



## DEFEND FLORIDA NEWSLETTER MARCH 30, 2025



### NOTE TO DEFEND NEWSLETTER READERS:

Things are moving so fast in Tallahassee that much of what is contained in this newsletter may be obsolete by the time it's published. Our volunteers from across the state have been working on election integrity reform for years. The team, with Deb Monks in the lead, crafted 5 bills of which 2 had sponsors in the House and the Senate. At 10:17am Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, the House Laid on Table HB1381 under Rule 7.19a and were rewriting the bill. This would be the second rewrite.

### DEFEND TEAM HEARD IN TALLY



Several team members were present on April 1st to present their case to the Government Operations Subcommittee that Rep. Linda Chaney chairs. The complete session can be accessed at <https://www.flhouse.gov/VideoPlayer.aspx?eventId=10272>.

Our team of LaDonna Wagers, Diane Warner and Raj Doraisamy begin speaking at the 1:51:26 mark on the recording. Unfortunately, the team felt that their remarks were ignored. The final outcome was a party line vote with all Republicans voting YES on HB1381 and all

Democrats voting NO. HB1381 passed out of committee.

Proof of citizenship to vote was added to the final version but cleaning voter rolls or requiring ID on mail in ballots were not. Defend Florida needed to make our presence known at this meeting or we would have lost a lot of credibility.

Florida legislators say they want to be the first state to ratify President Trump's Executive Order concerning election integrity. Raj thinks they are sincere, but the proof will be in the results. After the hearing, Raj spoke with Rep. Persons-Mulicka. She said she was open to speaking to him.

### PREVIOUS STRATEGY

Defend's strategy has been to be respectful, make appointments, present our case and cross our fingers that our bills will make it out of committee. We have had more success this year by having two of our bills sponsored in the House and Senate and one bill sponsored in the Senate. Unfortunately, the chairman of the Government Operations Sub-committee, Rep. Linda Chaney, has blocked our bills from coming before her committee. Instead, she pushed a bill that would require all counties to purchase expensive ballot auditing equipment, deny the option for SOEs to hand count ballots in a contested election, and destroy transparency by denying citizen access to election data.

### TOWN HALL STRATEGY PHASE I

Defend Florida, along with Cathi Chamberlain's Pinellas Watch Dogs, held a town hall meeting in Rep. Chaney's district. The event, which usually takes weeks to put together, was accomplished in only four days thanks to Cathi Chamberlain and Defend Florida's Melissa King's help. Raj led

the town hall that was simulcast to over 11,000 people through the Steve Stern and Defend Florida networks.



The goal was to pressure Rep. Chaney to put our bills up for review. Defend Florida ambassadors and Pinellas Watchdog volunteers contacted legislators, especially those on the Government Operations Subcommittee. They emailed, called and attended the committee hearing or waived in remotely in opposition to HB1381. Did we make a difference? Who knows, but HB1381 has been amended and revised twice.

The revisions added some things we've been fighting for like citizenship documentation and verification. That is huge. However, three poison pills remain.

1. Duplicatable ballot images will be used in disputed election results with no ability to hand count paper ballots for reconciliation. In fact, hand counting paper ballots is illegal as HB1381 currently stands.
2. Public Records Requests (PRRs) for election data will be denied. The information that is currently available to the public, is reclassified as "critical election infrastructure" and therefore becomes unobtainable to the citizenry.
3. All counties will be mandated to purchase expensive ballot counting machines called Clear Ballot. Many of the small Florida counties could easily hand count their paper ballots, nullifying the need for the machines. However, HB1381 makes hand counting illegal. The taxpayer will be

burdened with this unnecessary expenditure.

## TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION OF HB1381

- We love this bill but...see items 1-3 above.
- President Trump wants hand counting of paper ballots. We don't understand why it is so important to remove hand counting as an option for SOEs.
- SOEs can do both. Use Clear Ballot machines and hand count paper ballots.
- It looks like you're trying to hide something when hand counting paper ballots is made illegal.
- Counties will be burdened not only with the expense of the Clear Ballot machinery, but the storage, maintenance, and moving the machines back and forth during election season.
- Machines are vulnerable to malware and foreign influence.
- Why replace the word "Audit" with "Voter Validation." What is voter validation? It's not defined.
- Why replace the word "Recount" with "Review?" Review is not defined either.
- Why does the bill not extend citizenship verification to those registering to vote by mail?
- Defend Florida wants to make Florida the gold standard of election integrity.
- How can we work together to secure the rest of our concerns and make Florida the gold standard of election integrity and the first state to ratify President Trump's election integrity agenda?

