



Good Morning!

Recently I was honored to receive the Affordable Housing Champion Award from the Florida Housing Coalition for my legislative efforts during the 2020 Session.

With the support of Governor Ron DeSantis, the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund was fully funded by the Legislature in both the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 budgets. The Sadowski Housing Trust funds are vital to maintain healthy living conditions for all Floridians. In the wake of COVID-19, it is more important than ever that we strive to ensure the protection of these funds to support Florida families and our elderly citizens.

I consider it a great honor to represent District 17. Please share [this link](#) with your friends and family so that they too can sign up for the [Mayfield Minute](#). If you or someone you know needs my assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office. My staff and I are here to serve you!

2020 Proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments

Each proposed Amendment to the Florida Constitution should be weighed seriously. The Constitution is of a permanent nature and any changes require a new ballot initiative that must garner 60% of the vote in a subsequent election year.

There are currently six Amendments up for consideration on the November ballot. I have previously provided details on proposed [Constitutional Amendment 1 and Amendment 2](#) and I will continue to highlight information about each additional proposal in the coming week to assist you in making an informed decision on Election Day.

Amendment 3: All Voters Vote in Primary was placed on the ballot through a citizen's initiative. The measure would allow all registered voters to vote in primaries for State Legislature, Governor, and Cabinet regardless of political party affiliation. All candidates for an office, including party nominated candidates, appear on the same primary ballot. The two that receive the most votes would advance to the general election. If only two candidates qualify, no primary would be held and the winner would be determined in general election. A candidate's party affiliation may appear on ballot as provided by law. If approved, this would be effective January 1, 2024.

A Yes vote on this measure would make primaries in the State of Florida open to all candidates, with the top two advancing to a runoff in the general election, regardless of party.

A No vote would keep the current primary system in which each party nominates a candidate for the general election.

Amendment 4: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments was placed on the ballot through a citizen's initiative. This measure requires all proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to be approved by the voters in two elections, instead of one, in order to take effect. The proposal applies the current thresholds for passage to each of the two elections.

A Yes vote would mean that a voter-approved constitutional amendment would have to be approved by voters at a second consecutive general election to become effective.

A No vote would mean that the current system would remain in place, which allows voter-approved constitutional amendments to become effective after one general election.

In order for any proposed amendment to be adopted into the Florida Constitution, a 60% vote in its favor is required. For more detailed information on the 2020 proposed Constitutional Amendments, please visit the [Florida Division of Elections website](#).

Florida Forever Acquisition

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), in partnership with The Nature Conservancy, has finalized the purchase of the Bluffs of St. Teresa. The Bluffs, located in Franklin and Wakulla Counties, is an essential tract of land in Florida's Big Bend that now connects over a million acres of protected landscape.



With this land acquisition 17,088-acres between Bald Point State Park and Tate's Hell State Forest will be preserved, creating a contiguous protected landscape that includes the Apalachicola National Forest, St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge and Ochlockonee River State Park.

The Bluffs of St. Teresa is an incredibly important acquisition for the state of Florida, as it not only connects multiple state parks and federally preserved lands, it also protects estuarine and freshwater resources that make up the economic and ecological lifeblood of the near-shore Gulf.

Florida Forever is the state's conservation and recreation lands acquisition program, a blueprint for conserving our natural resources and renewing our commitment to conserve our natural and cultural heritage. The Florida Legislature appropriated \$100 million for the Florida Forever Program in the 2020-2021 budget.

"Get There Florida" Workforce Education Initiative

The Florida Department of Education (FDOE) recently announced the launch of "Get There Florida", a new workforce education initiative aimed at raising awareness of high-value career and technical education programs.

"Get There Florida" highlights rapid credentialing programs available to Floridians at the 28 Florida College System institutions and the 48 technical colleges and centers across the state. It accelerates students' time to completion of high-value industry certifications or postsecondary workforce credentialing. Programs include advanced manufacturing, transportation and logistics, healthcare, and information technology.

Recently \$35 million was made available through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) Funding to support this initiative. These rapid credentialing programs are designed to increase all of Florida's state and technical college's capacity to enroll and graduate students in in-demand, high wage occupation, workforce programs. This will provide Floridians the opportunity to complete programs in 20 weeks or less, aiding in accelerated recovery for residents and the economy.

"Thanks to Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida is a national leader in workforce education and training and is among the first in the nation to support economic recovery and prosperity through our workforce education system. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the divide between Floridians' current skills, and the opportunity for advancement in employment. Many Floridians have signaled they want to find employment where their skills match demand from employers, especially in those in-demand fields that help communities through COVID-19. Florida's world-class higher education system can help students 'Get There', said Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran. "It is now time to double down on our postsecondary career and technical education programs, helping our colleges reimagining how they can contribute to workforce development. Get There accomplishes that goal."

Visit GetThereFL.com to learn more about CTE and workforce training programs available at our state and technical colleges.

District 17 Highlights

Early Voting Information

Tuesday, November 3rd is the General Election date, but early voting starts this week!

[Indian River County Early Voting Information](#)

Monday, October 19th - Saturday, October 31st

Polling Location Hours: 8:00am - 4:00pm

[Brevard County Early Voting Information](#)

Monday, October 19th - Saturday, October 31st

Weekdays 8:00am - 6:00pm

Weekdays 8:00am - 4:00pm

As a reminder, the last day to request a mail ballot to be sent is Saturday, October 24th by 5:00 pm.

Step Up America

Step Up America, a local nonprofit headquartered in Vero Beach, is traveling the state to engage students of all ages in civics and citizenship. Their unique educational program, known as "The Ben Franklin Project", utilizes an interactive approach to provide effective lessons on the importance of our freedoms, our founding documents, and why it is important to be a good citizen.

Ben Franklin comes through the screen and into the classroom to interact in real-time with students. Introducing them to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Declaration of Independence, and what it means to be a good citizen. This program is available to educators at absolutely no cost.

The mission of Step Up America: A Call to Good Citizenship is to educate youth on the importance of becoming responsible, engaged U.S. Citizens in order to preserve the freedom and security of our nation. By educating youth on the very principles that our country was founded on they will have insight for when it is necessary to make changes they will know how to do so in an effective and productive way.

For more information, or to request the program to visit your classroom, please visit StepUpAmericaProgram.org.

Brevard EOC Awarded State Defense Infrastructure Grant

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity recently awarded more than \$2 million state-wide for military-related programs through the Defense Reinvestment Grant Program and the Defense Infrastructure Grant Program. These grants provide funding to support economic diversification efforts, military community relations, and infrastructure projects that benefit our military installations.

The Economic Development Commission of Florida's Space Coast was awarded \$85,000 to build upon existing programs that enhance strong relationships and partnerships impacting mission expansion from the US Space Force, the 45th Space Wing, Patrick Air Force Base, and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Brevard County was awarded \$200,000 from this fund to complete renovation of the Brevard County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). This is in addition to the \$1,000,000 that was secured for the construction of the new EOC by the Brevard Legislative Delegation during the 2020 Session. The Brevard EOC is the most frequently activated in the state, and one of the most frequently activated in the nation, largely due to the number of space launches and launch attempts. The current EOC is more than fifty years old and has been in need of improvements and more space for some time now. For more information on Military Community programs, please visit FloridaJobs.org/Military-Community-Programs.

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