



Good Morning!

As Florida continues to recover from the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought, I want to remind you that we are all in this together and that my staff and I are always here to assist you.

Over the last several months we have helped hundreds of residents in Brevard and Indian River counties. If you are having difficulty with any state agency on issues such as Unemployment, Medicaid, Driver's Licenses, Department of Health or any other, my staff and I stand ready to assist you. Please do not hesitate to contact our Melbourne office at (321) 409-2025 or Vero Beach office at (772) 226-1970.

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](#).

2020 Proposed Florida Constitutional Amendments

As voters and engaged citizens, it is our civic duty to responsibly educate ourselves on important changes to the Florida Constitution. There are currently six Amendments up for consideration on the November ballot and each should be weighed seriously, because repealing any amendment that has passed would require a new ballot initiative garnering 60% of the vote in a subsequent election year.

Amendment 1: Citizen Requirement to Vote in Florida Elections provides that only United States Citizens who are at least eighteen years of age, permanent residents of Florida, and registered to vote, as provided by law, shall be qualified to vote in a Florida election.

Amendment 2: Raising Florida's Minimum Wage raises minimum wage to \$10.00 per hour effective September 30, 2021. Each September 30th thereafter, minimum wage shall increase by \$1.00 per hour until the minimum wage reaches \$15.00 per hour on September 30th, 2026. From that point forward, future minimum wage increases shall revert to being adjusted annually for inflation starting September 30th, 2027.

Amendment 3: All Voters Vote in Primary allows 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. Two highest vote getters advance to general election. If only two candidates qualify, no primary is held and winner is determined in general election. Candidate's party affiliation may appear on ballot as provided by law. This would be effective January 1, 2024.

Amendment 4: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments 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.

Amendment 5: Extend “Save-Our-Homes” proposes an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2021, to increase, from 2 years to 3 years, the period of time during which accrued Save-Our-Homes benefits may be transferred from a prior homestead to a new homestead.

Amendment 6: Homestead Property Tax Discount for Surviving Spouses of Deceased Veterans provides that the homestead property tax discount for certain veterans with permanent combat-related disabilities carries over to such veteran’s surviving spouse who holds legal or beneficial title to, and who permanently resides on, the homestead property, until he or she remarries or sells or otherwise disposes of the property. The discount may be transferred to a new homestead property of the surviving spouse under certain conditions. The amendment would take effect January 1, 2021.

These proposed constitutional amendments originated from two sources: the Florida Legislature and the citizens of Florida. In order for a proposed amendment to be adopted into the Florida Constitution, a 60% vote in its favor is required. I will be providing additional details on these proposed amendments in the coming weeks. For more detailed information on the 2020 proposed Constitutional Amendments, please visit the [Florida Division of Elections website](#).

Florida Forever Acquisitions

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) Division of State Lands (DSL) has finalized its purchase of the Alico property in the Devil’s Garden Florida Forever Project. Ranked number 12 in the Critical Natural Lands project category, the acquisition will now protect approximately 10,700 acres of conservation land.



The property shares its western and southwestern boundary with the Okaloacoochee Slough State Forest and its southeastern boundary with a U.S. Department of Agriculture Wetlands Preserve Program conservation easement. This connectivity with other conservation lands ensures longevity for a wide range of species including the Florida panther.

DSL also recently finalized the purchase of the AVT Ranch conservation easement. The closing added over 700 acres in the Green Swamp Florida Forever Project, bringing the total number of acres protected by the project to over 100,000 acres. The Green Swamp is a critical hydrological resource and recharge area for the Floridan Aquifer and home to the headwaters of the Withlacoochee, Ocklawaha, Hillsborough and Peace Rivers.

Designated as an Area of Critical State Concern, the Green Swamp Florida Forever project is part of a multi-agency partnership including the Southwest Florida Water Management District, the Florida National Scenic Trail and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. The conservation easement will add protection to this critically important area by limiting its use and development.

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.

From the Desk of Governor Ron DeSantis

Recently Governor Ron DeSantis signed the following legislation into law:

[Senate Bill \(SB\) 680: Shark Fins](#) outlaws the import and export of fins to or from Florida. Shark finning is the process of catching a shark, removing its fins and discarding the shark.

[House Bill \(HB\) 879: A Surviving Spouse Ad Valorem Tax Reduction](#) authorizes surviving spouses of certain permanently disabled veterans to carry over their discount on ad valorem taxes on homestead property.

[HB 371: Limitations on Homestead Assessments](#) proposes an amendment to the Florida Constitution extending the period to transfer the Save Our Homes (SOH) assessment limitation benefit from a prior homestead to a new homestead by an additional year. A homestead property must be assessed at just value, which may only be increased by up to 3% every year pursuant to the Save Our Homes (SOH) assessment limitation. The accumulated difference between the just value and the assessed value is the SOH benefit. Homestead property owners may transfer a SOH benefit to a new homestead if they establish the new homestead by January 1 of the second year subsequent to abandonment of their prior homestead.

Governor DeSantis also vetoed [HB 789: Drivers License Fees](#) which would have created an additional \$1 fee for a new or renewed driver license with a "D" designation or a payment of a \$2 fee upon the surrender and replacement of a current driver license to add or remove a "D" designation. The optional "D" designation on the driver license is available to a person who has been diagnosed with a developmental disability.

District 17 Highlights

Veterans Council of Indian River County

The Veterans Council of Indian River County is hosting their First Annual Clay Shoot. All funds raised will go to support programs like the Upward American Veterans Program, which assists veterans with emergency financial assistance; and the Veterans Helping Veterans Programs which provides basic home improvements for veterans who can't afford them or are physically unable to complete the work.

2020 Clay Shoot Tournament
Saturday, November 7th at 8:00 AM
Indian River County Shooting Range
10455 102nd Terrace, Sebastian

The Veterans Council supports local veterans and their families through the collective efforts of county-wide veteran organizations and assistance from private citizens, business sponsors, community advocates and local government. For more information about the Veterans Council of Indian River County, or to secure your tickets, visit www.helpIRCvets.org or call (772) 410-5820.

MLB Most Scenic Airport in North America

Orlando Melbourne International Airport (MLB) has been crowned the Most Scenic Airport in North America. Central Florida's coastal airport has reigned as one of the Most Scenic Airports in the U.S.A. since 2017, but this year has been elevated as the #1 airport in North America.

Voters also commented on MLB with one fan adding, "*As you fly over Central Florida not only do you get to see the wildlife, major highways and small towns, but you also get to see the Space Coast as you come in further to land. If you come in from the east you then get the amazing view of Melbourne Beach and the Atlantic Ocean. Breathtaking!*"

The airport has continued plans for growth with MLB recently being chosen as the location of Aerion Supersonic's new headquarters, where they will design and build their AS2 supersonic business jet. TUI UK has also announced MLB as its new gateway to Florida for all its customers beginning in early 2022. These announcements have sparked the development of a unique fly-in hotel by Hyatt Place that will be located just west of the passenger terminal. For more information and updates, please visit MLBair.com.

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