







Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar Series

2023 Florida Legislative Wrap Up



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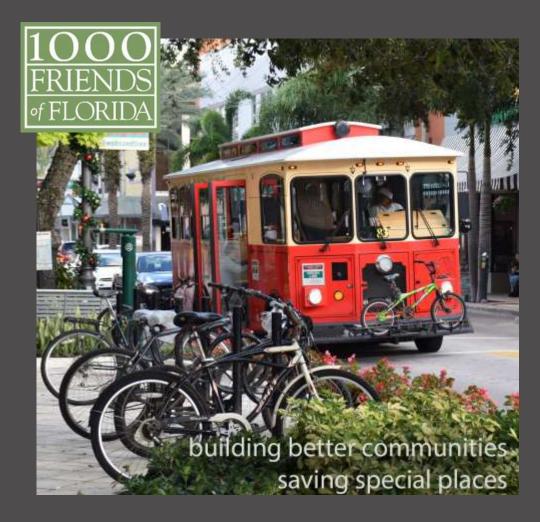
## 1000 Friends of Florida Building Better Communities & Saving Special Places

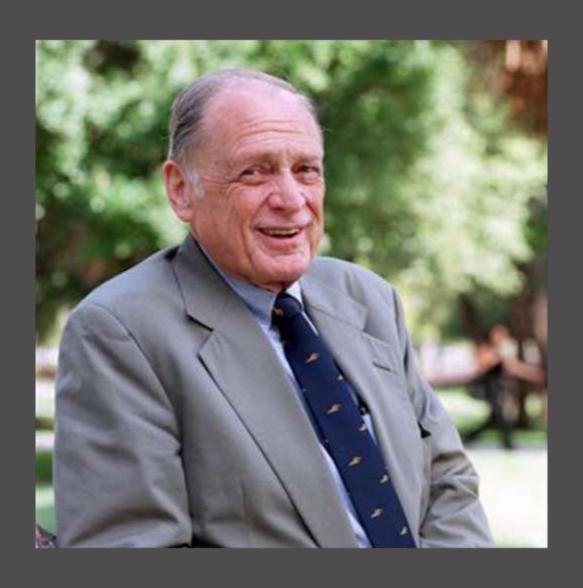
Florida's leading nonprofit advocate for sustainable communities

Work with citizens, community and state leaders, conservation and business groups

Educate, advocate and negotiate to protect Florida's high quality of life







### Dr. John M. DeGrove

May 4, 1924 – April 13, 2012

Icon of comprehensive planning both in Florida and across the nation

Co-founder of 1000 Friends of Florida

To find out more, please visit: 1000friendsofflorida.org/dr-degrove



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- Florida Landscape Architects (1.5 hours, DBPR #0013143)
- Planners (1.5 general including 1 legal AICP CM #9258306)
- Florida Environmental Health Professionals (DOH 1.5 contact hours)
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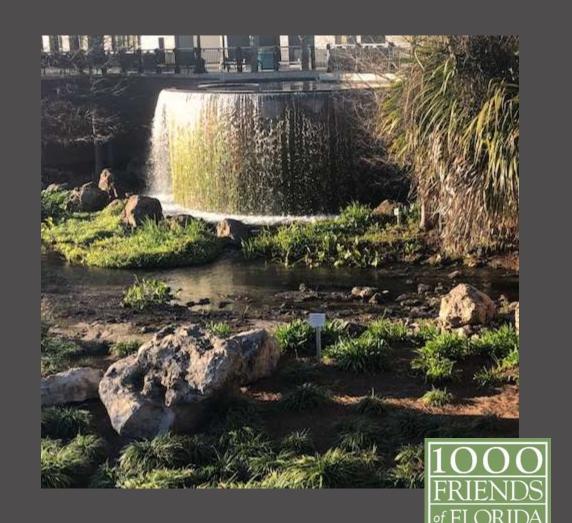
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### **Upcoming Webinars**

We will resume the Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinar Series in September.

Have a great summer!



