

## DEFEND FLORIDA NEWSLETTER JANUARY 28, 2025 - SPECIAL EDITION

There was no Tuesday call as Raj was traveling. This Special Edition contains information that couldn't wait until the next call. So, sit back and enjoy.

The following was written by Debbie Faris (prayingmantis on Substack) and unravels the story of the power struggle between Tallahassee's legislators and Governor DeSantis. Listen on Substack at <https://prayingmantis.substack.com/p/que-pasa-florida>



The Tallahassee swamp is churning as Florida's 2026 gubernatorial race takes shape. Why should non-Floridians care about this brawl? Because as Florida goes, so often does the nation. Trump's cabinet selections make this clear—Floridians dominate key positions, from former campaign director and now White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles to Pam Bondi as Attorney General, Marco Rubio as Secretary of State, and Mike Waltz as Director of National Security. With many others filling ambassadorships and high-ranking posts, Florida's political landscape directly impacts the national stage.

Here's the cast of characters shaping the state's future:

### **Governor Ron DeSantis: A Lame Duck in an Open Rebellion**

Despite his national profile as the establishment Republican favorite for president, DeSantis is governing his last two years politically hobbled. During his 2024 campaign, the Bush/Ryan/Romney donor network flooded his PAC with cash while Florida's political class envisioned their own ascensions to the national scene—one could almost imagine them measuring their office curtains in D.C. While his star was in ascendance, Florida politicians kowtowed and he governed unchallenged by the legislature.

After his failed bid, DeSantis' light diminished, unable to deliver for those who bet on him. State legislators who might have hitched their fortunes to his White House ambitions are now involved in an open rebellion against him in Florida's House and Senate.

DeSantis has been a strong advocate for families, children, and the unborn. Floridians are grateful, especially for his stance during the Covid debacle. However, when it comes to election security—which has been our movement's top priority—his record is weak. Since 2022, we've clamored for a bill requiring proof of citizenship to vote (presentation of passport, birth certificate, or naturalization papers). Instead, Florida remains on an honor system, where a simple checkbox affirms citizenship. DeSantis' proposed legislation sounds tough but doesn't fix this problem.

A few days ago, he called for an emergency special session on immigration. Is this a genuine alignment with Trump's mass deportation agenda—or just political theater to position himself for 2028, where he will challenge JD Vance? Maybe he's killing two birds with one stone.

### **Wilton Simpson: The Chicken Mogul with a Soft Spot for Migrant Labor**

Apparently, DeSantis now faces an unspoken challenge from Wilton Simpson, who has officially announced his bid for governor—though insiders say his ambition was clear the moment he ran for Agriculture Commissioner, a powerful position in Florida (it's not all sun and sand, we are a significant agricultural state).

Simpson's record on election security is abysmal. As Senate President (2020-2022), he ignored the issue entirely, until it was foisted upon then House Speaker Chris Sprowls. Meanwhile, he was cozy with vaccine mandates and remains aligned with the migrant labor lobby—a potential conflict of interest, considering his large-scale egg farm benefits likely employs and depends on foreign labor. His weak stance on immigration shows in his support for giving driver's licenses to illegal immigrants—a major concern since a Florida driver's license is all that's needed to register to vote. This loophole does not verify citizenship and remains untouched by Tallahassee.

### **Ben Albritton & the Big Sugar Payback**

The front face of the rebellion is Senate President Ben Albritton, who along with 95% of Florida's legislature backed a bill named the TRUMP (Tackling and Reforming Unlawful Migration Policy) Act. Incoming House Speaker, Danny Perez is also in alignment, likely influenced by South Florida developers who also stand to lose if the pool of immigrant labor dries up.

According to DeSantis, this bill sounds like it supports Trump's agenda but instead would hamper current ongoing law enforcement operations and directly contravene the federal measures the Trump administration intends to enact. Routing administration, procedure, and enforcement through the Agriculture Commission is illogical for a peninsular state like Florida, which has miles of coastline to protect. Well respected constitutionalist attorney Kris Anne Hall reminds that “any attempt by a state to create its own immigration laws is entirely unconstitutional. The power to regulate immigration is explicitly delegated to the federal government, leaving no authority for the states.”

Notably, Albritton himself has not been supportive of election security legislation and it is rumored he will seek to run for the Agriculture Commissioner in 2026, leaving the senate presidency to former House Appropriation Chair and incoming Senator, Tom Leek, a darling of the insurance industry.

Speaking of which, trial lawyer John Morgan a.k.a. Pot Daddy is said to be planning to run as the Democrat contender. With the homeowner's insurance crisis in full bloom and directly attributed to this legislature, Florida's Republican supermajority may have handed Morgan a perfect campaign issue that affects all citizens.

Florida's cast of characters is not lacking color, and the current feud looks like political posturing, prepping for 2026. However, beyond this fray is the potential for bad laws to be adopted which could open Florida up to becoming a sanctuary state, something that voters have loudly rejected. Quite frankly, a pissing contest is a more accurate analogy. Unfortunately, the only ones getting rained on are the citizens of the Sunshine State.

# LEGISLATION



If you live in Florida, find some time to make yourself heard by calling:

- **Senator Ben Albritton (850) 487-5027 / (863) 534-0073**
- **Florida Speaker Danny Perez (305) 348-1414**
- **Your local representative**

## DEMAND THEY PASS LEGISLATION THAT:

1. Deports and provides tough penalties for all illegals.
2. Provides NO In state tuition
3. Verifies citizenship (requires proof) when applying to vote.
4. Makes it a felony to vote for non-citizens. Valid ID required with application.
5. Keeps DeSantis' felony plan for 3rd party NGO's knowingly registering non-citizens.
6. Demands all employers E-Verify their workforce.

## ETHICS & ELECTIONS COMMITTEE: WHO VOTED FOR THE TRUMP ACT?

**YES** - Chairman Don Gaetz (850) 595-1036  
**YES** – Bryan Avila (850) 487-5039  
**NO** – Jennifer Bradley (850) 487-5006  
**NO** – Jay Collins (850) 487-5014  
**NO** – Erin Grall (850) 487-5029  
Ileana Garcia didn't vote as she is on active duty.  
All 3 democrats voted NO.

Call the legislators above and thank them for their No votes. Call the RINOs to let them know their YES vote was unacceptable.

## TUNE IN

Watch Raj's video message regarding the governor's special session and non-citizens registering to vote here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2d0UL3RuRPg>

Florida Voter Registration Application  
Part 2 - Form (DS-DE #39, R15-2.04L, F.A.C. (eff. 9/1/2012))

This is:  New Registration  Record Update/Change (e.g., Address, Party Affiliation, Name, Signature)

**A** Are you a citizen of the United States of America?  YES  NO

**B**  I affirm that I am not a convicted felon, or if I am, my right to vote has been restored.

**C**  I affirm that I have not been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting or, if I have, my right to vote has been restored.

**The honor system doesn't work with dishonest people.**



## STAY CONNECTED

Register for Tuesday's 7pm Eastern zoom calls at

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

Miss a call? Go to

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

Want to read Defend Florida's Election Integrity legislation and learn how you can make a difference? Go to

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

Defend Florida needs volunteers like *you* to get involved. Complaining about the government doesn't solve anything. Be a doer!

***"A nation of sheep will beget a government of wolves."* — Edward R. Murrow**