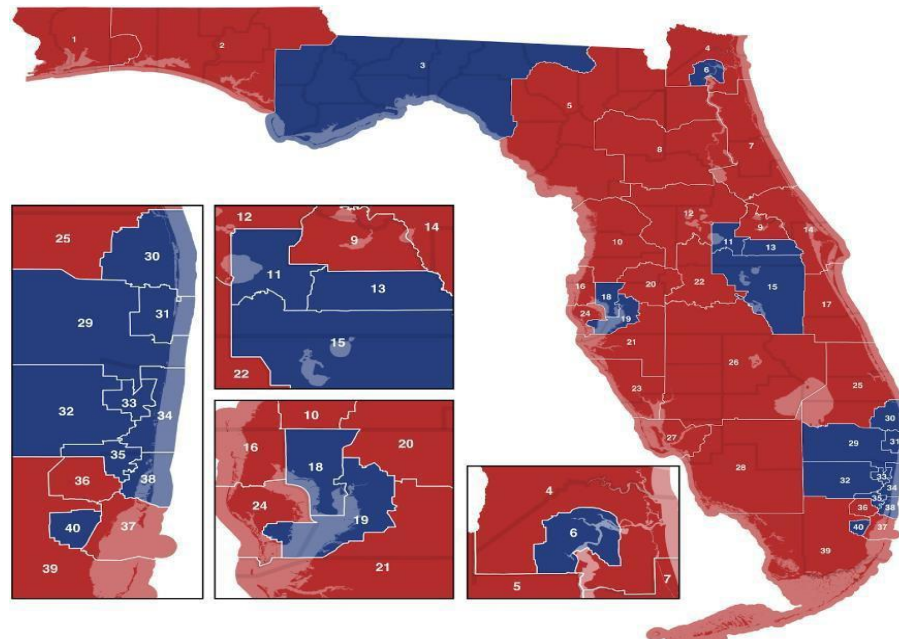
In the State of Florida, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate are extremely powerful positions. Both are elected for two-year terms by the members of their respective Florida Houses. In reality, the majority party caucuses before the official organization meeting of their respective House to choose their leader, and then they present their candidate formally for a perfunctory vote by all of the members of their chamber. Members usually line up years in advance waiting for a chance to be the leader of one of the legislative chambers.

The Speaker of the Florida House and the Presidency of the Senate are coveted positions because of the extreme concentration of power in the office. Usually, these leaders choose all of the committee chairs, all of the members to serve on specific committees, controlling who speaks on the floor, and the calendaring of the preferred bills the leader and the committee chair want to be passed. This is the Speaker's or President's platform. Likewise, the Speaker and President can, and have removed, members from committees and committee Chairmanship for opposition to their desired programs. In the past, legislators who voiced and voted in opposition to the leader's platform have been removed from all committees, had their Capitol offices "closed for remodeling" and had also lost their parking space.



The Speaker and President also decide to which committee the bills will be referred. Both Houses have standing committees of substance on topics of such as education, environment, appropriations, rules, tax and finance, economic affairs, health, and human services, etc. as well as joint and special committees. Once referred to a committee, its Committee Chair may assign the bill to a subcommittee to hold hearings, make amendments and then report back to the full committee.

The Committee Chair may then decide to hold hearings or schedule the bill for a vote of the entire committee (see the flow chart described in Figure 7). The scheduling, or non-scheduling of bills is one of the most important powers of the Committee Chairs.

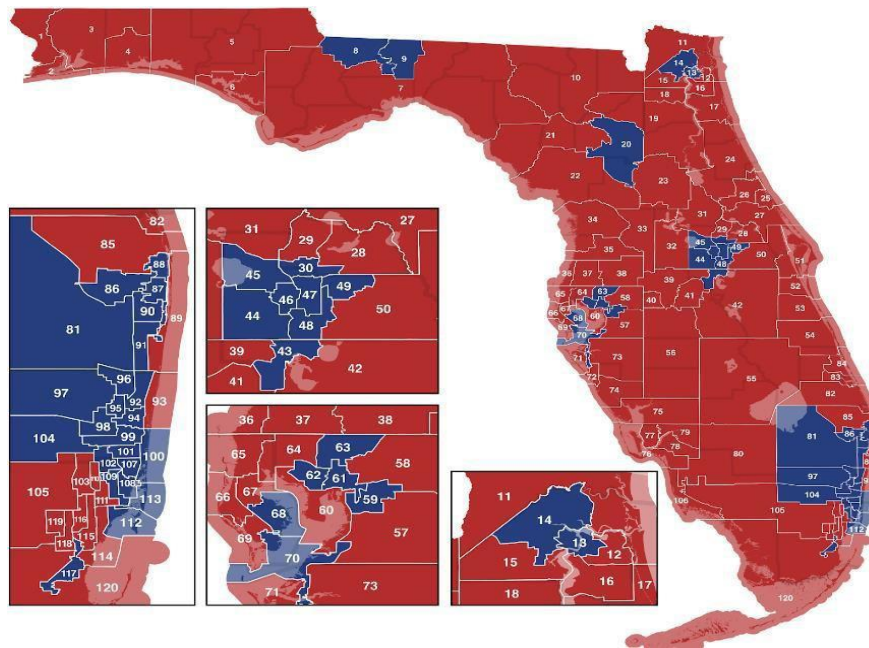
**Figure 7: Florida Senate Districts by Political Party**





Source: From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (red/light Republican—blue/dark Democrat)

<b><u>Florida State Senate</u></b>				
<b><u>PARTY</u></b>	<b><u>After 7 November 2018</u></b>	<b><u>After 3 November 2020</u></b>	<b><u>After 4 November 2020</u></b>	<b><u>After 9 November 2022</u></b>
 <b><u>Democratic Party</u></b>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>12</u>
 <b><u>Republican Party</u></b>	<u>25</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>28</u>
<b><u>Vacancy</u></b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>40</u></b>	<b><u>40</u></b>	<b><u>40</u></b>	<b><u>40</u></b>

**Figure 8: Florida House Districts by Political Party**

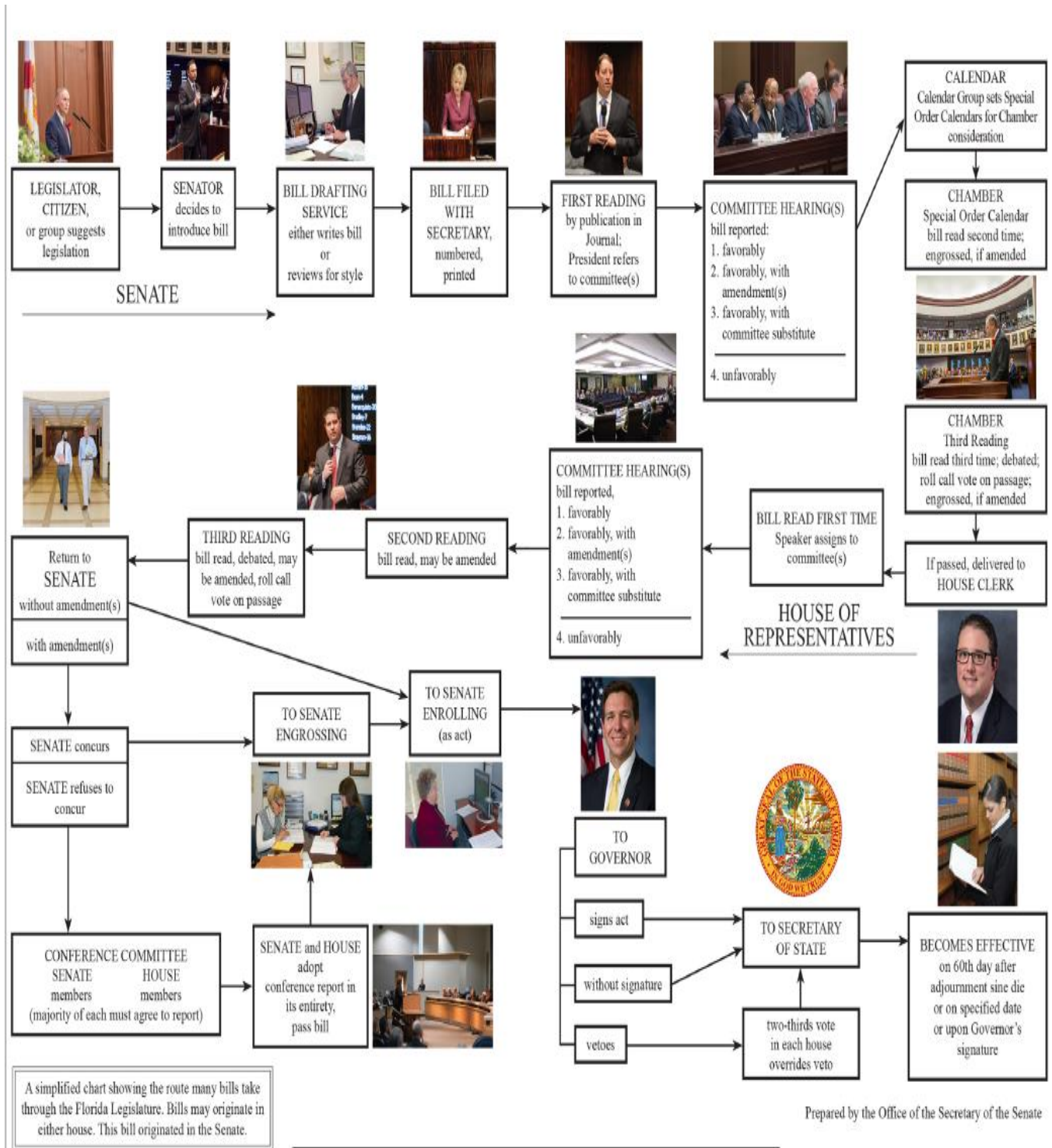


**Florida House of Representatives**

<b><u>PARTY</u></b>	<b><u>By 7 November 2018</u></b>	<b><u>After 3 November 2020 (Right after 8 November 2018)</u></b>	<b><u>After 4 November 2020</u></b>	<b><u>After 9 November 2022</u></b>
 <b><u>Democratic Party</u></b>	<u>41</u>	<u>46</u> <u>(47)</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>42</u>
 <b><u>Republican Party</u></b>	<u>79</u>	<u>71</u> <u>(73)</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>78</u>
<b><u>Vacancy</u></b>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>120</u></b>	<b><u>120</u></b>	<b><u>120</u></b>	<b><u>120</u></b>

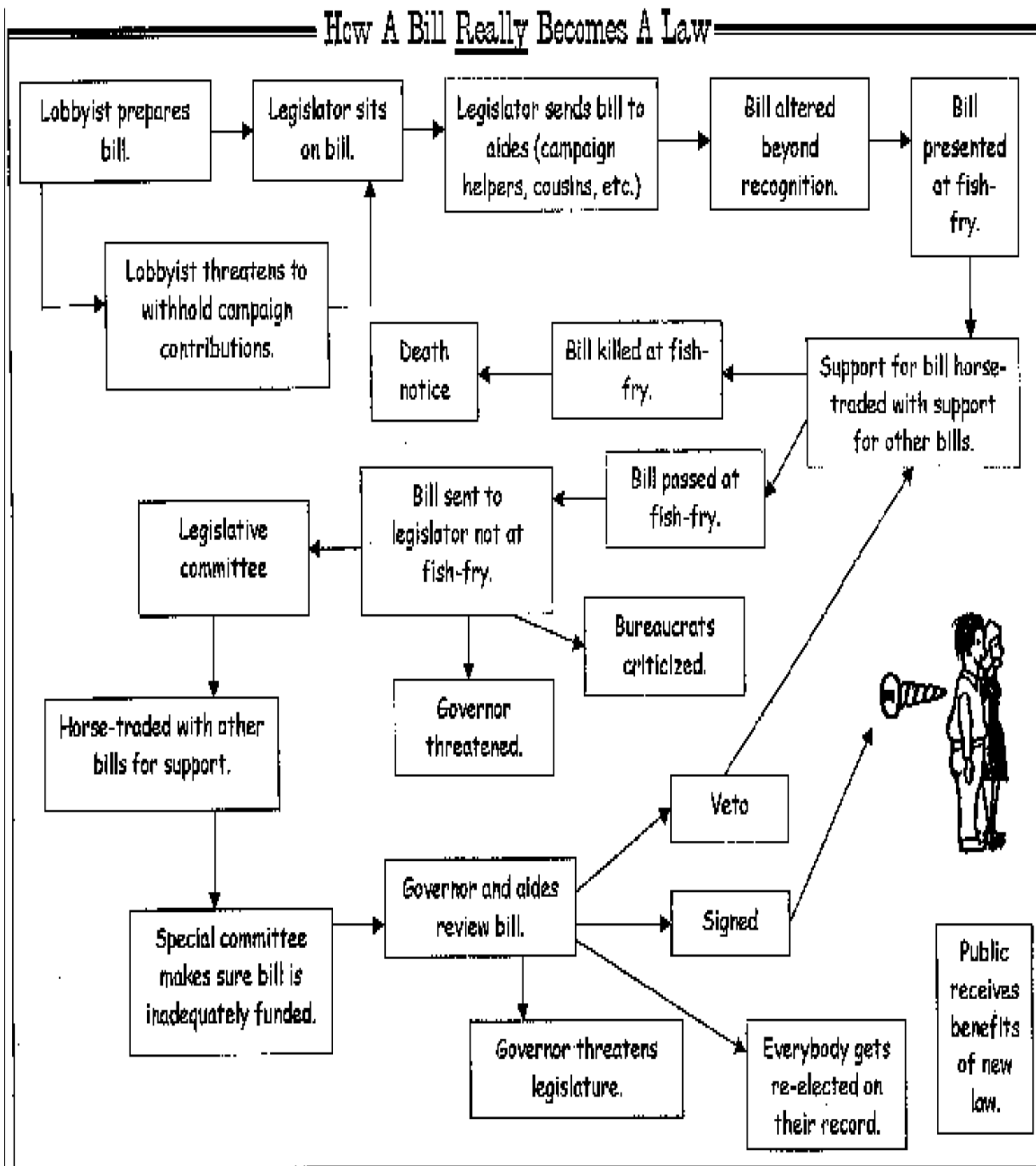
Source: Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (red/light Republican—blue/dark Democrat)

**Figure 9: How a Bill Becomes a Law**



Source: Florida Senate

**Figure 10: How a Bill Really Becomes a Law**



Source: Representative Karen Coolman-Black

## **VI. Judicial Branch**

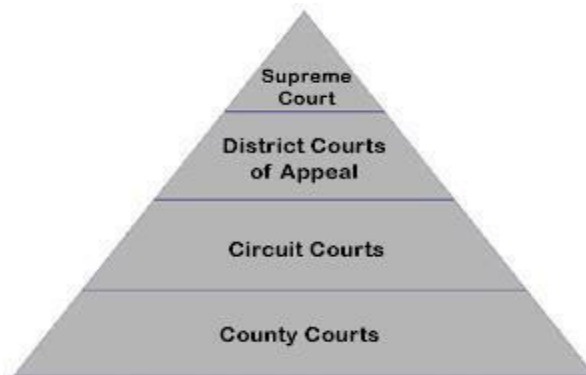


The Florida Supreme Court building in Tallahassee

### **Florida Courts**

The Florida court system is comprised of the Supreme Court, five District Courts of Appeal, 20 Circuit Courts and 67 County Courts. Each layer of the Florida judicial system has a distinct role in providing justice to all Floridians. The Office of the State Courts Administrators (OSCA) is the administrative arm of the Florida Supreme Court. The office was formed in 1972, the result of Article V of the State Constitution that sought to bring greater consistency and uniformity to the judicial branch.