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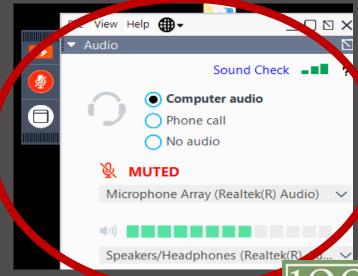


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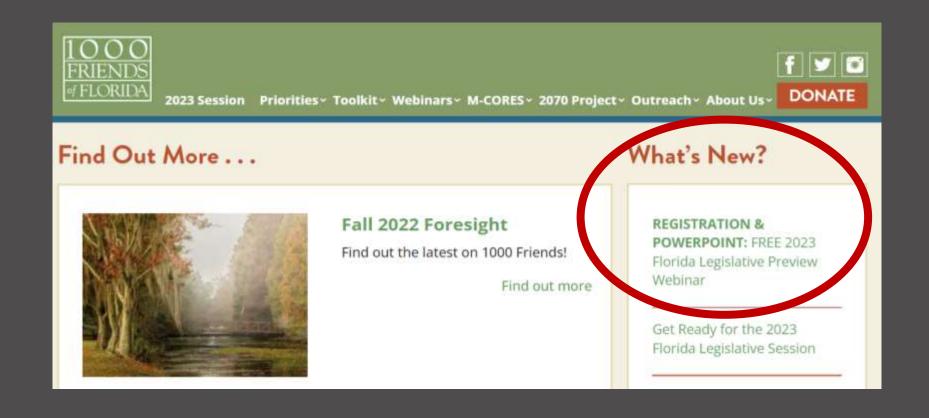
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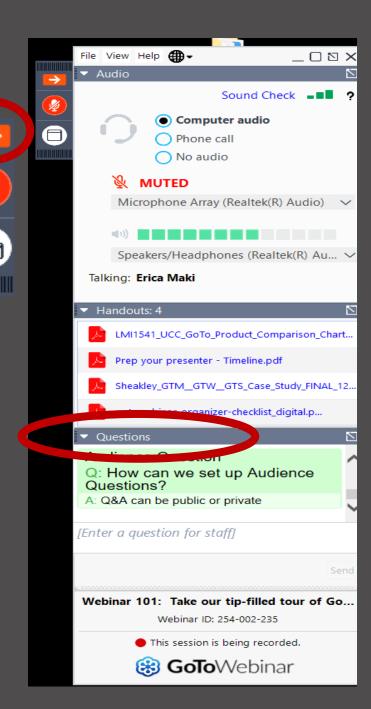




# Follow up information will be posted under "What's New" at 1000fof.org

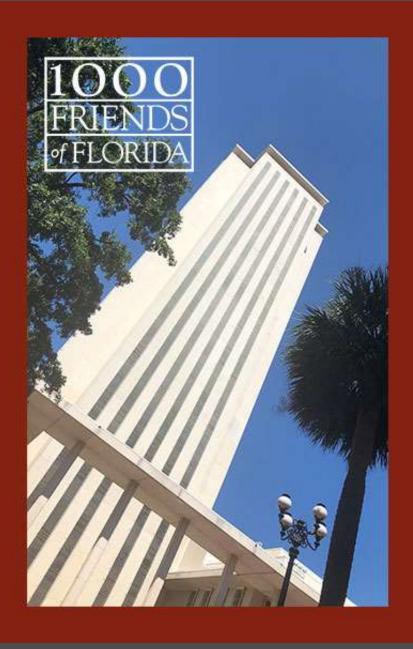






### Please ask questions!

- Click on arrow at top right of your screen to maximize control panel
- •Click arrow next to "Questions" to maximize the questions box
- Please type any questions in this box
- Please refer to the slide number and/or speaker when you post your question
- Please keep your questions succinct!
- •Staff will ask the presenters questions, as time permits



## 2023 Florida Legislative Session

How Can You Make a Difference?

