

# DEFEND FLORIDA NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 17, 2024

## RING IN THE NEW YEAR BY JOINING THE TALLAHASSEE TRAIN!

### PREPPING FOR TALLAHASSEE:

The new year is fast approaching and it's time to get back in the Election Integrity mode. Defend needs teams of volunteers to go to Tallahassee to lobby for our bills on the following dates.

January 13-17

February 3-7

February 10-14

February 17-21

- Know the material. Become proficient with the facts by visiting [www.defendflorida.org/preparation](http://www.defendflorida.org/preparation).
- Set up meetings with your legislators and establish a relationship with their aide.
- Find their contact information at:  
House: [www.myfloridahouse.gov](http://www.myfloridahouse.gov)  
Senate: [www.flsenate.gov](http://www.flsenate.gov)

If you can only stay one night, one team could take the first part of the week and another the last part. The more new faces a legislator sees on our issues, the more impact we will have.

Defend Florida had 3 strikes against us last year.

1. We waited until January to go to Tallahassee and discovered most legislators had already met their quotas for sponsoring bills.
2. Governor DeSantis said he did not want any election integrity bills in 2024 because it was an election year.
3. We learned that our bills would go nowhere without House and Senate leadership approval.

President Trump strongly supports election integrity reform which puts us in the driver's seat. We need to respectfully let our legislators know that we **expect** their support on our bills.

### UPDATE ON SPONSORS – DEB MONKS

Deb and her team sent supporting documents to legislators before scheduling December Tallahassee meetings. She met with

Representatives Jacques and Tramont. Representative Tramont announced to volunteers that Berny Jacques will sponsor the illegal voter bill with himself as the prime co-sponsor. Jacques hasn't confirmed directly.

### WHAT'S THE NEXT STEP?

Help Representatives Jacques and Tramont get leadership and committee head support in addition to SOEs and other legislators. SOEs have a big influence on legislators.

Deb is happy with the progress made so far. She met with Jacques last year. This is advantageous because it shows we are serious about our bills. It's impressive when he sees her come back this year.

Our presence in Tallahassee is important because when you are face to face with legislators and their aides, you are able to correct information they've gotten wrong. Legislators recognize that you are proficient and know the material. Deb said that legislators appreciate our "Defend Florida army". It shows how dedicated we are to our bills.

### DELEGATION MEETING UPDATE:

Each city has a delegation meeting to get citizen input before the state legislative session begins. Citizens can request to be put on the meeting's agenda. There is a deadline to sign up so check the date needed to participate. If you miss the deadline, you can sign up on the day of the delegation meeting but will have a shortened time allotment at the end of the meeting. You may distribute handouts prior to your presentation. For those with a longer presentation, Deb suggests gathering 5 people or so to speak for 2 to 3 minutes each. Request to be scheduled back-to-back. Write your speech in advance using the 'one pager' on the Defend Preparation page to help you write it. Start with a professional greeting like "Distinguished Legislators" and thank them for their time.

Practice until you have a professional and seamless presentation.

### **DELEGATION SPEECH TRIAL RUN:**

Henry Zarb and Henry Pedroso read the scripts for their upcoming local delegation meeting.

Henry Zarb addressed the problem with dead people voting, people that moved out of state and illegal immigrants voting.

Henry Pedroso spoke on compromised election technology and the need to beta test election equipment. It needs to be bullet proofed so foreign governments can't tinker with our elections as is currently possible.

Key points in their presentation:

- Their professional greeting...  
“Distinguished Legislators”
- They gave supporting examples
- Sent corroborating materials ahead of time

They were well versed on their topics and presented it in a professional manner. View their presentation on the Defend Florida homepage at [www.defendflorida.org](http://www.defendflorida.org).

To find the delegation meeting schedule for each county go to:

<https://www.momsrising.org/blog/florida-2024-2025-delegation-meetings>.

### **FROM COFFEE DATE TO COMMITMENT: ENGAGING LEGISLATORS**

Raj gave a good analogy of how to foster a relationship with your legislators. Your first encounter with them is like a coffee date. To get to marriage you're going to have to do a lot of work. Have a written document to give them. Follow up with an action like an X post to their account of what you presented followed by an email. Now you're approaching the influence stage. Hopefully when you pop the question, “Will you support our bill?”, you'll get a positive response.

### **MAIL IN BALLOTS VS ABSENTEE – JOHN GOODMAN**

Are we overlooking a critical issue? John reported that mail-in ballots were initially

introduced as a temporary measure due to COVID but were never formally voted on for continuation; therefore, they are technically invalid. Mail-in ballots pose significant risks for voter fraud—millions of illegal ballots were cast in 2020 due to bad signatures or tampered dates. Mail in ballots are neither safe nor secure; how can elected officials continue to support them? We must inform our legislators about these concerns and advocate for reinstating absentee ballots instead. As we approach 2026 and 2028 elections, we must abolish mail-in ballots before it's too late. For more information, check out John's post from December 13, 2024, on X @JohnGoo776977.

### **CLETA MITCHELL**

([www.whoscounting.us](http://www.whoscounting.us))

### **INTERVIEWS RAJ DORISAMY**

In the interview, Raj explained how and why he co-founded Defend Florida. He said Defend Florida started its mission January 10, 2020 and currently has a network of 25,400 patriots nationwide. Its purpose is to take specific actions towards Election Integrity by growing a network of volunteers in every county and becoming part of the election woodwork by continuously working on voter rolls, going to election offices, meeting with electeds, and fostering changes that will boost voter confidence and turnout. Watch the interview at <https://youtu.be/RktGNe0r5i8>



### **STAY CONNECTED:**

Register for the Tuesday 7pm zoom calls

at [www.defendflorida.org](http://www.defendflorida.org)

Miss a Tuesday call? Go to

[www.defendflorida.org/p2](http://www.defendflorida.org/p2)

(No call on New Year's Eve)