**Figure 11: Court System Organization & Structure**



### **Appellate Courts:**

#### **Supreme Court**

The highest appellate court in Florida is the Florida Supreme Court whose 150+ years span a time when the state was the least populated (1845) to the present (2014) when it ranks third nationwide. Decisions stemming from Florida’s highest court have helped shape, certainly, the state itself, but the nation as a whole.



### District Courts of Appeal

There are five District Courts of Appeal in Florida, located respectively in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Miami, West Palm Beach and Daytona Beach. As a general rule, decisions of the District Courts of Appeal represent the final appellate review of litigated cases.

### **Trial Courts:**

#### Trial Courts – Circuit

There are 20 Judicial Circuits in the Florida Court System. Circuit Courts have general trial jurisdiction over matters not assigned by statute to the county courts and also hear appeals from county court cases. Some circuits are made up of multiple counties.

#### Trial Courts – County

The Florida Constitution establishes that there is ONE County Court in each of Florida’s 67 counties. The county courts are sometimes referred to as the “people's courts,” probably because a large part of the courts' work involves voluminous citizen disputes, such as traffic offenses, less serious criminal matters (misdemeanors) and relatively small monetary disputes.

Visit the **FLORIDA SUPREME COURT** at: [www.floridasupremecourt.org](http://www.floridasupremecourt.org)



## **Organization**

The Florida Supreme Court is composed of seven Justices. At least five Justices must participate in every case and at least four must agree for a decision to be reached. The Court's official headquarters is the Supreme Court Building in Tallahassee. To be eligible for the office of Justice, a person must be a registered voter who resides in Florida and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Florida for the preceding 10 years.

## **Jurisdiction**

The jurisdiction of the Supreme Court is set out in the Constitution with some degree of flexibility by which the Legislature may add or take away certain categories of cases.

**Mandatory Jurisdiction:** the Supreme Court **MUST** review

- final orders imposing death sentences,
- district court decisions declaring a State statute or provision of the State Constitution invalid,
- bond validations,
- certain orders of the Public Service Commission on utility rates and services.

“Mandatory” jurisdiction defines those cases that, under the constitutional and statutory framework of a state, must be considered and decided by the court as a matter of right if properly filed.

**Discretionary Jurisdiction:** The Supreme Court, in addition to these forms of mandatory review authority, if a discretionary review is sought by a party, the Court at its discretion **MAY** review

- any decision of a district court of appeal that expressly declares valid a state statute,
- construes a provision of the state or federal constitution,
- affects a class of constitutional or state officers,
- directly conflicts with a decision of another district court or of the Supreme Court on the same question of law,

- certified as great public importance,
- certified direct conflict,
- certified judgment of trial courts,
- certified question from federal courts.

“Discretionary” jurisdiction defines the class of cases where a petition seeking review, if granted, would result in the case being considered and decided on the merits.

**Figure 12: District Courts of Appeal**



The purpose of Florida’s District Courts of Appeal is to provide the opportunity for thoughtful review of decisions of lower tribunals by multi-judge panels. District Courts of Appeal correct harmful errors and ensure that decisions are consistent with our rights and liberties. This process contributes to the development, clarity and consistency of the law.

**Organization**

There are five District Courts of Appeal in Florida, located respectively in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Miami, West Palm Beach and Daytona Beach. As a general rule, decisions of the district courts of appeal represent the final appellate review of litigated cases.

- [First District Court of Appeal](#) (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Circuits)
- [Second District Court of Appeal](#) (6<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Circuits)
- [Third District Court of Appeal](#) (11<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Circuits)
- [Fourth District Court of Appeal](#) (15<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Circuits)
- [Fifth District Court of Appeal](#) (5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Circuits)

The bulk of trial court decisions that are appealed are never heard by the Supreme Court. Rather, they are reviewed by three-judge panels of the District Courts of Appeal. Florida did not have District Courts of Appeal until 1957.

Until that time, all appeals were heard solely by the Supreme Court. As Florida grew rapidly in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, however, the Supreme Court's docket became badly congested. Justice Elwyn Thomas with help from other members of the Court perceived the problem and successfully lobbied for the creation of the district-court system to provide intermediate appellate courts.

The Constitution now provides that the Legislature shall divide the State into Appellate Court Districts and that there shall be a District Court of Appeal (DCA) serving each district. There are five such districts that are headquartered in Tallahassee, Lakeland, Miami, West Palm Beach and Daytona Beach.

DCA judges must meet the same eligibility requirements for appointment to office, and they are subject to the same procedures and conditions for discipline and removal from office, as Justices of the Supreme Court. Just like Supreme Court Justices, District Court judges also serve terms of six years and will be eligible for successive terms under a merit retention vote of the electors in their districts.

In each District Court, a Chief Judge, who is selected by the district court judges within the district, is responsible for the administrative duties of the court.

## **Jurisdiction**

The fundamental reasons for appeals from trial courts are to correct harmful errors by having a review by a multi-judge panel of experienced judges and to promote clarity and consistency in the law by publishing opinions that set forth the relevant facts of the case and the proper application of the law to those facts.

The District Courts of Appeal can hear appeals from final judgments and can review certain non-final orders. By general law, the District Courts of Appeal have been granted the power to review final actions taken by state agencies in carrying out the duties of the executive branch of government.

Finally, the District Courts of Appeal have been granted constitutional authority to issue extraordinary writs of *certiorari*, prohibition, *mandamus*, *quo warranto* and *habeas corpus*, as well as any other writs necessary to the complete exercise of their jurisdiction.

As a general rule, decisions of the District Courts of Appeal represent the final appellate review of litigated cases. A person who is displeased with a District Courts of Appeal's express decision may then ask for a review by the Florida Supreme Court, and thereafter by the United States Supreme Court, but neither of these superior tribunals are required to accept the case for further review. Most are denied.

## **Judicial Family Institute (JFI)**

### Judicial Family Institute (JFI)

The Judicial Family Institute is a subcommittee of the Conference of Chief Justices. It also works with the National Center for State Courts and is dedicated to providing information, support and education to judicial family members.

## **Trial Courts - Circuit**



Until 1973, Florida had more different kinds of trial courts than any state except New York. A movement developed in the late-1960s to reform this confusing system. As a result, Florida now has a simple two-tiered trial court system. A temporary exception was the municipal court, which was not abolished until 1 January 1977. Most of these courts in major population areas were abolished on 1 January 1973.

The majority of jury trials in Florida take place before one judge sitting as a judge of the Circuit Court. The circuit courts are sometimes referred to as courts of general jurisdiction, in recognition of the fact that most criminal and civil cases originate at this level.

### **Organization**

The Constitution provides that a circuit court shall be established to serve each judicial circuit established by the Legislature, of which there are 20. Within each circuit, there may be any number of judges, depending upon the population and caseload of the particular area.

Figure 13: Florida Circuit Courts



To be eligible for the office of Circuit Judge, a person must be an elector of a county within the circuit and must have been admitted to the practice of law in the state for the preceding five years.

Circuit Court judges are elected by the voters of the circuits in non-partisan, contested elections against other persons who choose to qualify as candidates for the position. Circuit Court judges serve for six-years terms, and are subject to the same disciplinary standards and procedures as Supreme Court Justices and district court judges.

A Chief Judge is chosen from among the circuit judges and county judges in each judicial circuit to carry out administrative responsibilities for all trial courts (both circuit and county courts) within the circuit.

**Jurisdiction**

Circuit Courts have general trial jurisdiction over matters not assigned by statute to the county courts and also hear appeals from county court cases. Thus, circuit courts are simultaneously the highest trial courts and the lowest appellate courts in Florida's judicial system.

The trial jurisdiction of Circuit Courts includes, among other matters, original jurisdiction over civil disputes involving more than \$15,000; controversies involving the estates of decedents, minors, and persons adjudicated as incapacitated; cases relating to juveniles; criminal prosecutions for all felonies; tax disputes; actions to determine

titles and boundaries of real-estate properties; suits for declaratory judgments to determine legal rights or responsibilities of parties under the terms of written instruments, laws, or regulations before a dispute arises and leads to litigation; and requests for injunctions to prevent persons or entities from acting in a manner that is asserted to be unlawful.

Lastly, Circuit Courts are also granted the power to issue the extraordinary writs of *certiorari*, prohibition, *mandamus*, *quo warranto*, and *habeas corpus*, and all other writs necessary to the complete exercise of their jurisdiction.

### **Trial Courts - County Organization**

- The Constitution establishes a county court in each of Florida's 67 counties. The number of judges in each county court varies with the population and caseload of the county. To be eligible for the office of a county judge, a person must be an elector of the county and must have been a member of the Florida Bar for five years; in counties with a population of 40,000 or less, a person must only be a member of the Florida Bar.
- County judges are eligible for assignment to circuit court, and they are frequently assigned as such within the judicial circuit that embraces their counties.
- County judges serve six-years terms, and they are subject to the same disciplinary standards, and to the jurisdiction of the Judicial Qualifications Commission, as all other judicial officers.

### **Jurisdiction**

- The trial jurisdiction of county courts is established by statute. The jurisdiction of county courts extends to civil disputes up to \$15,000.
- The majority of non-jury trials in Florida take place before one judge sitting as a judge of the county court. The county courts are sometimes referred to as the "people's courts," probably because a large part of



the courts' work involves voluminous citizen disputes, such as traffic offenses, less serious criminal matters (misdemeanors) and relatively small monetary disputes.

### **Links**

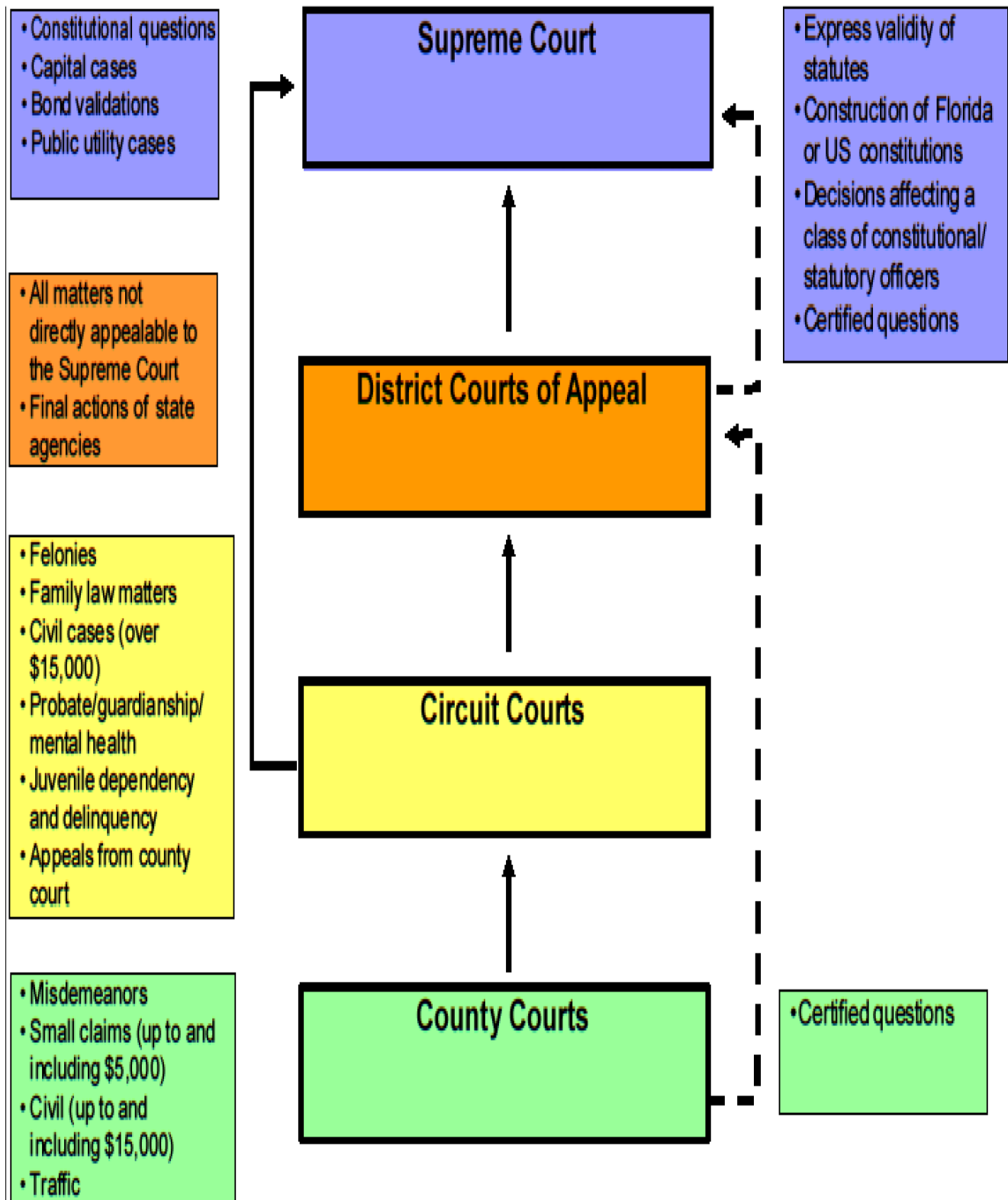
- [County/Circuit Cross Reference](#)
- [City/County Cross Reference](#)
- [Florida Association of Court Clerks and Comptroller](#)
- [MyFloridaCounty.com](#) - Pay county court services on-line
- [Conference of County Court Judges of Florida](#)

### **Judicial Family Institute (JFI)**

The Judicial Family Institute is a subcommittee of the Conference of Chief Justices. It also works with the National Center for State Courts and is dedicated to providing information, support, and education to judicial family members.

Source: <http://www.flcourts.org>

**Figure 14: Jurisdiction of Florida Courts**



Source: <http://flcourts.org>

## **VII. Local Government**

There are four types of local governments in Florida: counties, municipalities, school districts and special districts.<sup>[30]</sup>

Florida consists of 67 counties. Each county has officers considered "state" officers: these officials are elected locally, and their salaries and office expenses are also paid locally, but they cannot be removed from office or replaced locally, but only by the Governor. The state officers subject to this requirement are the sheriff, state's attorney, public defender, tax collector, clerk of the Circuit Court (though styled as such, each circuit having multiple counties within its jurisdiction has a separately elected clerk within each county, and the office also handles official county records not pertaining to judicial matters), property appraiser, supervisor of elections and judges.

There is one school district for each county; the Florida Constitution allows adjoining counties to merge their districts upon voter approval.<sup>[31]</sup> The superintendent is by default an elected official; however, the Florida Constitution allows county voters to make the position an appointed one.<sup>[32]</sup>

Municipalities in Florida may be called towns, cities, or villages, but there is no legal distinction between the different terms. Municipalities often have police departments, fire departments and provide essential services such as water, waste collection, etc. In unincorporated areas of a county, the county itself can provide some of these services.