Check out 1000 Friends' Legislative Priorities
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Find out how: 1000fof.org/legis/2023-legislative-session



## SIGN THE PETITION!



1000fof.org/veto-sb-540-petition

## 1000fof.org/legis/2023-legislative-session





### 1000 Friends of Florida Presenters



Paul Owens President



Jane West
Policy & Planning Director



Haley Busch
Outreach Director





Paul Owens

Paul has been President of 1000 Friends of Florida since 2018.

He was previously with the Orlando Sentinel, serving as Opinions Editor, writing extensively on growth management, environment and quality of life issues facing Florida.

Paul also served as the Sentinel's Florida Forward Moderator, organizing and moderating public forums on topics including transportation and affordable housing.

He has a Bachelor of Arts in History with honors from Swarthmore College and a Master of Arts in Journalism from Stanford University.

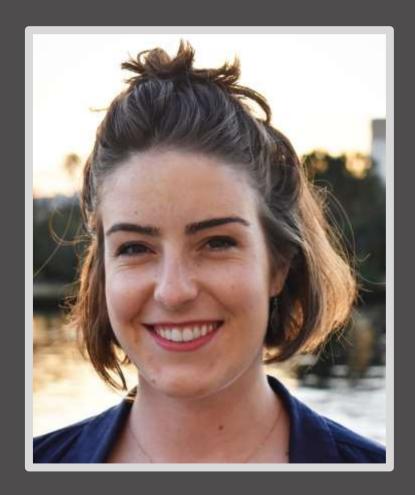
As 1000 Friends of Florida's Policy & Planning Director, Jane works with citizens, providing guidance on critical growth and development issues facing communities across Florida.

She also advocates before the Florida Legislature to promote legislation for sound community planning that protects Florida's lands and waters and quality of life. In addition, Jane coordinates 1000 Friends' legal advocacy efforts related to growth management throughout the state.

Jane has been practicing law for 24 years. She is an AV-rated attorney admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, the 7th and 11th U.S. Court of Appeals and the Southern and Middle Districts of Florida and the Maine bar.



Jane West



Haley Busch

As 1000 Friends of Florida's Outreach Director, Haley promotes sustainable growth through collaboration with civic and conservation organizations across Florida. She works to connect a new generation of Floridians with 1000 Friends' mission and assists in planning local workshops and other informational events statewide.

Prior to working for 1000 Friends, Haley was the Administrator for the Florida Conservation Coalition where she helped conservation leaders build consensus on policy solutions to Florida's pressing environmental challenges.

A Gainesville native, Haley graduated from Eckerd College (St. Petersburg, Florida), and obtained her master's degree of Public and Urban Policy from the University of Glasgow (United Kingdom). She is currently enrolled in the University of Florida's Urban and Regional Planning program, pursuing a master's degree in planning.



Paul Owens



2023 Legislative Wrap Up: "Not Much Meat Left on the Bone"





The "narrow funnel" of legislative approval

- 1,828 bills introduced
  - 1,029 died



# Notable Legislation Already Passed, Signed by Governor

- Universal school vouchers
- Affordable housing expansion
- Permitless concealed carry
- Expanded bike/hike trail network
- Lawsuit limits
- Abortion ban after 6 weeks
- Lower jury threshold for death sentences; death penalty for child rapists





# More Legislation Passed, Signed by Governor

- Bans on public ESG investments
- More Disney restrictions
- Bills to "stop CCP influence"
- Restrictions on public employee unions
- Shorter school board term limits
- Later school start times



"Laws are like sausages. It is better not to see them being made."



# Still More Legislation Passed, Signed by Governor

- "Medical conscience" protections
- Ban on COVID mandates
- Illegal immigration crackdown
- Secrecy for leaders' travel records
- Ban on DEI programs in public higher ed, and limits on courses and tenure





### More legislation in the pipeline

- Culture wars:
  - Limits on transgender health care, bathroom access;
  - Limits on sexuality discussions, pronouns in schools
  - Adult/drag show limits
- Restrictions on voter registration
- Repeal of resign to run requirement





## What. Just. Happened?

- Little policy daylight between Governor, Senate President, House Speaker
- Session is resume-builder for Governor's presidential campaign – launch imminent?
- Governor maintains clout in Capitol by aggressively wielding veto pen
- With GOP super majority,
   Democrats don't have numbers to stop anything