Representative Persons-Mulicka stated that Florida would be the first state to audit EVERY ballot before election certification. However, it will all be done by machines which are susceptible to foreign influence through machine software, malware and malfeasance. President Trump made it clear. He wants no foreign influence in our elections. Defend Florida

agrees. Software companies can be owned by private companies who, down the road, can have foreign ownership. Paper ballots can't be.



We've still got a chance to change minds. Rep. Persons-Mulicka will present the bill to the State Affairs Committee. We are watching the calendar to see when she will be presenting the bill. Call the State Affairs Committee Chairman, Rep. Will Robinson, and the committee members. Find their contact information here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SnyftL8ZfhnR-3NNQ0q27Bs2b12KORn3/view>

Contact Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka at (850)717-5078 and [Jenna.Persons@flhouse.gov](mailto:Jenna.Persons@flhouse.gov)

**In the email subject line write:**  
**HB1381 DOES NOT COMPLY WITH TRUMP EO**

As always, be respectful. Rather than being accusatory, use the "we want to help you make this bill better" point of view.

For a comparison chart of HB1381, our bill and Trump's Executive Order go to:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Q9kkrxnpV0izC2W2a9m2aUj-xF0wYQLF/view>

## TOWN HALL PHASE II

Defend Florida is planning another town hall in Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka's Lee County district. The town hall begins at 2pm on Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>. The event will take place at

Schooner Bay Grand Salon,  
3480 North Key Drive  
North Fort Myers, FL.

People are coming from across the state. If you are in the area, join us. Register at <http://leerepublican.com/event/townhall/>. Watch the live streamed on [www.defendflorida.org](http://www.defendflorida.org). The focus of the town hall will be on the machines.

Bob Kufert voiced his concern about the Albert sensors in all the machines. They can be manipulated as in the 2020 election when at 2:30am, precincts across the nation simultaneously added large numbers to Biden's vote count skyrocketing him to victory. Nobody is talking about getting rid of the Albert sensors. If we can't get them removed, it is imperative that we get manual hand counted paper ballots mandated.

Machines are vulnerable because malware can be introduced from machine to machine. If a tabulator is corrupted, images will be corrupted. Results are transferred by USB or ethernet from machine to Clear Ballot. Our bill requires manual audits during election and pre-certification. Rep. Persons-Mulicka can do cross tabulation with machines but MUST do hand counts. Supervisors of Elections may find themselves useless as Clear ballot takes their place, an ironic result as they are the ones that helped author this bill.

To quote Jenna Persons-Mulicka, "*We have seen widespread and rampant fraud in this state and in this process. We have evidence that we cannot turn a blind eye to. We must take further action to put integrity back into the initiative process.*"

We are requesting that Florida legislators fall in line with President Trump's mandates. Failure to adopt these measures indicates alignment with

entrenched political interests rather than the President's priorities.

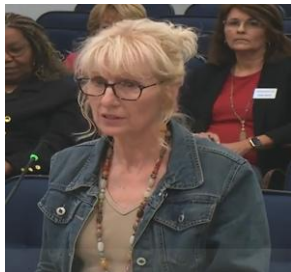
## DEFEND AMBASSADORS IN ACTION



Raj Doraisamy at Pinellas County Town Hall



Melissa King and Cathi Chamberlain at the town hall



Diane Warner and LaDonna Wagers at Tally hearing



Thanks to President Trump's Election Integrity Executive Order, there may be a light at the end of the tunnel. Listen to this interview with

Arkansas Secretary of State, Cole Jester, concerning voting machines.

<https://x.com/colonelreynolds/status/1908315065326911921?s=12&t=BZxzR8S8GEYLLGXHGf1lw>

According to Jester, the Elections Assistance Commission (EAC) is working on a new set of standards which is supposed to be getting away from bar codes and quick response codes. Manufacturers will be forced to comply to the EAC's new system, or they won't get certified making their machines worthless. One can only hope.

Another nugget from this interview is that the Feds are going to start requiring proof of citizenship for every voter. Because of Trump's new prosecution standards in the E.O., if someone is not a citizen and they're registered to vote, Secretary of State Jester strongly suggests they get their name removed immediately. They have committed a crime, and the Federal government is going to come after them.



Come out of the shadows and volunteer with Defend Florida. Everyone has a talent to contribute.

## STAY IN TOUCH



Defend Florida's homepage is [www.defendflorida.org](http://www.defendflorida.org). From there you can register for the Tuesday 7pm Eastern zoom calls, watch previous calls and read the newsletters.