Municipalities may also enter agreements with the county to have the county provide certain services. Each county has a sheriff who also tends to have concurrent jurisdiction with municipal police departments.<sup>[33]</sup>

Both counties and cities may have a legislative branch (commissions or councils) and executive branch (mayor or manager) and local police, but violations are brought before a county court. Counties and municipalities are authorized to pass laws (ordinances), levy taxes, and provide public services within their jurisdictions. All areas of Florida are located within a county, but only some areas have been incorporated into municipalities. All municipalities are located within a county and the county jurisdiction overlays the municipal jurisdiction. Usually, if there is a conflict between a county ordinance and a municipal ordinance, the municipal ordinance has precedence within the municipality's borders; however, the overlaying county's ordinances have precedence if the overlaying county has been designated a charter county by the Florida Legislature.<sup>[34]</sup>

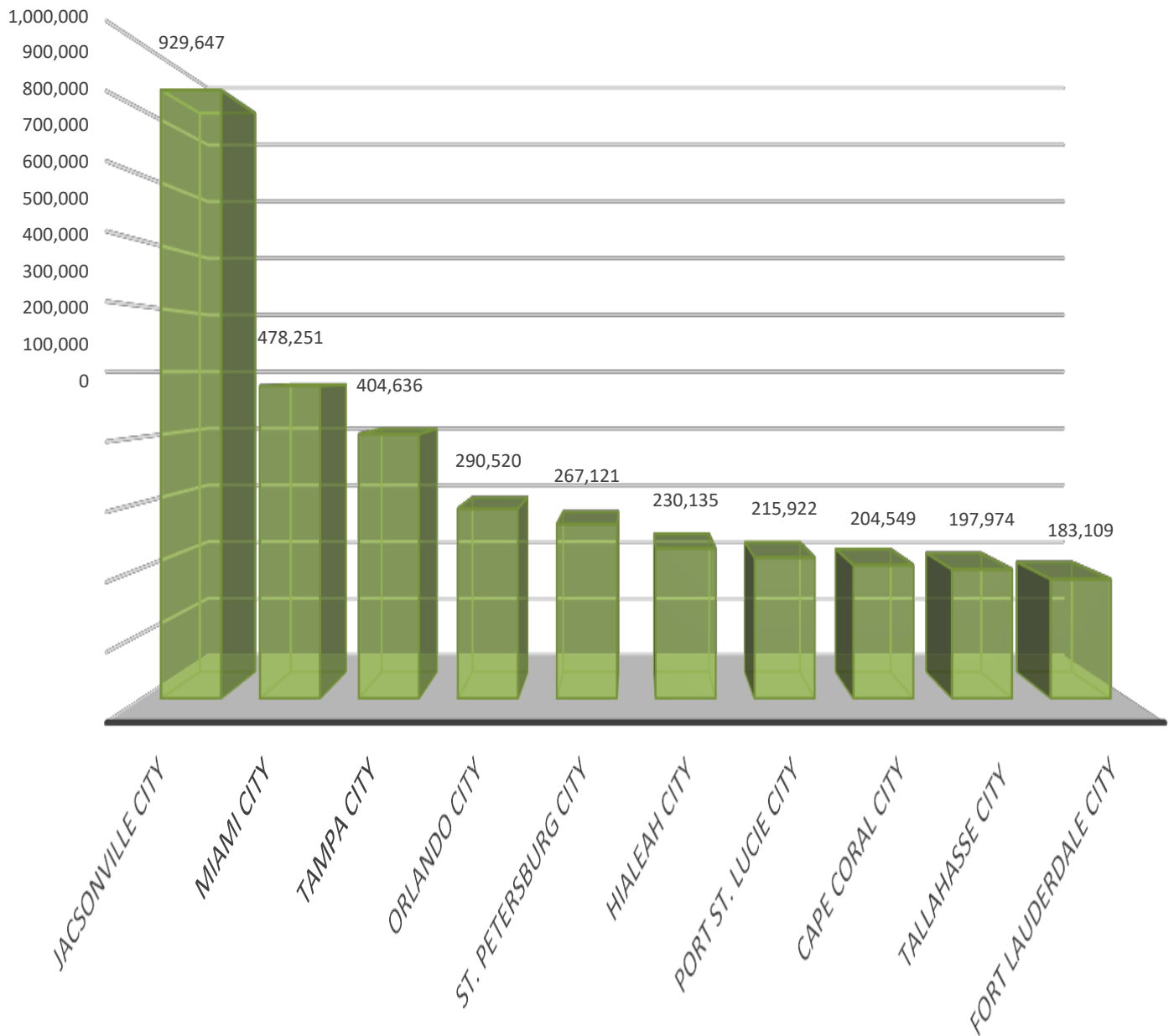
In some cases, the municipal and county governments have merged into a consolidated government. However, smaller municipal governments can be created inside of a consolidated municipality/county. In Jacksonville, the municipal government has taken over the responsibilities that are normally given to the county government, Duval County and smaller municipalities that exist within it.

Among special districts are "community development districts" which have virtually all the power of a city or county (except, notably, they do not have police power). Chapter 190 of the Florida Statutes governs these districts. Notable CDD's include the Reedy Creek Improvement District (the location of Walt Disney World) and substantially all of the Villages (the giant Central Florida retirement community). Other special districts include sports authorities, taxicab commissions, five powerful water and flood management districts, mosquito control districts, airport authorities and navigation districts among a host of others.

**Figure 15: Florida's 10 Largest Cities**

■ Total Population: 18,801,310

**Population of Florida's 10 Largest Cities**



Total Population of Florida: 21,780,000 (estimate 2021) vs. 22,240,000 (estimate 2022)

## The Future

As this 2022 (7<sup>th</sup> edition) of *A Brief Introduction to Florida Government* is published, below are 21 of the most pressing issues in Florida that will have to be addressed in the near future by our state and local government officials.

1. Florida, as the whole United States, had begun to recover physically, emotionally and economically from the devastating effects of the world-wide COVID-19 pandemic when the OMICRON variant hit the state. As the state appeared to be on another rebound, other less lethal variants of the virus, BA.2, are circulating in approximately 36 states, including Florida. Prevention measures, masks, isolation, testing, vaccines and treatment procedures have been under scrutiny for their actual effectiveness vs. government mandates under the Joe Biden (D) Administration, while the Center for Diseases Control (CDC) guidelines changed constantly. Florida Governor DeSantis (R) was the first to abolish in the state all mandatory measures despite national criticism by the Democrats, until also the CDC and President Biden (D) were forced to end COVID-19 emergencies by May 2023.
2. With a new President of the United States, (possessing a different set of values from the previous President), taking office, citizens are anticipating a less contentious political and social environment in the country. However, at present, our current Republican Governor Ron DeSantis seems to be at odds with most of the Democratic executive decisions coming out of Washington, D.C., especially those dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic and the “mask mandate” recently overturned by a Florida Federal judge.
3. As long as the country is divided along partisan lines, Florida will be a focal point for national elections. The state is nearly evenly split between voting Democrats, Republicans and independents, with the “I-4 Corridor” evenly split among the parties as well. After the November 2020 elections, Florida had one Democrat in the state cabinet and now two Republican U.S. Senators. One of these senators

will be up for election in November. Democrats carried the state's electoral votes in 1996, 2008 and 2012; Republicans carried the state in 2000 (by 500+ votes), 2004, 2016, 2020 and 2022 (by 1,5 million).

4. In the last 20 years Florida has helped decide three Democrat and four Republican Presidential Electoral victories. In 2021, the state was assigned one more Congressional seat, hence, one additional electoral vote, making Florida an even more important electoral state as it ranks third in population and electoral votes behind California and Texas.
5. After the tabulated results of the 2020 census were distributed to the states, mandated reapportionment of U.S. House, Florida Senate and Florida House of Representative districts were required by statute. Battles began in the state with major boundary differences and charges of gerrymandering cited by Democrats in the reapportionment maps drawn by the Republican dominated committee. In a rare move, the governor recently vetoed the maps drawn by the Legislature and called for a Special Session of the Legislature to consider and approve (which they did with protests and walk-outs of members of the Legislature), his drawn boundary maps that exclude two primarily African-American Congressional seats. Governor DeSantis stated that his substituted maps were necessary to comply with a U.S. Supreme Court decision which ruled that gerrymandering of U.S. Congressional seats to accommodate racial minorities was unconstitutional. Opponents have vowed to take the new Congressional district map to court.
6. In a special 2022 session of the Legislature the future of Florida's hard hit property insurance industry was addressed. Several changes in state insurance law were adopted. Some feel these laws benefited insurance companies rather than individuals. Supposedly property rates will decrease in the next few years. Ironically, after the session ended the state insurance commission resigned and well as the President and CEO of Citizens Insurance, the state created insurer of last resort.

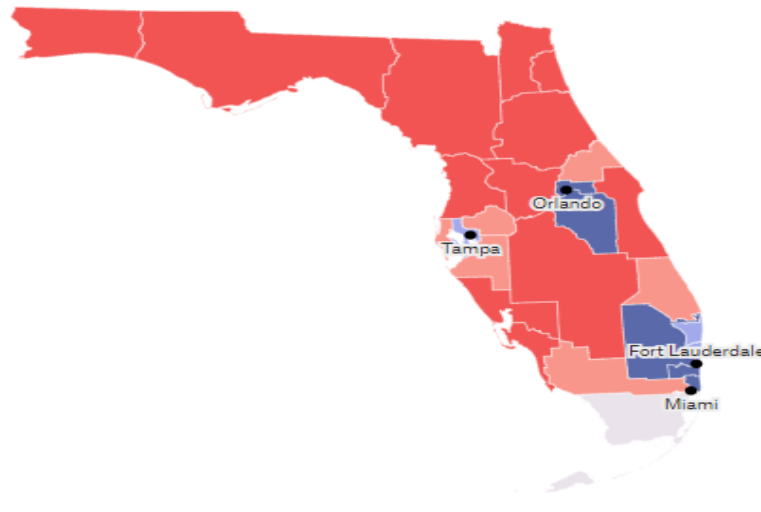
# New 2022 Florida Electoral Districts

The partisan breakdown of Florida's new map

Status: **In litigation**



**NEW MAP** | OLD MAP



There are **8 Democratic-leaning seats**, **18 Republican-leaning seats** and **2 highly competitive seats** in Florida's new map.

Change from old map: **+4 Republican-leaning seats**, **-3 highly competitive seats**.

Source: [projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting](https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/redistricting)

7. In a last minute surprise, Governor DeSantis stated that the Special 2022 Legislative session would also take up the discontinuance of the special municipal type district created for Disney World 50 years ago, the Reedy Creek Improvement District. Disney officials objected to another of the Legislatures' 2022 bills, the controversial *Parental Rights in Education Act*, or "Don't Say Gay" bill, heartily endorsed and supported by the Governor. The law does not allow the discussion of sexual orientation/identification issues in school grades K-to-3. Florida Disney employees protested the bill as anti LGBTQ+ and were disheartened by the non-stance taken by Disney officials as the



bill was going through the legislative process to its eventual passage. Ultimately, Disney officials issued a strong statement condemning the bill as anti-LGBTQ+ and not in conformity with their corporate values. The revocation of their special municipal corporation status by the Florida Legislature and ratified by the Governor is seen as retaliation for the Disney corporate in California official stand against the local Florida law.

8. Another controversial bill to pass the Florida Legislature in the 2022 Legislative session is the *Individual Freedom* Bill, or the “Critical Race Theory” Act. Teachers and others in a school setting are not allowed to cover historical or other topics that may make a student feel “discomfort” for past events. All levels of educational textbooks are now being scrutinized and evaluated throughout the state to determine if all or segments of a book have elements of “Critical Race Theory” in the content. The sponsor of the bill stated that teachers are free to present historical data, however no student in the state should have feelings of guilt for past historical events. Needless to say, the controversy lies in how do you draw the line if you are in a classroom setting?
9. As the Republican-controlled Legislature passed the Governor’s sanctioned restrictive abortion bill (limiting abortions down from 21 to 15 weeks), tighter controls on voting (including authorizing what are called the ‘Voting Police’), the *Parental Rights in Education Act*, (dubbed by Democrats opponents as the “Don’t Say Gay Bill”), a bill on *Individual Freedom* curtailing school teaching of the controversial Critical Race Theory (CRT), his controversial Congressional redistricting maps (reducing Black-majority districts), and other conservative agenda items, two issues may be considered.
  - One, Florida Governor DeSantis has strengthened his base and may be positioning himself for a Republican run for the 2024 Presidency of the United States.
  - Two, some critics have stated that perhaps in Florida there is no longer any separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches. The Republican-controlled Legislature performs mostly in lock-step as the Governor requires.

10. Governor DeSantis has now stated that he wants to pass a Constitutional Carry Act that Georgia and some other states have initiated. An individual will be able to carry a concealed weapon legal without a permit.
11. In the last four years devastating Hurricanes have reached the shores of Florida including two unexpectedly in Fall 2022. With climate change and global warming trends continuing, more severe hurricanes and tornadoes have been predicated to occur in the future. Sea level rise is also a major concern, especially in the Miami area. In addition to devastation and destruction of life and property, these catastrophic events have led to a homeowner's insurance crisis in the state. Rates are dramatically rising and several insurance companies are withdrawing their coverage in the state. This is a long-delayed subject for the 2022-2023 special session of the Florida Legislature.
12. President Joe Biden (D) recently announced a \$1.1 billion inclusion in the National budget for the restoration and revitalization of the Florida Everglades. Most legislators are grateful for the flow of money to the Corps of Engineers to help restore the Everglades to its natural state.
13. Florida's largest metropolitan areas are lacking in mass transit when compared to metropolitan areas of the same size across the country. As the state continues to grow, gridlock continues to worsen in our cities and suburbs. New roads and highway expansion are already outdated by the time they open for traffic.
14. Governor DeSantis has proposed several new toll roads throughout the state. There is concern that these new highways will have a detrimental environmental impact on the Florida wetlands and fauna in the pathway of these projects. In 2022 the Governor put a hold on these roads.
15. Recent Florida Republican Governors (Rick Scott, Ron DeSantis) have repeatedly refused the extension of Medicaid benefits to tens of thousands of Floridians as authorized by Federal law. This has a severe effect on indigents and low income wage earners, putting additional stress on the health care system in Florida.

16. With a 2018 Constitutional Amendment, voters approved the reinstatement of voting rights for most convicted felons. The legislature then passed legislation to block voting rights until full restitution and past court fines and fees have been paid. This has led activist's groups to seek legal remedies to overturn the Legislature's restrictive policies. In fact, several billionaires backing the Democratic Party have paid past court fines and fees of many released felons hoping they would then vote for the Democratic Party, thus leading to even more legal court counter-actions over the legitimacy of such "donations".
17. The issue of legalizing marijuana for medicinal purposes will continue to surface in the state now that a Constitutional Amendment in its favor passed in November 2016. The state has received criticism in how it formulated the regulations for growing, possessing and distributing the substance and its by-products.
18. Florida recently changed its abortion laws pending a U.S. Supreme Court decision(s). Texas, Mississippi and other Southern states have enacted stricter abortion laws than what is permissible under Roe vs. Wade. The cases have been heard by the U.S. Supreme Court and it appears that if the U.S. Supreme Court allows these state statues to stand, Florida's new 15-weeks birth termination law will also stand. The new law enacted by the 2022 legislature and signed by Governor DeSantis with great publicity is not extreme (it reflects the overwhelming average of European states' abortion laws limits of 15/16-weeks, and it does not make abortion totally illegal), but is strongly criticized for not allowing any abortion exceptions after 15-weeks for cases of rape, incest or human trafficking.
19. Several states including Georgia have enacted stricter Voting Rights laws which appear to place restrictions on low income voters. Florida has also enacted a series of stricter voting laws. Once again, the U.S. Supreme Court will be the arbiter of these new statues. Additionally, Congress is considering passing a National Voting Rights act to supersede all state laws.

20. Governor DeSantis signed a compact with the Seminole Tribe of Florida to allow casino type gambling and sports betting on Tribal lands, specifically casinos. Partial proceeds of this enterprise were to be diverted to state coffers. Currently, the compact is under legal dispute and outside groups are trying to add a constitutional amendment to the ballot to allow other entities to provide these “services”.
  