## Rare Swings and Misses for the Governor

- Easier defamation lawsuits
- Repeal of in-state tuition for Dreamers





### Other notable legislative casualties

- Protection for Confederate monuments
- Repeal of Post-Parkland 21-year age requirement for rifle purchases
- Preemption of local living wage ordinances





### We Track Dozens of Bills During Session ...

- Legislation, budget items tied to our mission
  - Community planning, including affordable housing
  - Statewide land, water protection and conservation
  - Transportation
  - Local government home rule related to priority issues
- We don't take positions on every bill we track
  - Some don't address our core mission
  - Some are local bills
  - Some are mix of good and bad elements
  - Some likely to evolve through legislative process
  - Our positions can change if bills change
- Choosing not to track or take a position on a bill is not tantamount to supporting it



A Bill, but not on our tracking list





Jane West

2023 **LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP** Community Planning & Resiliency Bills



- JANE WEST, ESQ.,
- POLICY & PLANNING DIRECTOR
- MAY 17, 2023



### Governor DeSantis' Executive Order 23-06

Directs agencies and local governments to improve local government long-term comprehensive planning that ensures sustainable growth while protecting our natural resources.



HB 359/SB 540 Local Comprehensive Plans

"The death knell to growth management in Florida."

Sponsors: Sen. DiCeglie & Rep. Duggan

Prevailing party attorney fees in comprehensive plan amendment challenges.

Strips down the legal basis for a comprehensive plan amendment challenge.



How does the bill limit the basis for a comprehensive plan amendment challenge?



The split between Florida courts

Heine v. Lee County, 221 So.3d 1254 (Fla. 2d DCA 2017)

Limits the scope of challenges to use, density, and intensity ONLY.

VS.

Imhof v. Walton County, 328 So.3d 32 (Fla. 1st DCA 2021)

Challenges can include other aspects of development that render the development order inconsistent with a comprehensive plan.

The bill settles this DCA conflict by resolving in favor of the more limited scope set forth in the *Heine* decision.

Prevailing party attorney fees in comprehensive plan amendments will cause a chilling effect on citizen challenges to irresponsible and legally flawed developments.



Photo credit: Jane West, City of St. Augustine Beach.

# Weto "Sprawl Bill" 540 BAD for Water BAD for the Everglades BAD for Florida





#### Preemption of Local Government Amendment

- Electrical substation preemption local governments will be prohibited from adopting or enforcing reasonable land development regulations for new and existing electric substations.
- New and existing substations will be allowed in all land use categories and there will be no size limits on associated structures, such as warehouses.





#### HB 49/SB 430 ABANDONED AND HISTORIC CEMETERIES

 Creates the Historic Cemeteries Program and provides grants for identifying abandoned African-American cemeteries. It provides guidelines for state agencies, local government and developers to identify, locate and maintain historic cemeteries and authorizes conservation easements to preserve the cemeteries.







Representative Driscoll



In recent years, abandoned and forgotten AfricanAmerican cemeteries have been rediscovered, putting a spotlight on Florida's sordid history of racism and erasure.
Senator Powell's <u>SB 430</u> would create a Historic Cemeteries Program within the Division of Historical Resources - it passed the Senate Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development unanimously.



HB 1489/SB 1686
Designation of Brevard Barrier
Island Area as an Area of Critical
State Concern

• Designated 16 miles of the southern Brevard barrier island as an area of critical state concern.

Photo credit: Nancy Smith

#### SB 250/HB 7057 Natural Emergencies





Preempts the ability of local governments within a disaster declaration area for Ian and Nicole from increasing building fees or adopting more restrictive or burdensome procedures to its comprehensive plans or land development regulations.



- In the wake of Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, this bill requires local governments to expedite the issuance of building permits.
- Local governments are barred from preventing a resident from placing a temporary structure on their property for up to 36 months after a natural disaster.
- \$61,000,000
   appropriation

# SB 346/HB 383 Public Construction

Limits local governments from withholding payment to contractors in the event of disputes and shortens the timeframe for governments to resolve disputes and pay contractors.





