

DEFEND FLORIDA NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 11, 2025

DESANTIS SPECIAL SESSION LATEST REVELATIONS

It was discovered that millions of signatures were fraudulently gathered to get Amendments 3 (Marijuana) and 4 (Abortion) on the 2024 ballot. The governor's bill addresses this issue. The legislators pulled a fast one regarding the special session. They gaveled into the session and immediately gaveled out. Then they started their own special session and introduced their bill, the TRUMP Act. The governor went national to gain support for his bill and the Tally shenanigans failed. The governor's new bill, SB2025 still relies on the honor system. There is no verification of citizenship status or requirement to catch or report illegal voters which includes citizens that have moved out of the district or are deceased.

There is an easy road to citizenship verification. The DMV and Clerk of Courts have lists of citizens that are verified by passport or birth certificate. Simply sharing these lists with SOEs allows them to clean their voter rolls.

TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

For those new to legislative terms and abbreviations, here's a quick tutorial.

FSE = Florida Supervisors of Elections (Board of Directors has 7 members)

SOE = Supervisor of Elections – one for each of the 67 Florida counties

SB = Senate bill

HB = House bill

SD = a Senate bill that is in drafting

HD = a House bill that is in drafting

BILL STATUS UPDATE BY DEB MONKS

Our bills are winding their way through the legislative path.

HD82616/SD01838 – Citizens only and voter roll accuracy

HD93825/SB369 – Absentee voting and ballot controls

New bill – HD94143 – Single day voting with hand counting

HD94144/SB394 – Election technology Security

HD94145/SD01635 – Enhanced Governance with Reconciliation and Audits

Florida has good laws but no standards to check. The election ecosystem is complex, but the laws have not kept pace. Election night reporting, E-Poll books, mail sorting, ballot tracking and automated signature verification are not state certified. The tabulators are addressed by the current voting system laws and hand counting bill. Because there are no procedural audits and reconciliation to compare records, Florida's election integrity is at risk.

If you live in the following Florida counties - Hardee, DeSoto, Charlotte, Lee, Polk, and Miami-Dade, you can help. These are Senate President Albritton's and Speaker of the House Perez's districts. As a constituent, you hold much more sway with your legislator than someone outside their district. We need you to contact your legislator and lobby for our bills. See graph for guidance.

Contact your legislators and tell them to support our Election Integrity bills and not to support any harassment legislation.

Email, call, meet them in their district and Tallahassee offices. The members of these committees can be found on the www.flsenate.gov and www.myfloridahouse.gov websites by searching under the committees tab.

Print the one pager of our 5 bills available at: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1716B3xXjYGYWSuQjLJRvMTOy9o6u5YJcJ-0lC_a-VU/edit?tab=t.0 and leave with legislators at the **end** of your meeting.

We Need You!

Meet with Local Legislators

- Ask for bill sponsors, co-sponsors, & support
- One-on-one meetings
- Public delegation meetings

Join the Tallahassee Lobby Team

- Ask for sponsors, co-sponsors, & support
- One-on-one meetings
- Meet with leadership and legislators

Meet with FSE Legislative Committee Members

- Nine Florida Supervisor of Election on committee
- Located in :Lake, Martin, Okaloosa, Liberty, LaFayette, Levy, Clay, Lee
- Public delegation meetings

Join the Lobby Document Creation Team

- Slides
- Handouts
- Bill summaries
- Bill draft revisions

SOEs - TIME TO STRATEGIZE

The RPOF leadership has the ball. We need to do an end run to regain momentum. David Ramba of Ramba Consulting Group is the new Executive Director of the FSE and RPOF Chairman Evan Power's boss. He, along with House and Senate leadership are the reasons we're getting push back on our election Integrity bills from SOEs.

There is a lot of money to be made by industries that support elections. From ballot printing to the paper they're printed on, our bills mean less business for these industries.

OUR GAME PLAN

Every SOE must submit an outline of their Election Security Plan to the Secretary of State for approval. Florida is not checking to see if this rule is being followed.

There are many new Supervisors of Elections in Florida. This would be a great opportunity to reach out to them and share our Model Elections Security Plan tool for them. Our plan is a good reference for new and experienced SOEs with new ideas to consider. It's a practical way to implement the new controls proposed in 2025 legislation.

SOEs have a lot of clout with legislators. By supporting their efforts, our aim is to build goodwill and encourage them to reciprocate by backing our initiatives. Provide our tool to your SOE and request their opinion. Then, seek their feedback on our bill proposals by asking, "Are these issues you'd like to see addressed?"

FSE dues are used to help lobby for legislation. Ask your SOE who their legislative committee member is. Securing consideration of our bills by a legislative committee member is a major step to our success.

FLORIDA SENATOR JAY COLLINS



Raj played his interview with State Sen. Jay Collins of Hillsboro County (Tampa). Subscribe to YouTube's Costal Conservative News channel (CCN) to watch the interview. The direct link is:

https://youtube.com/watch?v=FhSxn8d_ovo&si=aZ9i5tRgYw_ceZJN. Share the link with your friends. Spread his message and increase our footprint.

Senator Collins said 90-95% of the calls to his office are about illegal immigration. He supports the governor's bill and said... "When Florida leads, America follows."

Regarding election integrity, the Senator stated... "We want irrevocable evidence that our elections are in the hands of the citizens. Citizens want to have faith and trust in those who serve them and those who serve our country."

CHATGPT's TAKE ON DESANTIS BILL

Raj thought it would be fun to ask ChatGPT's opinion of the DeSantis immigration bill regarding citizens only voting. Here's the results.

ChatGPT:

"The bill punishes non-citizens voting **after the fact**...does not create a **verification process** to prevent it from happening in the first place. That's like setting up a speed trap without putting up a speed limit sign – it relies on enforcement rather than prevention.

If the goal is to ensure **only U.S. citizens vote**, a proper provision should **require verification of citizenship** at the **voter registration stage** and **before casting a ballot**.

Chat recommended:

- Mandating proof of citizenship
- Cross-checking databases like Social Security, DHS and Florida DMV records
- Requiring election officials to verify citizenship

The bill doesn't do anything to stop fraudulent registrations or prevent ballots from being cast in the first place. That's an **enforcement-first approach**, not a **prevention-first approach** and ineffective. **The missing piece is a real time verification process that prevents non-**

citizens from registering or voting at all, rather than just punishing them after the fact." Defend Florida's bill addresses all of these facts.



BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

Democrats are at it again. Rumor is that Florida Dems are drafting a bill to reintroduce the Election Workers Harassment bill. Their one page bill is flying through committees.

Currently, at least 20 states have passed harassment bills. Stay vigilant so Florida doesn't become one of them. U.S. Senators Amy Klobuchar and Dick Durbin are promoting similar federal legislation in Washington, DC. Not good!

CALL TO ACTION!



- Watch and share Senator Jay Collin's interview.
- Contact your legislators asking their support of our Election Integrity bills.
- Ask them not to support any election worker harassment legislation.
- To get a copy of the Model Election Security plan and follow up email documents, email Deb Monks at sdmonks@protonmail.me.
- Register for the 7pm EST zoom call at www.defendflorida.org
- Watch previous calls at www.defendflorida.org/p2
- Previous newsletter editions available at www.defendflorida.org/blog