21. Finally, one cannot ignore the issues of growing inflation nationwide and in Florida, especially in energy, rents and food, coupled with the extreme increases in home-values/prices throughout the state, due to slow constructions of available new homes after the two-years devastating stall brought by the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020-2022, plus the major increase in migration to Florida of wealthy U.S. professionals and retirees from Democratic-run states plagued by rising taxes and skyrocketing criminality since the nation-wide Summer 2020 riots and lootings erupting over the George Floyd killing by local Police. However, as Florida home-values have risen at a sharp rate in 2020-2023 due to these factors above, they also have been negatively affected in 2022-2024 by higher interest rates on mortgages and even more drastic rental rates increases, while inflation has jumped to a 40-years high and gas prices have almost doubled in 2021-2023. Thus, with all of these factors taken into account, a recent 2022 survey surprisingly concluded that Florida had become one of the most expensive states to live in.

**Appendix I**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

AS REVISED IN 1968 AND SUBSEQUENTLY AMENDED

The Constitution of the State of Florida as revised in 1968 consisted of certain revised articles as proposed by three joint resolutions which were adopted during the special session of June 24- July 3, 1968, and ratified by the electorate on November 5, 1968, together with one article carried forward from the Constitution of 1885, as amended. The articles proposed in House Joint Resolution 1-2X constituted the entire revised constitution with the exception of Articles V, VI and VIII. Senate Joint Resolution 4-2X proposed Article VI, relating to suffrage and elections. Senate Joint Resolution 5-2X proposed a new Article VIII, relating to local government. Article V, relating to the judiciary, was carried forward from the Constitution of 1885, as amended.

Sections composing the 1968 revision have no history notes. Subsequent changes are indicated by notes appended to the affected sections. The indexes appearing at the beginning of each article, notes appearing at the end of various sections, and section and subsection headings are added editorially and are not to be considered as part of the constitution.

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution.

[ARTICLE I](#) [DECLARATION OF RIGHTS](#)

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ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS

SECTION 1. Political power.

SECTION 2. Basic rights.

SECTION 3. Religious freedom.

SECTION 4. Freedom of speech and press.

SECTION 5. Right to assemble.

SECTION 6. Right to work.

SECTION 7. Military power.

SECTION 8. Right to bear arms.

SECTION 9. Due process.

SECTION 10. Prohibited laws.

SECTION 11. Imprisonment for debt.

SECTION 12. Searches and seizures.

SECTION 13. Habeas corpus.

SECTION 14. Pretrial release and detention.

SECTION 15. Prosecution for crime; offenses committed by children.

SECTION 16. Rights of accused and of victims.

SECTION 17. Excessive punishments.

SECTION 18. Administrative penalties.

SECTION 19. Costs.

SECTION 20. Treason.

SECTION 21. Access to courts.

SECTION 22. Trial by jury.

SECTION 23. Right of privacy.

SECTION 24. Access to public records and meetings.

SECTION 25. Taxpayers' Bill of Rights.

SECTION 26. Claimant's right to fair compensation.

SECTION 27. Marriage defined.

SECTION 1. Political power. — All political power is inherent in the people. The enunciation herein of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or impair others retained by the people.

SECTION 2. Basic rights. — All-natural persons, female and male alike, are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty, to pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and to acquire, possess and protect property; except that the ownership, inheritance, disposition and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship may be regulated or prohibited by law. No person shall be deprived of any right because of race, religion, national origin, or physical disability.

History. — Am. S.J.R. 917, 1974; adopted 1974; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 9, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Religious freedom. — There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace, or safety. No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

SECTION 4. Freedom of speech and press. — Every person may speak, write and publish sentiments on all subjects but shall be responsible for the abuse of that right. No law shall be passed to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press. In all criminal prosecutions and civil actions for defamation the truth may be given in evidence. If the matter charged as defamatory is true and was published with good motives, the party shall be acquitted or exonerated.

History. — Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Right to assemble. — The people shall have the right peaceably to assemble, to instruct their representatives, and to petition for redress of grievances.

SECTION 6. Right to work. — The right of persons to work shall not be denied or abridged on account of membership or non-membership in any labor union or labor organization. The right of employees, by and through a labor organization, to bargain collectively shall not be denied or abridged. Public employees shall not have the right to strike.

SECTION 7. Military power. — The military power shall be subordinate to the civil.

SECTION 8. Right to bear arms. —

(a) The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.

(b) There shall be a mandatory period of three days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, between the purchase and delivery at retail of any handgun. For the purposes of this section, “purchase” means the transfer of money or other valuable consideration to the retailer, and “handgun” means a firearm capable of being carried and used by one hand, such as a pistol or revolver. Holders of a concealed weapon permit as prescribed in Florida law shall not be subject to the provisions of this paragraph.

(c) The legislature shall enact legislation implementing subsection (b) of this section, effective no later than December 31, 1991, which shall provide that anyone violating the provisions of subsection (b) shall be guilty of a felony.

(d) This restriction shall not apply to a trade in of another handgun.

History. — Am. C.S. for S.J.R. 43, 1989; adopted 1990.

SECTION 9. Due process. —No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, or be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense or be compelled in any criminal matter to be a witness against oneself.

History. — Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No.13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 10. Prohibited laws. — No bill of attainder, ex post facto law or law impairing the obligation of contracts shall be passed.

SECTION 11. Imprisonment for debt. — No person shall be imprisoned for debt, except in cases of fraud.

SECTION 12. Searches and seizures. — The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, and against the unreasonable interception of private communications by any means, shall not be violated. No warrant shall be issued except upon probable cause, supported by affidavit, particularly describing the place or places to be searched, the person or persons, thing, or things to be seized,

the communication to be intercepted, and the nature of evidence to be obtained. This right shall be construed in conformity with the 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution, as interpreted by the United States Supreme Court. Articles or information obtained in violation of this right shall not be admissible in evidence if such articles or information would be inadmissible under decisions of the United States Supreme Court construing the 4th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

History. — Am. H.J.R. 31-H, 1982; adopted 1982.

SECTION 13. Habeas corpus. — The writ of habeas corpus shall be grantable of right, freely and without cost. It shall be returnable without delay, and shall never be suspended unless, in case of rebellion or invasion, suspension is essential to the public safety.

SECTION 14. Pretrial release and detention. — Unless charged with a capital offense or an offense punishable by life imprisonment and the proof of guilt is evident or the presumption is great, every person charged with a crime or violation of municipal or county ordinance shall be entitled to pre-trial release on reasonable conditions. If no conditions of release can reasonably protect the community from risk of physical harm to persons, assure the presence of the accused at trial, or assure the integrity of the judicial process, the accused may be detained.

History. — Am. H.J.R. 43-H, 1982; adopted 1982.

SECTION 15. Prosecution for crime; offenses committed by children. —

(a) No person shall be tried for capital crime without presentment or indictment by a grand jury, or for other felony without such presentment or indictment or an information under oath filed by the prosecuting officer of the court, except persons on active duty in the militia when tried by courts martial.

(b) When authorized by law, a child as therein defined may be charged with a violation of law as an act of delinquency instead of crime and tried without a jury or other requirement applicable to criminal cases. Any child so charged shall, upon demand made as provided by law before a trial in a juvenile proceeding, be tried in an appropriate court as an adult. A child found delinquent shall be disciplined as provided by law.

SECTION 16. Rights of accused and of victims. —

(a) In all criminal prosecutions the accused shall, upon demand, be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation, and shall be furnished a copy of the charges, and shall have the right to have compulsory process for witnesses, to confront at trial adverse witnesses, to be heard in person, by counsel or both, and to have a speedy and public trial by impartial jury in the county where the crime was committed. If the county is not known, the indictment or information may charge venue in two or more counties conjunctively and proof that the crime was committed in that area shall be sufficient; but before pleading the accused may elect in which of those counties the trial will take place. Venue for prosecution of crimes committed beyond the boundaries of the state shall be fixed by law.

(b) Victims of crime or their lawful representatives, including the next of kin of homicide victims, are entitled to the right to be informed, to be present, and to be heard when relevant, at all crucial stages of criminal proceedings, to the extent that these rights do not interfere with the constitutional rights of the accused.

History. — Am. S.J.R. 135, 1987; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No.13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State 5 May 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 17. Excessive punishments. — Excessive fines, cruel and unusual punishment, attainder, forfeiture of estate, indefinite imprisonment, and unreasonable detention of witnesses



are forbidden. The death penalty is an authorized punishment for capital crimes designated by the legislature. The prohibition against cruel or unusual punishment, and the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment, shall be construed in conformity with decisions of the United States Supreme Court which interpret the prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment provided in the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution. Any method of execution shall be allowed, unless prohibited by the United States Constitution. Methods of execution may be designated by the legislature, and a change in any method of execution may be applied retroactively. A sentence of death shall not be reduced on the basis that a method of execution is invalid. In any case in which an execution method is declared invalid, the death sentence shall remain in force until the sentence can be lawfully executed by any valid method. This section shall apply retroactively.

History. — Am. H.J.R. 3505, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. H.J.R. 951, 2001; adopted 2002.

SECTION 18. Administrative penalties. — No administrative agency, except the Department of Military Affairs in an appropriately convened court-martial action as provided by law, shall impose a sentence of imprisonment, nor shall it impose any other penalty except as provided by law.

History. — Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 19. Costs. — No person charged with crime shall be compelled to pay costs before a judgment of conviction has become final.

SECTION 20. Treason. — Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against it, adhering to its enemies, or giving them aid and comfort, and no person shall be convicted of treason except on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act or on confession in open court.

SECTION 21. Access to courts. — The courts shall be open to every person for redress of any injury, and justice shall be administered without sale, denial or delay.

SECTION 22. Trial by jury. — The right of trial by jury shall be secure to all and remain inviolate. The qualifications and the number of jurors, not fewer than six, shall be fixed by law.

SECTION 23. Right of privacy. — Every natural person has the right to be let alone and free from governmental intrusion into the person's private life except as otherwise provided herein. This section shall not be construed to limit the public's right of access to public records and meetings as provided by law.

History. — Added, C.S. for H.J.R. 387, 1980; adopted 1980; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No.13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 24. Access to public records and meetings. —

(a) Every person has the right to inspect or copy any public record made or received in connection with the official business of any public body, officer, or employee of the state, or persons acting on their behalf, except with respect to records exempted pursuant to this section or specifically made confidential by this Constitution. This section specifically includes the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government and each agency or department created thereunder; counties, municipalities, and districts; and each constitutional officer, board, and commission, or entity created pursuant to law or this Constitution.

(b) All meetings of any collegial public body of the executive branch of state government or of any collegial public body of a county, municipality, school district, or special district, at which

official acts are to be taken or at which public business of such body is to be transacted or discussed, shall be open and noticed to the public and meetings of the legislature shall be open and noticed as provided in Article III, Section 4(e), except with respect to meetings exempted pursuant to this section or specifically closed by this Constitution.

(c) This section shall be self-executing. The legislature, however, may provide by general law passed by a two-thirds vote of each house for the exemption of records from the requirements of subsection (a) and the exemption of meetings from the requirements of subsection (b), provided that such law shall state with specificity the public necessity justifying the exemption and shall be no broader than necessary to accomplish the stated purpose of the law. The legislature shall enact laws governing the enforcement of this section, including the maintenance, control, destruction, disposal, and disposition of records made public by this section, except that each house of the legislature may adopt rules governing the enforcement of this section in relation to records of the legislative branch. Laws enacted pursuant to this subsection shall contain only exemptions from the requirements of subsections (a) or (b) and provisions governing the enforcement of this section and shall relate to one subject.

(d) All laws that are in effect on July 1, 1993 that limit public access to records or meetings shall remain in force, and such laws apply to records of the legislative and judicial branches, until they are repealed. Rules of court that are in effect on the date of adoption of this section that limit access to records shall remain in effect until they are repealed.

History. — Added, C.S. for C.S. for H.J.R.’s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. S.J.R. 1284, 2002; adopted 2002.

**SECTION 25. Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights.** — By general law the legislature shall prescribe and adopt a Taxpayers’ Bill of Rights that, in clear and concise language, sets forth taxpayers’ rights and responsibilities and government’s responsibilities to deal fairly with taxpayers under the laws of this state. This section shall be effective July 1, 1993.

History. — Proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 2, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992.

Note. — This section, originally designated section 24 by Revision No. 2 of the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, 1992, was redesignated section 25 by the editors in order to avoid confusion with section 24 as contained in H.J.R.’s 1727, 863, 2035, 1992.

**SECTION 26. Claimant’s right to fair compensation.** —

(a) Article I, Section 26 is created to read “Claimant’s right to fair compensation.” In any medical liability claim involving a contingency fee, the claimant is entitled to receive no less than 70% of the first \$250,000.00 in all damages received by the claimant, exclusive of reasonable and customary costs, whether received by judgment, settlement, or otherwise, and regardless of the number of defendants. The claimant is entitled to 90% of all damages in excess of \$250,000.00, exclusive of reasonable and customary costs and regardless of the number of defendants. This provision is self-executing and does not require implementing legislation.

(b) This Amendment shall take effect on the day following approval by the voters.

History. — Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State September 8, 2003; adopted 2004.

**SECTION 27. Marriage defined.** — Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.

History. — Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State February 9, 2005; adopted 2008.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. Proposal by legislature.

SECTION 2. Revision commission.

SECTION 3. Initiative.

SECTION 4. Constitutional convention. \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION 5. Amendment or revision election.

SECTION 6. Taxation & budget reform commission.

SECTION 7. Tax or fee limitation.

SECTION 1. Proposal by legislature. — Amendment of a section or revision of one or more articles, or the whole, of this constitution may be proposed by joint resolution agreed to by three-fifths of the membership of each house of the legislature. The full text of the joint resolution and the vote of each member voting shall be entered on the journal of each house.

SECTION 2. Revision commission. —

(a) Within thirty days before the convening of the 2017 regular session of the legislature, and each twentieth year thereafter, there shall be established a constitution revision commission composed of the following thirty-seven members:

- (1) the attorney general of the state.
- (2) fifteen members selected by the governor.
- (3) nine members selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and nine members selected by the president of the senate; and
- (4) three members selected by the chief justice of the supreme court of Florida with the advice of the justices.

(b) The governor shall designate one member of the commission as its chair. Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(c) Each constitution revision commission shall convene at the call of its chair, adopt its rules of procedure, examine the constitution of the state, hold public hearings, and not later than one hundred eighty days prior to the next general election, file with the custodian of state records its proposal, if any, of a revision of this constitution or any part of it.

History. — Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. S.J.R. 210, 1996; adopted 1996; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Initiative. — The power to propose the revision or amendment of any portion or portions of this constitution by initiative is reserved to the people, provided that, any such revision or amendment, except for those limiting the power of government to raise revenue, shall embrace but one subject and matter directly connected therewith. It may be invoked by filing with the custodian of state records a petition containing a copy of the proposed revision or amendment, signed by a number of electors in each of one half of the congressional districts of the state, and of the state as a whole, equal to eight percent of the votes cast in each of such districts respectively and in the state as a whole in the last preceding election in which presidential electors were chosen.

History. — Am. H.J.R. 2835, 1972; adopted 1972; Am. by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State August 3, 1993; adopted 1994; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 4. Constitutional convention. —

(a) The power to call a convention to consider a revision of the entire constitution is reserved to the people. It may be invoked by filing with the custodian of state records a petition, containing a declaration that a constitutional convention is desired, signed by a number of electors in each of one half of the congressional districts of the state, and of the state as a whole, equal to fifteen per cent of the votes cast in each such district respectively and in the state as a whole in the last preceding election of presidential electors.