#### CS/CS/SB 718 Local Government

- Revises the procedures for municipal annexation to make it easier for corporate development because it allows for approval of landowners who are not registered voters within the jurisdiction.
- Include preemption on local initiatives or referendums on land development regulations.



Sen. Yarborough



COMMUNITY
PLANNING BILLS
THAT DIED



#### SB 192/HB 175 Everglades Protection Area

Any comprehensive plan amendment changes that apply to land within two miles of the Everglades Protection Area will be required follow the state coordinated review process and would have required the change to be reviewed by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for adverse impacts.





HB 41/SB 856 Land Development Initiative and Referendum Processes

Prohibits a local initiative or referendum on any land development – worked into SB 718





SB 288/HB 499 Florida Main Street Program and Historic Preservation Tax Credits





- SB 88/HB 589 Task Force on Workforce Housing for Teachers and Expansion of Schools
- SB 92/HB 105 Vacation Rentals
- HJR Requiring Broader Public Support for Constitutional Amendments or Revisions
- HB 229 Taxation of Affordable Housing
- SB 350/HB 235 Alternative Mobility Funding Systems
- HB 397 Public Meetings
- SB 682/HB 671 Residential Building Permits
- HB 765 Building Permit Applications to Local Governments
- SB 816/HB 843 Challenges to Development Orders
- HB 1171 Lake County
- SB 1184/HB 1343 Agricultural Lands
- SB 1678/HB 1529 Agricultural Property



## RESILIENCY BILLS THAT DIED



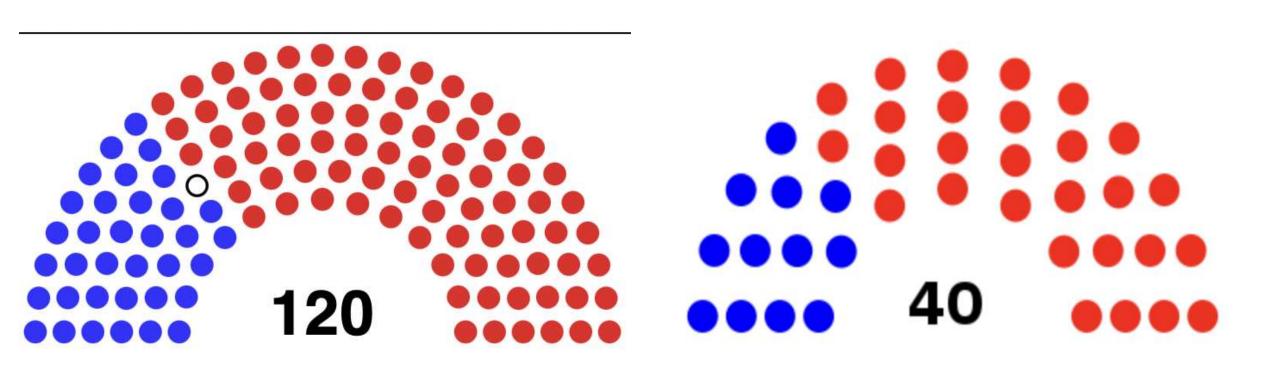
SB 1346/HB 1317 Local Regulation of Nonconforming or Unsafe Structures

 This preemption bill would have superceded any local government limits on demolishing structures in coastal areas that don't comply with FEMA standards for new construction or are deemed dangerous.

