

DEFEND FLORIDA NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 3, 2024

A group of Defend Florida volunteers traveled to Tallahassee the first week of December to present legislators with a summary of our 5 Election Integrity bills. The group was led by Meredyth Morrow whose experience has been invaluable.

WHAT SHE DID:

- ❖ Emailed all the new representatives.
- ❖ She visited all new Representatives offices.
- ❖ When she could, she met with either the legislator or their aide.
- ❖ Left a summary of our 5 Election Integrity bills and her business card.
- ❖ She followed up by emailing their aide saying she left the summary on their desk.
- ❖ She copied the list of Florida Representatives and Senators with their pictures.
- ❖ She ran into some of them in the hall and asked for a quick meeting. One said no but she gave him a summary page anyway.
- ❖ Visited the rest of the Representative's offices if their door was open.

WHAT SHE ACCOMPLISHED:

- ❖ Several Representatives returned emails regarding appointments in

January when the next session starts.

- ❖ At least one Representative committed to sponsoring our bills.
- ❖ The Representative that was a no on a meeting changed their mind. Possibly the document she gave them had something to do with that.
- ❖ Began a relationship with the new aides and Representatives.

WHY SHE WAS EFFECTIVE:

- ❖ She was persistent.
- ❖ If she was denied a meeting, she didn't get mad or discouraged.
 - She's learned to smile and win favor.
- ❖ She left material for them to study. This will help when she returns in January.

If you live outside of Florida, find topics you want addressed in the upcoming session and act now.

MEREDYTH'S ADVICE:

- ❖ Go in with your own style. Smile and win favor.
- ❖ Stay positive. Maintain an optimistic outlook, even when faced with challenges.
- ❖ We need all kinds of personalities. We need the calm, persistent

- volunteer and the volunteer who can apply pressure.
- ❖ Be professional. Respectful and committed advocacy is essential for success.
- ❖ respectful and committed to your issues.
 - This is the way to get bills passed and not just have meetings that go nowhere.
- ❖ It's frustrating when a legislator doesn't see things your way. Don't get mad. Try a different approach. Find their language – what makes them tick.
- ❖ Research the chairs of committees who will hear bills in committee and put your bill forward.
- ❖ Visit them in their home county in addition to the State Capital.
- ❖ Last year we learned that SOEs need to be on board for election integrity bills to pass.

- ❖ Technology: Concerns about voting systems certifications.
- ❖ SB1602 Citizenship.
- ❖ HB1669 – Absentee voting.
- ❖ HB1669 more detail regarding VBM.
- ❖ The full text plus summaries of each bill.
- ❖ Read the 2-page document that was left at legislator's offices.
- ❖ Dealing with common objections.
- ❖ In Florida, each county must have a security plan to give to the state in case of an emergency like a hurricane or power outage. Deb put one together. Legislators need this to create rules. View on the homepage.

In 2023. Defend Florida did a risk assessment of our voting systems and found loopholes. Our 5 bills put controls in place to close the loopholes. It was suggested that volunteers print the slide presentation available on the defend website to leave behind.

DEFEND FLORIDA BILLS FOR THE 2025 SESSION:

We have 5 bills ready to go. Two are revisions from last year. Deb Monks is the leader on our documentation team. She put the slides, handouts, bill summaries and bill draft revisions together. Go to www.defendflorida.org/preparation to view summaries of the bills.

To learn about our process, click on topics like:

- ❖ Videos and power points to explain the bills.
- ❖ Reconciliation – see short video on www.defendflorida.org.

Legislators were shocked to learn that:

- ❖ There were 2 million noncitizens, deceased voters and voters that moved out of state registered to vote in Florida.
- ❖ Illegal ballots were produced and inserted into the system. Tens of thousands of illegal VBM ballots were either deleted or replaced without detection. 35-40% of ballots last year were vote by mail ballots.
- ❖ Legislators will tell you that noncitizens can't be identified. Wrong!

- ❖ The Department of Children’s Services, the DMV and the Clerk of Courts have that information.
- ❖ Some legislators are misinformed by thinking that noncitizens can’t get driver’s licenses.

SUMMARY OF OUR BILLS:

- ❖ They focus on hand counting of paper ballots.
- ❖ Single day voting and limited VBM ballots. We need to pressure Representatives to force a vote on mail in ballots. Vote by mail was marketed as a onetime occurrence because of Covid. It replaced absentee ballots that were restricted to overseas voters, nursing home residents, hospice patients etc. No law was passed. It’s convenience vs. integrity. Mail in ballots are the biggest form of fraud, and they are a huge expense to the county.
- ❖ Compromised election technology.
- ❖ Reconciliation: Covers all procedures and audits. Rules are useless if there is no way to check if the law is being followed. View the Reconciliation Video on the home page.
 - Reconciliation will prevent illegal ballot insertion.
 - Compares the number of ballots counted vs. physical ballots printed.
 - Chain of custody.
 - Was citizenship checked?

Check out the Bonus Section at the bottom of the page where Raj used perplexity.ai to ask questions about political affiliations, campaign contributions and owners of ballot printing companies. It definitely raises questions about the impartiality of our election infrastructure and will blow your mind.

Want to do more than sit on the sidelines?

- ✓ Join the Tallahassee lobby team.
- ✓ Join the lobby documentation team.
- ✓ Watch the training videos on the homepage regarding professional presentations.
- ✓ Register to attend the weekly 7pm Tuesday zoom calls at www.defendflorida.org
- ✓ Volunteer to take a leadership role.
- ✓ Recordings of the Tuesday calls are available at www.defendflorida.org/p2

At this busy time of the year take time to appreciate your blessings including the blessing of the freedoms we enjoy living in America.