(b) At the next general election held more than ninety days after the filing of such petition there shall be submitted to the electors of the state the question: “Shall a constitutional convention be held?” If a majority voting on the question votes in the affirmative, at the next succeeding general election there shall be elected from each representative district a member of a constitutional convention. On the twenty-first day following that election, the convention shall sit at the capital, elect officers, adopt rules of procedure, judge the election of its membership, and fix a time and place for its future meetings. Not later than ninety days before the next succeeding general election, the convention shall cause to be filed with the custodian of state records any revision of this constitution proposed by it.

History. — Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Amendment or revision election. —

(a) A proposed amendment to or revision of this constitution, or any part of it, shall be submitted to the electors at the next general election held more than ninety days after the joint resolution or report of revision commission, constitutional convention or taxation and budget reform commission proposing it is filed with the custodian of state records, unless, pursuant to law enacted by the affirmative vote of three-fourths of the membership of each house of the legislature and limited to a single amendment or revision, it is submitted at an earlier special election held more than ninety days after such filing.

(b) A proposed amendment or revision of this constitution, or any part of it, by initiative shall be submitted to the electors at the general election provided the initiative petition is filed with the custodian of state records no later than February 1 of the year in which the general election is held.

(c) The legislature shall provide by general law, prior to the holding of an election pursuant to this section, for the provision of a statement to the public regarding the probable financial impact of any amendment proposed by initiative pursuant to section 3.

(d) Once in the tenth week, and once in the sixth week immediately preceding the week in which the election is held, the proposed amendment or revision, with notice of the date of election at which it will be submitted to the electors, shall be published in one newspaper of general circulation in each county in which a newspaper is published.

(e) Unless otherwise specifically provided for elsewhere in this constitution, if the proposed amendment or revision is approved by vote of at least sixty percent of the electors voting on the measure, it shall be effective as an amendment to or revision of the constitution of the state on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January following the election, or on such other date as may be specified in the amendment or revision.

History. — Am. H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 8, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998; Am. H.J.R. 571, 2001; adopted 2002; Am. S.J.R. 2394, 2004; adopted 2004; Am. H.J.R. 1723, 2005; adopted 2006.

SECTION 6. Taxation and budget reform commission. —

(a) Beginning in 2007 and each twentieth year thereafter, there shall be established a taxation and budget reform commission composed of the following members:

(1) eleven members selected by the governor, none of whom shall be a member of the legislature at the time of appointment.

(2) seven members selected by the speaker of the house of representatives and seven members selected by the president of the senate, none of whom shall be a member of the legislature at the time of appointment.

(3) four non-voting ex officio members, all of whom shall be members of the legislature at the time of appointment. Two of these members, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party in the house of representatives, shall be selected by the speaker of the house of representatives, and two of these members, one of whom shall be a member of the minority party in the senate, shall be selected by the president of the senate.

(b) Vacancies in the membership of the commission shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointments.

(c) At its initial meeting, the members of the commission shall elect a member who is not a member of the legislature to serve as chair and the commission shall adopt its rules of procedure. Thereafter, the commission shall convene at the call of the chair. An affirmative vote of two thirds of the full commission shall be necessary for any revision of this constitution or any part of it to be proposed by the commission.

(d) The commission shall examine the state budgetary process, the revenue needs and expenditure processes of the state, the appropriateness of the tax structure of the state, and governmental productivity and efficiency; review policy as it relates to the ability of state and local government to tax and adequately fund governmental operations and capital facilities required to meet the state's needs during the next twenty year period; determine methods favored by the citizens of the state to fund the needs of the state, including alternative methods for raising sufficient revenues for the needs of the state; determine measures that could be instituted to effectively gather funds from existing tax sources; examine constitutional limitations on taxation and expenditures at the state and local level; and review the state's comprehensive planning, budgeting and needs assessment processes to determine whether the resulting information adequately supports a strategic decision-making process.

(e) The commission shall hold public hearings as it deems necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this section. The commission shall issue a report of the results of the review carried out and propose to the legislature any recommended statutory changes related to the taxation or budgetary laws of the state. Not later than one hundred eighty days prior to the general election in the second year following the year in which the commission is established, the commission shall file with the custodian of state records its proposal, if any, of a revision of this constitution or any part of it dealing with taxation or the state budgetary process.

History. — Added, H.J.R. 1616, 1988; adopted 1988; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

**SECTION 7. Tax or fee limitation.** — Notwithstanding Article X, Section 12(d) of this constitution, no new State tax or fee shall be imposed on or after November 8, 1994 by any amendment to this constitution unless the proposed amendment is approved by not fewer than two-thirds of the voters voting in the election in which such proposed amendment is considered. For purposes of this section, the phrase “new State tax or fee” shall mean any tax or fee which would produce revenue subject to lump sum or other appropriation by the Legislature, either for the State general revenue fund or any trust fund, which tax or fee is not in effect on November 7, 1994 including without limitation such taxes and fees as are the subject of proposed constitutional amendments appearing on the ballot on November 8, 1994. This section shall apply to proposed constitutional amendments relating to State taxes or fees which appear on the November 8, 1994 ballot, or later ballots, and any such proposed amendment which fails to gain the two-thirds vote required hereby shall be null, void and without effect.

History. — Proposed by Initiative Petition filed with the Secretary of State March 11, 1994; adopted 1996.

## From the Florida Constitution

### SECTION 1. Governor. —

(a) The supreme executive power shall be vested in a governor, who shall be commander-in-chief of all military forces of the state not in active service of the United States. The governor shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, commission all officers of the state and counties, and transact all necessary business with the officers of government. The governor may require information in writing from all executive or administrative state, county or municipal officers upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices. The governor shall be the chief administrative officer of the state responsible for the planning and budgeting for the state.

(b) The governor may initiate judicial proceedings in the name of the state against any executive or administrative state, county or municipal officer to enforce compliance with any duty or restrain any unauthorized act.

(c) The governor may request in writing the opinion of the justices of the supreme court as to the interpretation of any portion of this constitution upon any question affecting the governor's executive powers and duties. The justices shall, subject to their rules of procedure, permit interested persons to be heard on the questions presented and shall render their written opinion not earlier than ten days from the filing and docketing of the request, unless in their judgment the delay would cause public injury.

(d) The governor shall have power to call out the militia to preserve the public peace, execute the laws of the state, suppress insurrection, or repel invasion.

(e) The governor shall by message at least once in each regular session inform the legislature concerning the condition of the state, propose such reorganization of the executive department as will promote efficiency and economy, and recommend measures in the public interest.

(f) When not otherwise provided for in this constitution, the governor shall fill by appointment any vacancy in state or county office for the remainder of the term of an appointive office, and for the remainder of the term of an elective office if less than twenty-eight months, otherwise until the first Tuesday after the first Monday following the next general election.

History. — Am. proposed by Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, Revision No. 1, 1992, filed with the Secretary of State May 7, 1992; adopted 1992; Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 2. Lieutenant-Governor. — There shall be a lieutenant governor, who shall perform such duties pertaining to the office of governor as shall be assigned by the governor, except when otherwise provided by law, and such other duties as may be prescribed by law.

History. — Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 3. Succession to office of Governor; Acting-Governor. —

(a) Upon vacancy in the office of governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor. Further succession to the office of governor shall be prescribed by law. A successor shall serve for the remainder of the term.

(b) Upon impeachment of the governor and until completion of trial thereof, or during the governor's physical or mental incapacity, the lieutenant governor shall act as governor. Further succession as acting governor shall be prescribed by law. Incapacity to serve as governor may be determined by the supreme court upon due notice after docketing of a written suggestion thereof by three cabinet members, and in such case restoration of capacity shall be similarly determined after docketing of written suggestion thereof by the governor, the legislature or three cabinet members. Incapacity to serve as governor may also be established by certificate filed with the custodian of state records by the governor declaring incapacity for physical reasons to serve as governor, and in such case restoration of capacity shall be similarly established.

History. — Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 4. Cabinet. —

(a) There shall be a cabinet composed of an attorney general, a chief financial officer, and a commissioner of agriculture. In addition to the powers and duties specified herein, they shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by law. In the event of a tie vote of the governor and cabinet, the side on which the governor voted shall be deemed to prevail.

(b) The attorney general shall be the chief state legal officer. There is created in the office of the attorney general the position of statewide prosecutor. The statewide prosecutor shall have concurrent jurisdiction with the state attorneys to prosecute violations of criminal laws occurring or having occurred, in two or more judicial circuits as part of a related transaction, or when any such offense is affecting or has affected two or more judicial circuits as provided by general law. The statewide prosecutor shall be appointed by the attorney general from not less than three persons nominated by the judicial nominating commission for the supreme court, or as otherwise provided by general law.

(c) The chief financial officer shall serve as the chief fiscal officer of the state, and shall settle and approve accounts against the state, and shall keep all state funds and securities.

(d) The commissioner of agriculture shall have supervision of matters pertaining to agriculture except as otherwise provided by law.

(e) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, and the attorney general shall constitute the state board of administration, which shall succeed to all the power, control, and authority of the state board of administration established pursuant to Article IX, Section 16 of the Constitution of 1885, and which shall continue as a body at least for the life of Article XII, Section 9(c).

(f) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, the attorney general, and the commissioner of agriculture shall constitute the trustees of the internal improvement trust fund and the land acquisition trust fund as provided by law.

(g) The governor as chair, the chief financial officer, the attorney general, and the commissioner of agriculture shall constitute the agency head of the Department of Law Enforcement.

History. — Am. H.J.R. 435, 1983; adopted 1984; Am. H.J.R. 386, 1985; adopted 1986; Ams. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision Nos. 8 and 13, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 5. Election of Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and cabinet members; qualifications; terms. —

(a) At a state-wide general election in each calendar year the number of which is even but not a multiple of four, the electors shall choose a Governor and a Lieutenant-Governor and members of the cabinet each for a term of four years beginning on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January of the succeeding year. In primary elections, candidates for the office of governor may choose to run without a Lieutenant-Governor candidate. In the general election, all candidates for the offices of Governor and Lieutenant-Governor shall form joint candidacies in a manner prescribed by law so that each voter shall cast a single vote for a candidate for Governor and a candidate for Lieutenant-Governor running together.

(b) When elected, the Governor and Lieutenant-Governor and each cabinet member must be an elector not less than thirty years of age who has resided in the state for the preceding seven years. The Attorney-General must have been a member of the bar of Florida for the preceding five years. No person who has, or but for resignation would have, served as Governor or Acting-Governor for more than six years in two consecutive terms shall be elected governor for the succeeding term. History. — Am. proposed by Constitution Revision Commission, Revision No. 11, 1998, filed with the Secretary of State May 5, 1998; adopted 1998.

SECTION 6. Executive departments. — All functions of the executive branch of state government shall be allotted among not more than twenty-five departments, exclusive of those specifically provided for or authorized in this constitution. The administration of each department, unless otherwise provided in this constitution, shall be placed by law under the direct supervision of the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Governor and cabinet, a cabinet member, or an officer or board appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the Governor, except:

(a) When provided by law, confirmation by the senate or the approval of three members of the cabinet shall be required for appointment to or removal from any designated statutory office.

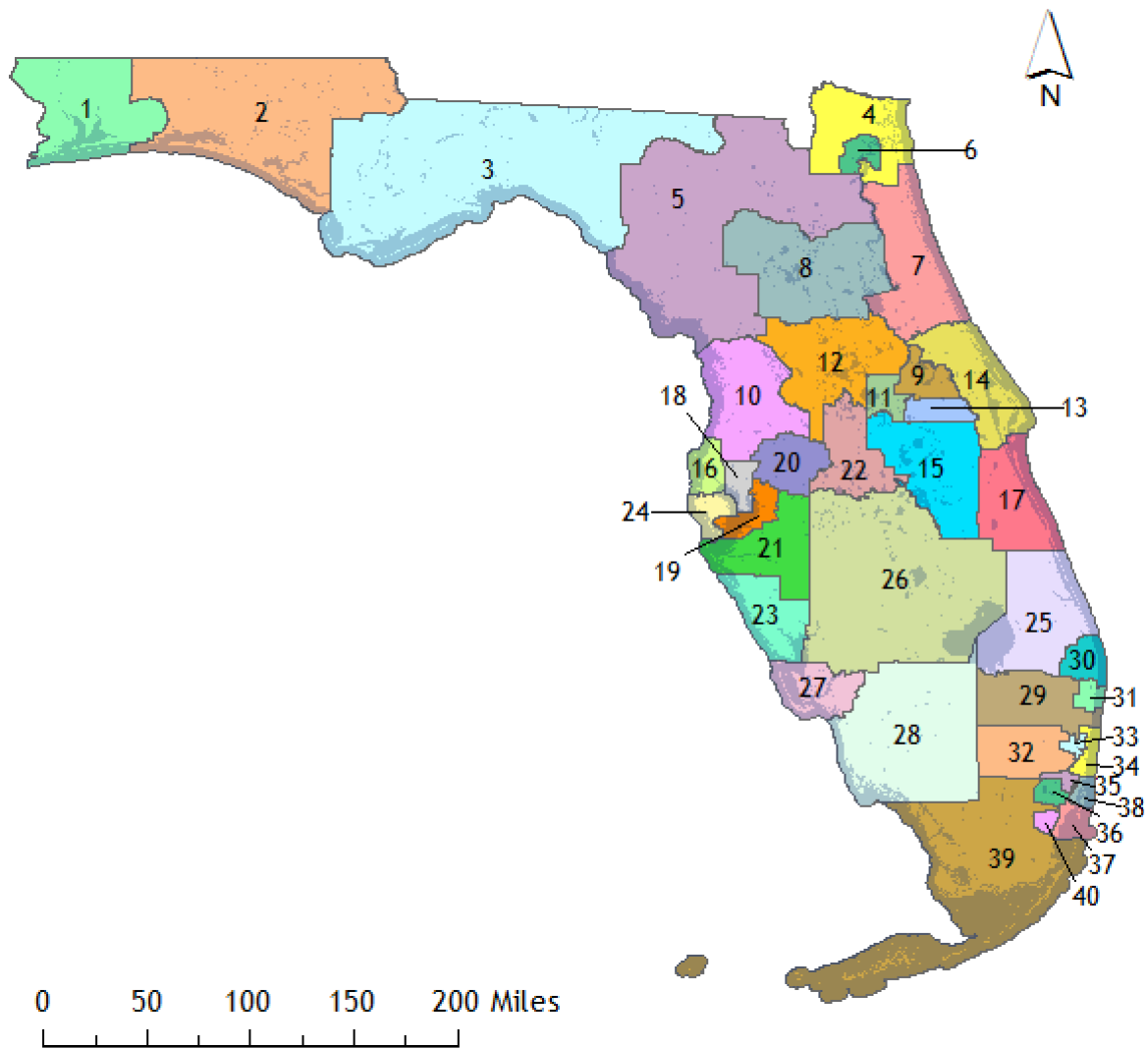
(b) Boards authorized to grant and revoke licenses to engage in regulated occupations shall be assigned to appropriate departments and their members appointed for fixed terms, subject to removal only for cause.