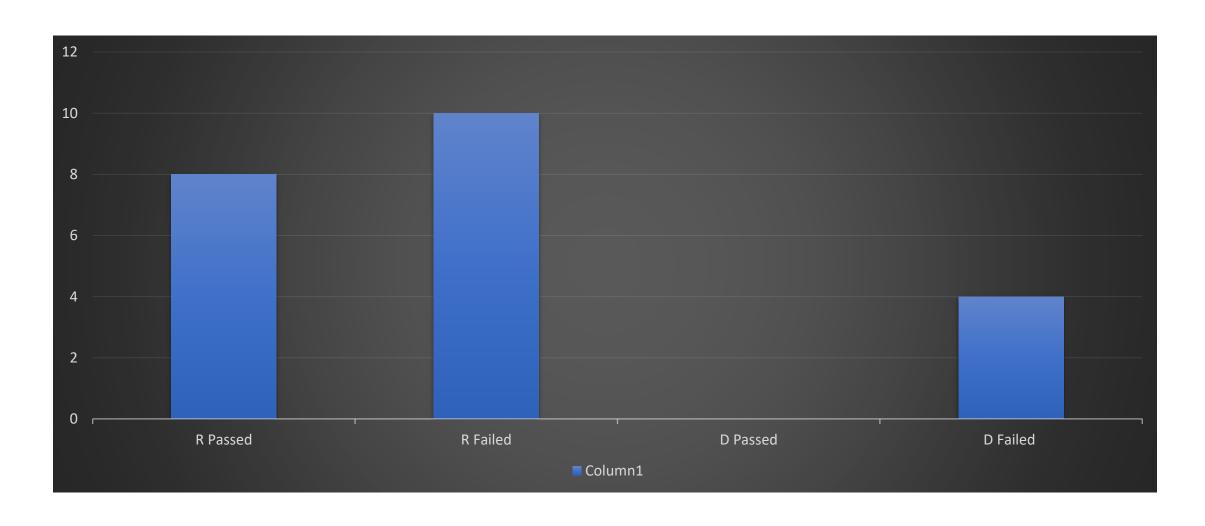


- SB 100/HB 561 Mangrove Replanting and Restoration
- SB 484/HB 325 Flood Disclosure for Residential and Commercial Property Sales
- SB 570 Building Permits
- SB 716 Flood Zone Disclosures for Dwelling Units
- SB 734/HB 1079 Saltwater Intrusion Vulnerability Assessments

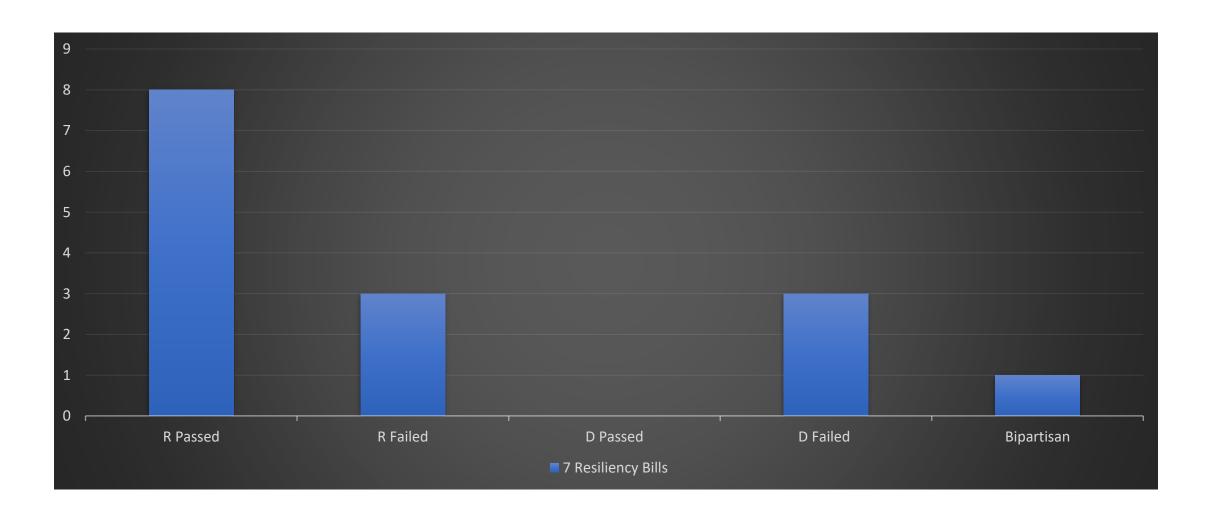
### How the super-majority is playing out



#### 22 Community Planning Bills



### 7 Resiliency Bills



To allow for advanced planning, dates for Fall 2023 Interim Committee Meetings are as follows:

- Week of October 9 − 13, 2023
- Week of October 16 − 20, 2023
- Week of November 6 9, 2023 (Veterans Day observed on Friday, November 10)
- Week of November 13 − 17, 2023
- Week of December 4-7, 2023 (Chanukah begins on Thursday, December 7)
- Week of December 11 − 15, 2023

The 2024 Regular Session will convene on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.