**Appendix II Figure 16: Florida Senate Districts**

**[View Individual Senate District Maps and Census Data](#)**

<a href="#">01</a>	<a href="#">02</a>	<a href="#">03</a>	<a href="#">04</a>	<a href="#">05</a>	<a href="#">06</a>	<a href="#">07</a>	<a href="#">08</a>	<a href="#">09</a>		<a href="#">10</a>	<a href="#">11</a>	<a href="#">12</a>	<a href="#">13</a>	<a href="#">14</a>	<a href="#">15</a>	<a href="#">16</a>	<a href="#">17</a>
<a href="#">18</a>	<a href="#">19</a>	<a href="#">20</a>	<a href="#">21</a>	<a href="#">22</a>	<a href="#">23</a>	<a href="#">24</a>	<a href="#">25</a>	<a href="#">26</a>		<a href="#">27</a>	<a href="#">28</a>	<a href="#">29</a>	<a href="#">30</a>	<a href="#">31</a>	<a href="#">32</a>	<a href="#">33</a>	<a href="#">34</a>
<a href="#">35</a>	<a href="#">36</a>	<a href="#">37</a>	<a href="#">38</a>	<a href="#">39</a>	<a href="#">40</a>												



Source: <https://www.flsenate.gov/Senators/Districts>

## Appendix III Amending Florida’s Constitution



### *Amending the Florida Constitution*

#### **THE TAXWATCH TAKE**

Florida TaxWatch has consistently maintained that Florida’s Constitution should be the foundational document containing the root guidelines by which Florida law should be written and imposed. Florida TaxWatch was a key organization behind the 2006 reform to require 60% approval by voters for Constitutional Amendments.

Florida TaxWatch remains committed to the concept of Florida as a republic, and not a direct democracy, and stands by the concept that the Constitution should not be a repository for public policy issues that should be addressed by the Florida Legislature through law, absent extraordinary circumstances.

Constitutions are living documents, subject to adjustment as the people they serve encounter new challenges such as changes in culture, economic shifts, and advances in technology. Because of this, constitutions typically lay out a standard process for adopting amendments. Florida is unique in that it has five different ways to amend its constitution, each of them requiring a popular vote.

As of changes made to the amendment process in 2006, Florida now requires a super majority vote of 60% or greater in order to pass a constitutional amendment and a two-thirds vote to approve new taxes.

1. **The Florida Legislature** can place a constitutional amendment on the ballot through a joint resolution passed in both houses by a three-fifths vote.
2. **The Constitutional Revision Commission (CRC)**, which is composed of the sitting Attorney General and 36 members appointed by state leaders, meets once every 20 years to research the need for constitutional revisions. Any revisions offered by the commission are then placed on the next general election ballot. The CRC last met in 1997-98 and will meet again in 2017-18.
3. **Citizens** can place amendments on the ballot by forming a political committee, and collecting petitions with signatures from at least 8% of the total number of Florida voters that voted in the prior presidential election, and that come from at least one-half of the state’s congressional districts. After the petition is certified by the Supervisor of Elections it is reviewed by the Florida Supreme Court to ensure that statutory requirements for ballot language have been met.
4. **A constitutional convention** to revise or replace the entirety of Florida’s Constitution may also be called through a petition which must contain signatures from 15% of the total number of Florida voters that voted in the prior presidential election certified by the Supervisor of

*Amending the Florida Constitution*

Elections, after which a question of "shall a constitutional convention be held?" will be placed on the ballot in the next general election.

**5. The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (TBRC)** is an entity composed of 25 members appointed by state leaders which meets once every 20 years to recommend constitutional revisions specifically pertaining to the state budget, taxation, and governmental efficiency. Any constitutional revisions suggested by the commission are placed on the next general election ballot. The TBRC last met in 2007 and will reconvene again in 2027.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**  
*How Does Florida Compare?*

Florida has historically had a high passage rate for constitutional amendments, averaging between 80% and 90% for over 35 years. Florida also has a higher number of citizen's initiatives than many of the other states that have similar amendment processes in place.

*Why Amend?*

While the majority of policy changes are made through statutory changes by the Legislature, there are many reasons an amendment could be the best way to enact a policy change.

Amendments are commonly undertaken when:

- passing a bill is not an option because it conflicts with current constitutional law;

- there is a perceived need to circumvent the political process of the legislature and gubernatorial veto power;
- those proposing a change desire increased permanence; the constitution is generally harder to change than statutory law; and/or
- issues or functions that are controlled by the Constitution (such as ad valorem taxes) are the target of change, as those changes cannot be done through statute.

For more information:

League of Women Voters:  
[www.thefloridavoter.org](http://www.thefloridavoter.org)

The Florida Div. of Elections:  
[www.election.dos.state.fl.us](http://www.election.dos.state.fl.us)

Susan MacManus, A. J. (2011).  
The Florida Constitution. In  
Politics in Florida (pp. 56-62).  
Tallahassee: John Scott Dingley  
Florida Institute of Government.

**ABOUT THE TAXWATCH CENTER FOR FLORIDA CITIZENSHIP**

The TaxWatch Center for Florida Citizenship works to educate citizens on the policies and operations of their state and local governments; in order to encourage an informed electorate capable of effectively holding those elected to positions of power accountable. The Center also operates the Florida Citizenship Institute, an applied learning program that prepares participants to understand how government action impacts their business.

**ABOUT FLORIDA TAXWATCH**

As an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit taxpayer research institute and government watchdog, it is the mission of Florida TaxWatch to provide the citizens of Florida and public officials with high quality, independent research and analysis of issues related to state and local government taxation, expenditures, policies, and programs.

Florida TaxWatch is supported by voluntary, tax-deductible donations and private grants, and does not accept government funding. Donations provide a solid, lasting foundation that has enabled Florida TaxWatch to bring about a more effective, responsive government that is accountable to the citizens it serves for the last 34 years.

[www.floridatxwatch.org](http://www.floridatxwatch.org)  
106 N. Bronough St., Tallahassee, FL 32301 o: 850.222.5052 f: 850.222.7475  
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**FLORIDA TAXWATCH LEADERSHIP**

John Zurwalt, III Chairman  
Michelle Robinson Chairman-Elect  
Gov. Bob Martinez Center Chairman  
Sec. Mike Sole Center Vice Chairman

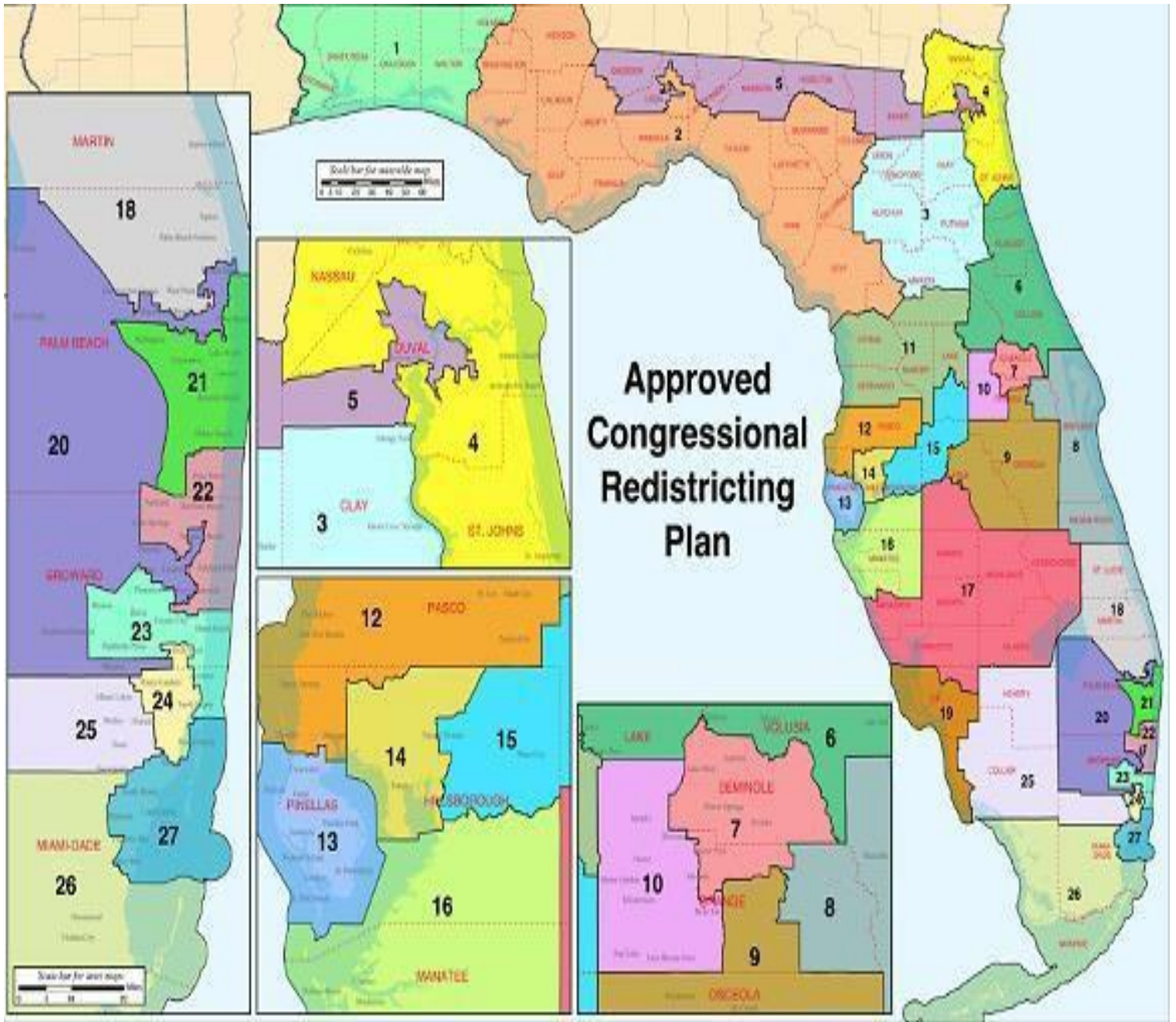
Dominic M. Calabro  
President & CEO  
Robert Weissert, Esq.  
Chief Research Officer & General Counsel

Bob Nave  
Director, Center for Florida Citizenship



**Appendix IV Florida's Congressional Districts**

Figure 17: Florida's Congressional Districts 2012

For the proposed 2022 Congressional districts see page 42



Heading into the November 2020 election, the Republican Party held 16 of 27 Congressional seats in Florida

<b>Members of U.S. House of Representatives from Florida -- Partisan Breakdown 2018-2022</b>					
<b>PARTY</b>		<b>As of November 2018 (after November 2016)</b>	<b>1 November 2020</b>	<b>After 2020 Election</b>	<b>After 2022 Election</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Democratic Party</u></a>	11	13	11	8
	<a href="#"><u>Republican Party</u></a>	15(16)	14	16	20
<b>Vacancies</b>		1(0)	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>

Sources: Ballotpedia, the digital encyclopedia of American politics and elections.

[https://ballotpedia.org/United States House of Representatives elections in Florida, 2020](https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections_in_Florida,_2020)

[https://ballotpedia.org/United States House of Representatives elections in Florida, 2018](https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections_in_Florida,_2018)

[https://ballotpedia.org/United States House of Representatives elections in Florida, 2016](https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections_in_Florida,_2016)

**2022 United States House of Representatives Mid-Term Elections in Florida**



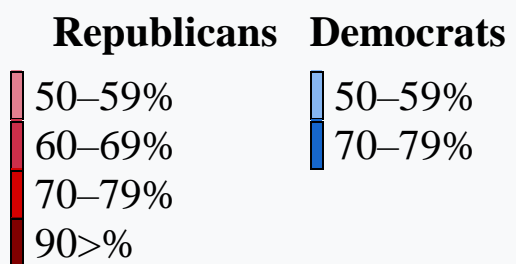
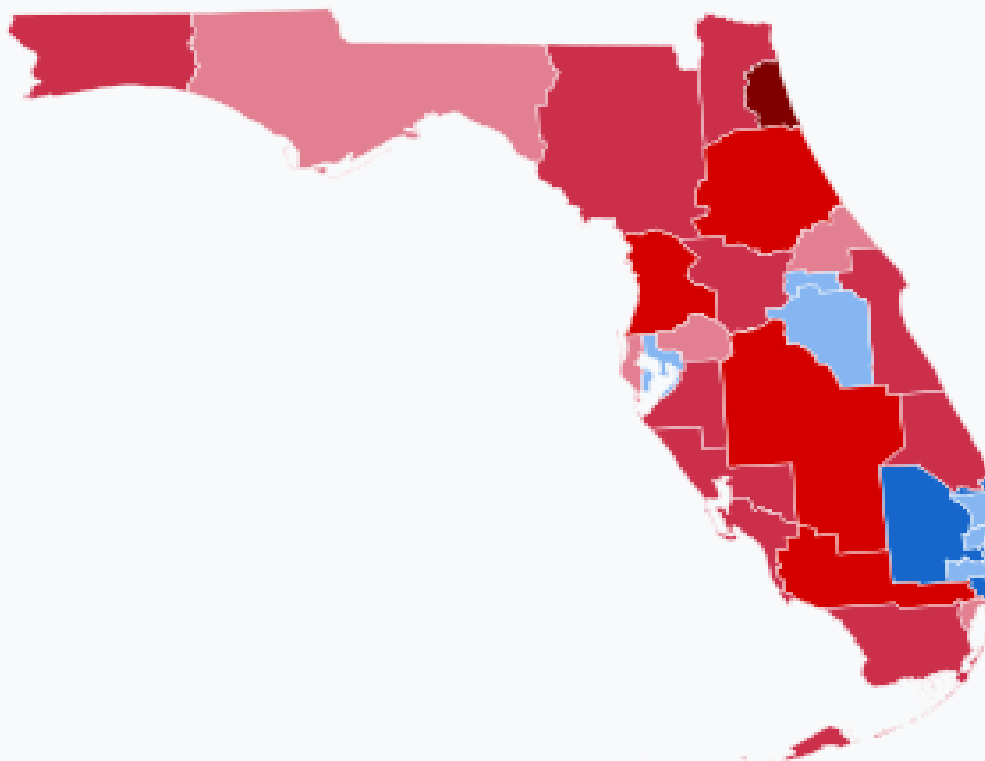
← [2020](#)      **8 November 2022**      [2024](#) →

Florida has 28 seats in the [United States House of Representatives](#)

Party	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democratic</u>
<b>Last election</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Seats won</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Seat change</b>	<b>▲ 4</b>	<b>▼ 3</b>
<b>Popular vote</b>	<b>4,271,196</b>	<b>2,905,702</b>
<b>Percentage</b>	<b>58.25%</b>	<b>39.63%</b>
<b>Swing</b>	<b>▲ 6.15%</b>	<b>▼ 6.42%</b>

Party	Candi- dates	Votes		Seats		
		No.	%	No.	+/-	%
 <a href="#">Republican Party</a>	28	4,271,196	58.25%	20	▲ 4	71.43%
 <a href="#">Democratic Party</a>	26	2,905,702	39.63%	8	▼ 3	28.57%
 <a href="#">Libertarian Party</a>	2	80,370	1.10%	0	—	0%
 <a href="#">Independent</a>	8	75,036	1.02%	0	—	0%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>7,332,304</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>▲ 1</b>	<b>100%</b>

### 2022 United States House of Representatives Mid-Term Elections in Florida



Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022\\_United\\_States\\_House\\_of\\_Representatives\\_elections\\_in\\_Florida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2022_United_States_House_of_Representatives_elections_in_Florida)

**Appendix V Florida Elected Officials, 2020-2026**

**Florida Government Officials, 2022-2026**



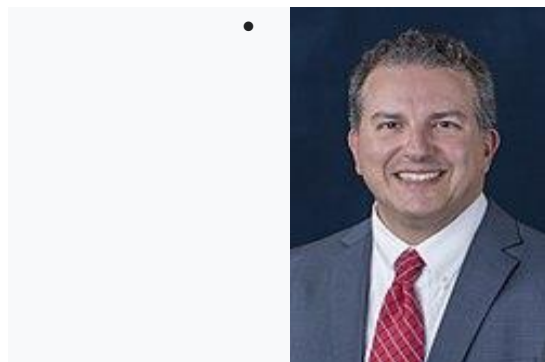
**Governor**  
**Ron DeSantis (R)**



**Lieutenant-Governor**  
**Jeanette Nuñez (R)**



**Attorney-General**  
**Ashley Moody (R)**

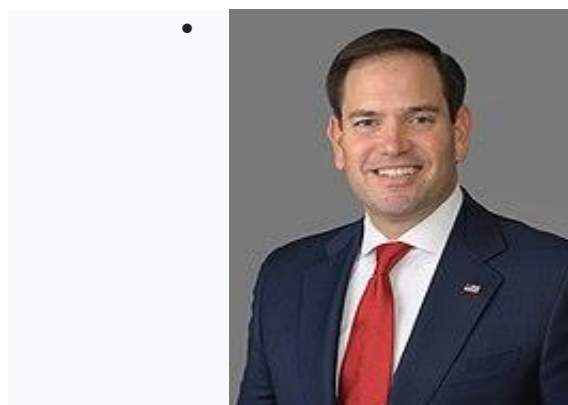


**Chief Financial Officer**  
**Jimmy Patronis (R)**



**Commissioner of Agriculture**  
**Wilton Simpson (R)**

**Florida U.S. Senators**



**Senior U.S. Senator**  
**Marco Rubio (R)**



**Junior U.S. Senator**  
**Rick Scott (R)**

Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government\\_of\\_Florida](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Government_of_Florida)



**Florida 27 Members of U.S. House of Representatives, 2020-2022**

Districts	Candidates	Party	Date in office	Date term ends
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 1</a>	<a href="#">Matt Gaetz</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 2</a>	<a href="#">Neal Dunn</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 3</a>	<a href="#">Kat Cammack</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 4</a>	<a href="#">John Rutherford</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 5</a>	<a href="#">Alfred Lawson</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 6</a>	<a href="#">Michael Waltz</a>	Republican	January 3, 2019	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 7</a>	<a href="#">Stephanie Murphy</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 8</a>	<a href="#">Bill Posey</a>	Republican	January 3, 2013	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 9</a>	<a href="#">Darren Soto</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 10</a>	<a href="#">Val Demings</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 11</a>	<a href="#">Daniel Webster</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 12</a>	<a href="#">Gus M. Bilirakis</a>	Republican	January 3, 2013	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 14</a>	<a href="#">Kathy Castor</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2013	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 15</a>	<a href="#">Scott Franklin</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 16</a>	<a href="#">Vern Buchanan</a>	Republican	January 3, 2013	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 17</a>	<a href="#">Greg Steube</a>	Republican	January 3, 2019	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 18</a>	<a href="#">Brian Mast</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 19</a>	<a href="#">Byron Donalds</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 20</a>	<a href="#">Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick</a>	Democratic	January 18, 2022	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 21</a>	<a href="#">Lois Frankel</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2017	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 23</a>	<a href="#">Debbie Wasserman Schultz</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2013	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 24</a>	<a href="#">Frederica S. Wilson</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2013	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 25</a>	<a href="#">Mario Diaz-Balart</a>	Republican	January 3, 2003	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 26</a>	<a href="#">Carlos Gimenez</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	January 3, 2023
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 27</a>	<a href="#">Maria Elvira Salazar</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	January 3, 2023

Source: [https://ballotpedia.org/List of United States Representatives from Florida](https://ballotpedia.org/List_of_United_States_Representatives_from_Florida)

**Florida 28 Members of U.S. House of Representatives, 2022-2024**

Districts	Candidates	Party	Date in office	Re-elected 2022-2024
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 1</a>	<a href="#">Matt Gaetz</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 2</a>	<a href="#">Neal Dunn</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 3</a>	<a href="#">Kat Cammack</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 4</a>	<a href="#">Aaron Bean</a>	Republican	January 3, 2023	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 5</a>	<a href="#">John Rutherford</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	Won (moved from FL-4)
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 6</a>	<a href="#">Michael Waltz</a>	Republican	January 3, 2019	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 7</a>	<a href="#">Cory Mills</a>	Republican	January 3, 2023	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 8</a>	<a href="#">Bill Posey</a>	Republican	January 3, 2013	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 9</a>	<a href="#">Darren Soto</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2017	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 10</a>	<a href="#">Maxwell Alejandro Frost</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2023	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 11</a>	<a href="#">Daniel Webster</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 12</a>	<a href="#">Gus M. Bilirakis</a>	Republican	January 3, 2013	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 14</a>	<a href="#">Kathy Castor</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2013	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 15</a>	<a href="#">Laurel Lee</a>	Republican	January 3, 2023	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 16</a>	<a href="#">Vern Buchanan</a>	Republican	January 3, 2013	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 17</a>	<a href="#">Greg Steube</a>	Republican	January 3, 2019	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 18</a>	<a href="#">Scott Franklin</a>	Republican	January 3, 2023	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 19</a>	<a href="#">Byron Donalds</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 20</a>	<a href="#">Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick</a>	Democratic	January 18, 2022	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 21</a>	<a href="#">Bryan Mast</a>	Republican	January 3, 2017	Won (moved from FL-18)
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 22</a>	<a href="#">Lois Frankel</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2023	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 23</a>	<a href="#">Jared Moskowitz</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2023	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 24</a>	<a href="#">Frederica S. Wilson</a>	Democratic	January 3, 2013	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 25</a>	<a href="#">Debbie Wasserman Schultz</a>	Republican	January 3, 2003	Won (moved from FL-23)
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 26</a>	<a href="#">Mario Diaz-Balart</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	Won (moved from FL-25)
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 27</a>	<a href="#">Maria Elvira Salazar</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	Won
<a href="#">U.S. House Florida District 28</a>	<a href="#">Caros Gimenez</a>	Republican	January 3, 2021	Won (moved from FL-26)

Source: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp?elecId=20221108-GEN>

**Florida State Senators, 2022-2024**

<b>Districts</b>	<b>Candidates</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Primary</b>	<b>General</b>
<b>1</b>	<b><u>Broxson, Doug (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Mills, John (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Nichols, Charlie (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>2</b>	<u>Piazza, Regina (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><u>Trumbull, Jay (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Zonia, Carolynn (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>3</b>	<u>Ausley, Loranne (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Simon, Corey (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Smith, Sharmin (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>4</b>	<b><u>Yarborough, Clay (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Cooper, Patrick Lee (WRI)</u>	Defeated		Eliminated
	<u>Davis, Tracie (DEM)</u>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>5</b>	<u>Gaffney, Reggie (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Kumar, Binod (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Bradley, Jennifer (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>6</b>	<b><u>Hutson, Travis (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<u>James, Gerry (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Dembinsky, Richard Paul (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>7</b>	<u>Williams, Andrea (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<b><u>Wright, Tommy A. (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Long, Rodney (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>8</b>	<b><u>Perry, Keith (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<b><u>Brodeur, Jason (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Charres, Denali (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>9</b>	<u>Goff-Marcil, Joy (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Ingoglia, Blaise (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Moore, Brian Patrick (GRE)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>10</b>	<b><u>Burton, Colleen (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Dokur, Veysel (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Baxley, Dennis (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>11</b>	<u>Dukes, Stephanie L. (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Collins, Jay (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Cruz, Janet (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>12</b>	<u>Brown, Kamia (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><u>Thompson, Geraldine F. (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<u>Paylan, Christina B. (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>13</b>	<b><u>Rouson, Darryl Ervin (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Dixon, Steve (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Stewart, Linda (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>14</b>	<b><u>DiCeglie, Nick (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Ortiz, Eunic (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated

19	<u><b>Mayfield, Debbie (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed
20	<u><b>Boyd, Jim (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Won	Unopposed
	<u>Houman, John (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
21	<u><b>Hooper, Ed (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Lionheart, Amaro (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
22	<u><b>Gruters, Joe (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Won	Unopposed
	<u>Johnson, Michael (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
23	<u><b>Burgess, Danny (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Harvey, Mike (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
24	<u>Ankner, Eric P. (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<u><b>Powell Jr, Bobby (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
25	<u><b>Torres Jr, Victor M. (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Vivaldi Jr, Peter A. (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
26	<u><b>Berman, Lori (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Byers, Steve (REP)</u>	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<u>Wheelen, William (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
27	<u><b>Albritton Jr, Ben (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Proia, Christopher (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
28	<u><b>Passidomo, Kathleen C. (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed
29	<u>Grall, Erin (REP)</u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed
30	<u><b>Polsky, Tina Scott (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Reicherter, William "Bill" (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
31	<u><b>Harrell, Gayle (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed
32	<u><b>Osgood, Rosalind (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed
33	<u><b>Martin, Jonathan (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Valenta, Robert (WRI)</u>	Defeated		Eliminated
34	<u>Escarment, Pitchie "Peachy" (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Ighodaro, Erhabor (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u><b>Jones, Shevrin "Shev" (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Won	Unopposed
35	<u><b>Book, Lauren (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Won	Unopposed
	<u>Sharief, Barbara (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
36	<u><b>Garcia, Ileana (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Pacheco, Raquel (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
37	<u><b>Pizzo, Jason (DEM)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed
38	<u><b>Calatayud, Alexis Maria (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Won
	<u>Perez, Janelle (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
39	<u><b>Avila, Bryan (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed
40	<u><b>Rodriguez, Ana Maria (REP)</b></u>	Elected	Unopposed	Unopposed

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**Florida State Representatives, 2022-2024**

Districts	Candidates	Status	Primary	General
1	<a href="#">Hill, Mike</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Mathis, Francine C.</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><a href="#">Salzman, Michelle</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
2	<b><a href="#">Andrade, Alex</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Karr, Jordan</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Litton, Greg</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Taylor, Carolyn Rabeca</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
3	<a href="#">Calkins, Mariya</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Maddox, Sandra</a> (WRI)	Defeated		Eliminated
	<b><a href="#">Rudman, Joel</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
4	<b><a href="#">Maney, Patt</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
5	<b><a href="#">Abbott, Shane</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<a href="#">Coley, Vance D.</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Pate, Clint</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
6	<a href="#">Clowdus, Brian</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Griffitts, Griff</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
7	<b><a href="#">Shoaf, Jason</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
8	<a href="#">Bender, Curt</a> (REP)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Brown, Hubert</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Franklin, Gallop P.</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">James, Gregory</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Lettman-Hicks, Sharon</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
9	<a href="#">Rattigan, Marie</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Tant, Allison</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<b><a href="#">Brannan, Chuck</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<b><a href="#">Garrison, Sam</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Jones, Cornelius</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
12	<b><a href="#">Duggan, Wyman</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
13	<a href="#">Masline, LaCiara</a> (NPA)	Defeated		Eliminated
	<b><a href="#">Nixon, Angie</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Smith, Delaine</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
14	<b><a href="#">Daniels, Kimberly</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<a href="#">Dennis, Garrett</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Hinton, Iris</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Pollock, Mincy</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
15	<b><a href="#">Black, Dean</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Nunez, Emily</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Steckloff, Jerry B.</a> (WRI)	Defeated		Eliminated
16	<a href="#">Hartley, Richard E.</a> (WRI)	Defeated		Eliminated
	<b><a href="#">Michael, Kivan</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Moore, Harley Wayne</a> (WRI)	Defeated		Eliminated
	<a href="#">Ray, Lake</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Stokes, Chet</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	

17	<a href="#">Anderson, Michael</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><a href="#">Baker, Jessica</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Meredith, Christina</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
18	<b><a href="#">Stevenson, Cyndi</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
19	<a href="#">Morley, Adam</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><a href="#">Renner, Paul</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	Unopposed	Won
20	<b><a href="#">Miguel, Luis</a> (REP)</b>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Payne, Bobby</a> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
21	<b><a href="#">Hinson, Yvonne Hayes</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Merton, Hollye</a> (REP)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
22	<a href="#">Appiah, Ty</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Clemons, Chuck</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Magruder, Olysha</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Peters, Brandon</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
23	<a href="#">Bays, Rebecca Kay</a> (REP)	Transferred to Local		
	<a href="#">Cloud, Tod</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Massullo Jr, Ralph E.</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<a href="#">Reinhardt, Paul John</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
24	<b><a href="#">Harding, Joe</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
25	<a href="#">Cornell, Liz</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Helfrich, Banks</a> (NPA)	Defeated		Eliminated
	<a href="#">Silbernagel, Matthew R.</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Vail, Tom</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Yarkosky, Taylor</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
26	<a href="#">Kero, Linda</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><a href="#">Truenow, Keith</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
27	<b><a href="#">McClain, Stan</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
28	<b><a href="#">Leek, Tom</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Navarra, John Clifford</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
29	<b><a href="#">Barnaby, Webster</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Fetterhoff, Elizabeth</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Karl, Rick</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
30	<a href="#">Baker, Vic</a> (WRI)	Defeated		Eliminated
	<a href="#">Hattaway, Robyn</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Tramont, Chase</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
31	<b><a href="#">Sirois, Tyler</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
32	<b><a href="#">Altman, Thad</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
33	<b><a href="#">Fine, Randy</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Yantz, Anthony</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
34	<b><a href="#">Brackett, Robert</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Greb, Karen</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Hiltz, Karen</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	

35	<a href="#">Bagga, Rishi</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Davenport, Kenneth</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Hawkins, Fred</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Keen, Tom</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Liebnitzky, Dianna</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Munoz-Chaffin, Tahitiana "T"</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
36	<a href="#">Joseph, Rod</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Perry, Angelique "Angel"</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Plakon, Rachel</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Poulalion, Deborah</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Santos, Richard</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
37	<b><a href="#">Plasencia, Susan</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Smith, Carlos Guillermo</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Stark, Kris</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
38	<a href="#">Douglas, Dominique B.</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Henry, Sarah</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Measom, Ed</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Smith, David</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Weingart, Patrick D.</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Wuertz, Drake</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
39	<b><a href="#">Bankson, Doug</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Hart, Charles</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Hughes, Tiffany</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Ross, Randy</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
40	<b><a href="#">Bracy Davis, LaVon</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Myers, Melissa S.</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Robertson, Nate</a> (REP)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
41	<b><a href="#">Antone, Bruce H.</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Harris, Robin Denise</a> (GRE)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#">McCurdy, Travaris</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Powell, Pam</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Rose, Shaniqua "Shan"</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
42	<a href="#">Dwyer, David</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#">Eskamani, Anna V.</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Jackson, Bonnie</a> (REP)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
43	<a href="#">Lopez, Johanna</a> (DEM)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Rodriguez, Jay J.</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Wright, Christopher</a> (REP)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
44	<b><a href="#">Harris, Jennifer "Rita"</a> (DEM)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<a href="#">Morales, Daisy</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
45	<b><a href="#">Amesty, Carolina</a> (REP)</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#">Braswell, Allie</a> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#">Francois, Vennia</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Frevola, Janet</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Portigliatti, Bruno</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#">Zhao, Mike</a> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	