Paul Owens



Fort DeSoto State Park/Anja Weigelt

### Conservation spending and policies



#### 2023-24 budget: Land conservation highlights

- \$850 million for land acquisitions within the Florida Wildlife Corridor (Osceola to Ocala, Caloosahatchee/Big Cypress)
- \$200 million for expanded statewide bike/walking trails network and connections to the Florida Wildlife Corridor
- \$100 million for conservation easements under the Rural and Family Lands Protection Program
- \$100 million for Florida Forever
- \$11.2 million for the Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program
- \$15 million for Florida Communities Trust
- \$42 million for "other acquisitions"



O2O/North Florida Land Trust



#### Why land conservation is a great investment

- Multiple benefits for Florida
  - Protects environmentally valuable land from being lost to sprawl
  - Holds, naturally cleanses runoff, protecting waterways, water supply
  - Absorbs carbon
  - Provides recreation for residents and tourists
  - Guards against flooding
  - Maintains land for agriculture
  - Preserves wildlife habitat and biodiversity, buffering against spread of diseases from animals to people



Big Cypress National Preserve/Alliance for Florida's National Parks



#### 2023-24 budget: Everglades, water quality/supply

- \$625 million for Everglades restoration
- \$508 million for water, wastewater revolving loans
- \$433 million for member water projects
- \$200 million for wastewater grants
- \$156 water infrastructure improvements
- \$150 million for water quality improvements in Indian River Lagoon (\$104.9 million), Caloosahatchee River (\$25 million), Biscayne Bay (\$20 million)
- \$60 million for alternative water supplies
- \$50 million for springs restoration
- \$40 million to comply with total maximum daily loads
- \$22.8 million for harmful algal blooms



**Everglades National Park/National Park Foundation** 



#### 2023-24 budget: Other highlights

- \$300 million for resilience grants to communities to prepare for sea level rise
- \$811 million to expand affordable housing
  - \$150 million, 1st installment of \$1.5 billion, 10-year commitment to State Apartment Incentive Loan (SAIL) program to affordable housing developers for infill, mixed-use, housing in rural areas or near military bases, units for elderly or adults aging out of foster care
  - \$361 million from affordable housing trust funds for SAIL and SHIP (State Housing Initiative Partnership) program
  - \$100 million for expanded Hometown Heroes program
  - \$100 million to make up for inflation in SAIL deals in the pipeline
  - \$100 million for Live Local corporate tax donations to fund SAIL



Fort Lauderdale/Jo Owens



Review of key conservation bills in the 2023 session





# SB 106/HB 915 Florida Shared-Use Nonmotorized Trail Network

- Establishes Trail Towns program with \$200 million appropriation in Office of Greenways and Trails to promote ecotourism and economic opportunity to local communities
- Requires Greenways and Trails Council to prioritize trails connected to Florida Wildlife Corridor
- Requires state Department of Transportation to include Shared-Use Nonmotorized (SUN) Trail Network in work program and prioritize projects recommended by Greenways and Trails Council
- Increases annual funding for SUN Trail Network from \$25 million to \$50 million
- Priority of Senate President Passidomo
- 1000 Friends supported
- Passed unanimously in Senate's first week, and unanimously in House's fifth week
- Signed into law by Governor