46	<a href="#"><u>Arrington, Kristen (DEM)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>De La Torre, Christian (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Rivera, Ivan A. (NPA)</u></a>	Defeated		Eliminated
47	<a href="#"><u>Jeng, Horng "Andrew" (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Marquith, Dan (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Nieves, Anthony (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<b><a href="#"><u>Stark, Paula A. (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
48	<b><a href="#"><u>Killebrew, Sam (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
49	<b><a href="#"><u>Bell, Melony (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
50	<b><a href="#"><u>Canady, Jennifer (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Walker, Phillip (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
51	<a href="#"><u>Olson, William "Bill" (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#"><u>Tomkow, Josie (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
52	<a href="#"><u>Daze, Rock (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Marwah, Ash (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><a href="#"><u>Temple, John (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
53	<b><a href="#"><u>Holcomb, Jeff (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Kocovic, Anthony (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Laufenberg, Keith G. (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
54	<b><a href="#"><u>Maggard, Randy (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Otwell, Ryan S. (NPA)</u></a>	Defeated		Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Staver, Brian (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
55	<a href="#"><u>Hacker Jr, Charles "C.J." (CPF)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Papadopoulos, Gabriel (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Sollberger, Brad (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#"><u>Steele, Kevin M. (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
56	<a href="#"><u>Cocuzza, Jayden (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Moore, Scott (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#"><u>Yeager, Brad (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
57	<b><a href="#"><u>Anderson, Adam (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
58	<b><a href="#"><u>Berfield, Kimberly "Kim" (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Fensterwald, Bernard "Bernie" (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Holloway, Jason (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Saportas, Joseph (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Vricos, Jim (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
59	<a href="#"><u>Douglas, Dawn (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><a href="#"><u>Jacques, Berny (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Nadkarni, Dipak D. (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Wilson, Jennifer (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
60	<b><a href="#"><u>Cross, Lindsay (DEM)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Henson, Audrey (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
61	<b><a href="#"><u>Chaney, Linda (REP)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Varnell Warwick, Janet (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
62	<a href="#"><u>Brown, Jeremy M. (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Newton, Wengay "Newt" (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Philippe, Jesse (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><a href="#"><u>Rayner, Michele K. (DEM)</u></a></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>



63	<a href="#"><u>Hart, Dianne "Ms Dee" (DEM)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
64	<a href="#"><u>Cruz Lanz, Maura (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Valdes, Susan L. (DEM)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
65	<a href="#"><u>Gonzalez Pittman, Karen (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Hoffman, Jake (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>McDonald, Jen (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Minardi, Michael C. (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
66	<a href="#"><u>Koster, Traci (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Tillery, David (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
67	<a href="#"><u>Bonano, Lisette (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Driskell, Fentrice (DEM)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
68	<a href="#"><u>Hatfield, Paul D. (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>McClure, Lawrence (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Wright, Lorissa (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
69	<a href="#"><u>Alvarez, Daniel "Danny" (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Learned, Andrew (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Petty, Megan Angel (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
70	<a href="#"><u>Beltran, Mike (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Salazar Jr, Eleuterio "Junior" (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
71	<a href="#"><u>Robinson, Will (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	Unopposed	Unopposed
72	<a href="#"><u>Dameus, Roberts Guy (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Gregory, Tommy (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
73	<a href="#"><u>McFarland, Fiona (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Reich, Derek (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
74	<a href="#"><u>Buchanan, James (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
75	<a href="#"><u>Grant, Michael (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
76	<a href="#"><u>Roach, Spencer (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
77	<a href="#"><u>Engelhart, Eric (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Esposito, Tiffany (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>O'Connell, Ford (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
78	<a href="#"><u>Persons-Mulicka, Jenna (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Sapp, Howard (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
79	<a href="#"><u>Giallombardo, Mike (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
80	<a href="#"><u>Botana, Adam (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Schlayer, Mitchel (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
81	<a href="#"><u>Rommel, Bob (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
82	<a href="#"><u>Melo, Lauren Uhlich (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
83	<a href="#"><u>Tuck, Kaylee (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
84	<a href="#"><u>Blanton, Forest W. (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Trabulsy, Dana Lee (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
85	<a href="#"><u>Overdorf, Toby (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Tucker, Curtis J. (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
86	<a href="#"><u>Denzel, Raymond (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<a href="#"><u>Snyder, John (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
87	<a href="#"><u>Caruso, Mike (REP)</u></a>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<a href="#"><u>Justice, Jane (REP)</u></a>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<a href="#"><u>Osta, Sienna (DEM)</u></a>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated

<b>88</b>	<b><u>Edmonds, Jervonte "Tae" (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Stevens, Roz (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>89</b>	<b><u>Silvers, David (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Zapata, Daniel Judiel (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>90</b>	<b><u>Casello, Joseph "Joe" (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Feit, Keith G. (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>91</b>	<u>DuCasse, Christina (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><u>Gossett-Seidman, Peggy (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Thomson, Andy (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>92</b>	<u>Hernandez, Dorcas (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Skidmore, Kelly (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Zahangir, Hasan (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>93</b>	<u>Albright, Shelly Lariz (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Banionis, Saulis (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<u>Densen, Seth (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Valeo, Thomas "Tom" (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><u>Waldron, Katherine M. (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>94</b>	<u>Davis, Terence (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>Roth, Rick (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	Unopposed	Won
<b>95</b>	<b><u>Hunschofsky, Christine (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	Unopposed	Unopposed
<b>96</b>	<b><u>Daley, Dan (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Hague, Jenna (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>97</b>	<b><u>Dunkley, Lisa (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<u>Farooqui, Saima (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Scurry, Kelly N-L. (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>98</b>	<b><u>Hawkins-Williams, Patricia (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<u>Jones, Carmen (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>99</b>	<b><u>Campbell, Daryl (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<u>Manley, Elijah (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>100</b>	<u>Gonzalez, Linda Thompson (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<b><u>LaMarca, Chip (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>101</b>	<b><u>Cassel, Hillary (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Delmay, Todd (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Miller, Clay (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Silla, Guy (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>102</b>	<b><u>Gottlieb, Michael (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>103</b>	<b><u>Bartleman, Robin (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Navarini, George (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
<b>104</b>	<b><u>Robinson, Felicia Simone (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>105</b>	<u>Parlatore, Vincent (REP)</u>	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<u>Siddiqui, Dr. Imran Uddin (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<b><u>Woodson, Marie (DEM)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>106</b>	<b><u>Basabe, Fabian (REP)</u></b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Leonard, Jordan W. (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<u>Ortega, Gustavo (DEM)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Ross, Douglas John (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Sutjapojnukul, Lynn Su (REP)</u>	Defeated	Eliminated	

<b>107</b>	<u><a href="#">Benjamin, Christopher</a></u> (DEM)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<u>Francius, Wancito</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>108</b>	<u>Etienne, Michael A.</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Hardemon, Roy</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u><b>Joseph, Dotie</b></u> (DEM)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
	<u>Shields, Evan A.</u> (DEM)	Transferred to Local		
<b>109</b>	<u>Bush III, James</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u><b>Gantt, Ashley V.</b></u> (DEM)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>110</b>	<u><b>Fabricio, Tom</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>111</b>	<u><b>Borrero, David</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>112</b>	<u><b>Rizo, Alex</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>113</b>	<u>Althabe, Andres</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>D'Amico, Alessandro "A.J."</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<u><b>Lopez, Vicki</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Perosch, Alberto</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>114</b>	<u>Benna, Adam</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<u><b>Cabrera, Demi Busatta</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>115</b>	<u>Davis, Christie Cantin</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<u><b>Garcia, Alina</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Won</b>
<b>116</b>	<u><b>Perez, Daniel A.</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>117</b>	<u><b>Chambliss, Kevin</b></u> (DEM)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>	<b>Unopposed</b>
<b>118</b>	<u>Farias, Johnny Gonzalo</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Unopposed	Eliminated
	<u><b>Fernandez-Barquin, Juan</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Rodriguez, Francisco</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Sotelo, Daniel</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>119</b>	<u>Alvarez, Ashley</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Cueva, James A.</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Gonzalez, Gabriel</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<u>Gonzalez, Rob</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u><b>Porras, Juan Carlos</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>
	<u>Soto, Jose</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Tsay, Ricky</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
<b>120</b>	<u>Allen, Robert Scott</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Gentle, Adam</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Won	Eliminated
	<u>Horton-Diaz, Daniel "Dan"</u> (DEM)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u>Lopez, Rhonda Rebman</u> (REP)	Defeated	Eliminated	
	<u><b>Mooney Jr, James "Jim" V.</b></u> (REP)	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Won</b>

Source: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp?elecId=20221108-GEN>

**Florida Supreme Court Justices**

Candidates	Status	Primary	General
<a href="#">Canady, Charles T.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<a href="#">Couriel, John D.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<a href="#">Grosshans, Jamie</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<a href="#">Labarga, Jorge</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<a href="#">Polston, Ricky</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won

**Florida District Courts of Appeal Judges**

Districts	Candidates	Status	Primary	General
<b>1</b>	<a href="#">Bilbrey, Ross L.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Kelsey, Susan</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Long, Bobby</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Rowe, Lori S.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Winokur, Bo</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<b>2</b>	<a href="#">Kelly, Patricia Joan</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Khouzam, Nelly N.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Labrit, Suzanne Y.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Lucas, Matt</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Morris, Robert</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Northcutt, Stevan Travis</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Stargel, John K.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Villanti, Craig C.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<b>3</b>	<a href="#">Bokor, Alexander Spicola</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Scales, Edwin A.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<b>4</b>	<a href="#">Artau, Ed</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Ciklin, Cory J.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Damoorgian, Dorian K.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Gerber, Jonathan D.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Gross, Robert M.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Levine, Spencer D.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">May, Melanie G.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
<b>5</b>	<a href="#">Cohen, Jay</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Edwards, James A.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Lambert, Brian D.</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Nardella, Mary</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Traver, Dan</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won
	<a href="#">Wozniak, Carrie Ann</a> (NOP)	Retained		Won

Source: <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp?elecId=20221108-GEN>

## **Appendix VI: Population Growth in Florida**

# **Dimensions of Growth: the 2020 Census Shows the New Face of Florida**

**From 2010-20, Florida's population grew by 14.6% to more than 21.5 million.**

**The boom didn't include all of Florida's counties, however.**

Mike Vogel | 10/27/2021

In the 1990s, every county in Florida grew in population, continuing a historic pattern of nearly every county growing in most decades. Then came the 2020 Census, which revealed that 17 counties had lost population since 2010. “It actually is quite unusual for Florida counties to lose population from one Census to the next,” says Stefan Rayer, who directs population studies at the University of Florida’s Bureau of Economic and Business Research. The numbers fit a national trend, however — nationally, 42% of counties saw their populations fall after 2010.

In Florida, the losses came in small counties in Florida’s interior and northern tier. All but three of the 17 are landlocked. And all but Putnam have fewer than 50,000 people. Gadsden lost the most people, 2,563 — 5.5% of its population. Gulf County, one of the three on the water, lost the most people in percentage terms at 10.5% (1,617 people). Rayer says some of the losses came as people were displaced by Hurricane Michael in 2018. The aggregate loss for the 17 counties: 17,683 people, a number that barely dented the statewide growth of 2.74 million during the decade.

The dominant trend in growth continues: Florida is growing because of in-migration rather than naturally. Even before the pandemic, mortuaries were busier than maternity wards in 40 of Florida’s 67 counties. The pandemic pushed that number to 54, Rayer says.

### **Hispanic Growth**

- The growth in both Florida’s Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations outpaced the nation’s. Hispanics now comprise 26.5% of the state, or 5.7 million people, up from 22.5% in 2010.
- The Hispanic population of Florida is unevenly distributed. One-third live in Miami-Dade alone. And 59% live in just four counties: Miami-Dade, Broward, Orange and Hillsborough.

### **Asians**

- Asians make up 6% of the U.S. population but just 3% of Florida’s. Alachua County, home to the University of Florida, has the highest share at 6.5%. Even when counting people who identify as Asian and another race, the share of the state population rises only to 3.9%, with Alachua again having the highest share in the state at 7.9%. Off its small base, the Asian-alone population grew 41.5% over the decade. Orange, Seminole and Duval are the only other counties with more than 5% Asians.

**Blacks**

- Gadsden County, west of Tallahassee on the Georgia border, is Florida’s only majority black county. The 3.2 million people in Florida who identify as solely black make up 15.1% of the state population. Their numbers grew by 8.2% from 2010, or 246,519. Those who identify as black in combination with another race push the share to 17.2%.

**The Big Numbers**

- 21.5 Million — 2020 Florida headcount.
- 2.74 Million — Population increase since 2010.
- 750 People a Day — Florida’s growth rate from 2010- 20 (births minus deaths plus net in-migration from the rest of the country and abroad).
- 14.6% — Growth rate 2010-20, vs. 17.6% from 2000-09 (most of the decrease in the rate of growth is accounted for by the larger base in 2020).

Source: Edited from an article by Mike Vogel in *Florida Trend*.

Source 2: <https://www.floridatrend.com/article/32478/dimensions-of-growth-the-2020-census-shows-the-new-face-of-florida?>

**Appendix VII Figure 18: Florida State Symbols**



State Reptile  
American Alligator



State Bird  
Mockingbird



State Butterfly  
Zebra Longwing



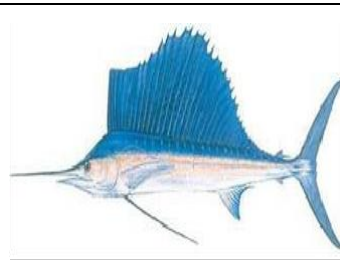
State Animal  
Florida Panther



State Marine Mammal  
Manatee



State Saltwater Mammal  
Porpoise or Dolphin



State Saltwater Fish  
Sailfish



State Freshwater Fish  
Largemouth Bass



State Flower  
Orange Blossom



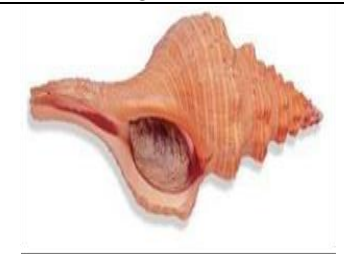
State Wildflower  
Coreopsis



State Tree  
Sabal Palm



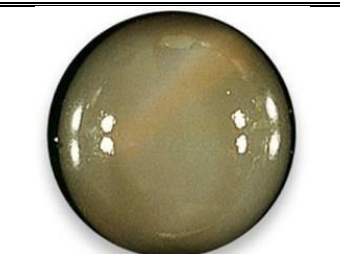
State Beverage  
Orange Juice



State Shell  
Horse Conch



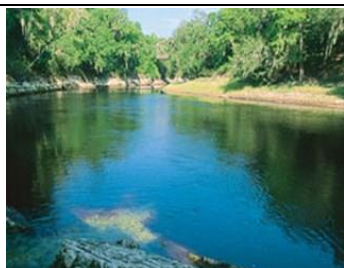
State Stone  
Agatized Coral



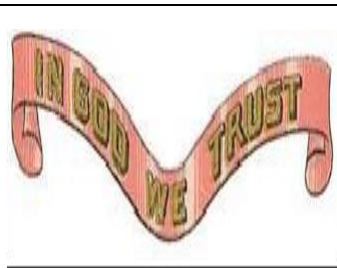
State Gem  
Moonstone



State Soil  
Myakka Fine Sand



State Song  
“Old Folks at Home”



State Motto  
In God We Trust



State Play Cross  
and Sword



State Anthem Florida (Where  
the Sawgrass Meets the Sky)

Source: Florida Department of State

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Note: footnotes and hyperlinks correspond to their on-line versions.

## **Florida Political Science Association's Statement of Support for Academic Freedom**

The Florida Political Science Association supports academic freedom.

As defined by the American Association of University Professors:

*Academic freedom is the freedom of a teacher or researcher in higher education to investigate and discuss the issues in his or her academic field, and to teach or publish findings without interference from political figures, boards of trustees, donors, or other entities. Academic freedom also protects the right of a faculty member to speak freely when participating in institutional governance, as well as to speak freely as a citizen.*

Academic freedom includes the right of faculty members acting as private citizens to serve as objective expert witnesses in cases where their scholarly expertise helps the legal system reach an informed decision.

As such, the Florida Political Science Association supports the right of University of Florida Political Scientists Daniel Smith, Michael McDonald and Sharon Wright Austin to serve as expert witnesses in a Florida voting-rights lawsuit.

*The Florida Political Science Association is a non-partisan scholarly organization of faculty, students and community members committed to promoting political science research, education and service throughout the State of Florida.*



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