Senator Jason Brodeur



Representative Adam Botana



## HB 559/SB 928 Land Acquisition Funding

- HB 559 (Roth) would have established a minimum of \$350 million a year in funding from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund for the Florida Forever program. Additionally:
  - It would have revived authority for Florida Forever to fund acquisitions through bonds.
  - It would have made multiple revisions to the funding formula for the program, including increasing the share for the Department of Agriculture to purchase conservation easements.
  - It would have barred use of Florida Forever funds for agency administrative expenses.
- SB 928 (Stewart) would have established a \$300 million annual minimum for Florida Forever, revived bonding authority for the program, revised the funding formula, and barred use of funds for agency administrative expenses.
- 1000 Friends supported
- Neither bill was taken up in committee



Representative Rick Roth



Senator Linda Stewart

#### HB 7047 State Land Acquisition

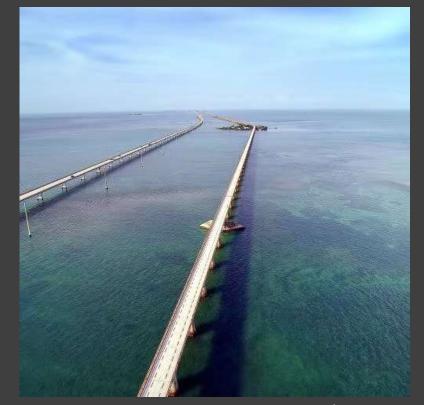
- Sets annual funding floor of \$100 million for Florida Forever
- Requires Florida Forever's Acquisition and Restoration
   Council to prioritize properties within Florida Wildlife
   Corridor and those in "imminent danger of development"
- Applies same priorities to Rural and Family Lands Protection Program
- Raises threshold requiring approval for acquisition from Governor and Cabinet from \$1 million to \$5 million
- Passed unanimously by House
- Contents amended into HB 1379, passed unanimously by House, Senate



Representative James Buchanan

#### Other notable conservation bills

- SB 54 (Rodriguez)/HB 135 (Mooney) would have required annual \$20 million appropriation for Florida Keys to promote protection or restoration of Florida Bay, the Florida Keys, and nearshore marine ecosystems, including coral reefs
  - Bills failed, but \$20 million included in budget for Keys
- SB 320 (Harrell) and HB 547 (Sirois) would have required annual \$50 million appropriation for projects dedicated to conservation and management of Indian River Lagoon
  - Bills failed, but \$104.5 million included in budget for IRL



Florida Keys/Visit Florida





#### SB 170/HB 1515 Local Ordinances

- Requires local governments to prepare business impact statements before enacting range of ordinances, including measures to protect environment and quality of life
  - Exemptions include development, emergency, budget ordinances
- Allows businesses that legally challenge local ordinances as "arbitrary or unreasonable" and win to collect up to \$50k in attorney fees; no corollary provision for local governments
- Single business can suspend widely supported local ordinance through challenge
- Another Senate President priority
- Similar bill died before passage last year
- 1000 Friends opposed
- Approved in Senate, House on party-line votes
- Not yet transmitted to Governor



Senator Jay Trumbull



Rep. Robbie Brackett



# SB 1072/HB 979 Deepwater Port Dredging

- Required independent analysis of adverse impacts on natural habitats before issuing dredging permits for beach restoration or deepwater ports
- Especially intended to protect Florida's nearly 350 miles of coral reefs
- Sponsors cited dredging operation for the Port of Miami nearly 20 years ago that destroyed more than 500,000 coral
- 1000 Friends supported
- Died at final committee stops in Senate, House



Senator Ana Maria Rodriguez



Rep. Peggy Gossett-Seidman



#### SB 1702/HB 1167 Mitigation Credits

- Would have allowed some partially completed mitigation banks to qualify to provide credits to compensate for wetland destruction
- Would have allowed use of mitigation credits from outside basin where wetland destruction occurred
- 1000 Friends opposed
- Died without Senate, House hearings



Senator Nick DiCeglie



Rep. Wyman Duggan

A landmark year for affordable housing



Fairlawn Village/Orlando Sentinel





#### SB 102/HB 627 Live Local Act

- Priority of Senate President; unanimously passed in Senate; passed 103-6 in House; signed by Governor
- Provides automatic property tax exemptions for multifamily developments of more than 70 affordable units or for developments on land owned by nonprofits and leased for at least 99 years for affordable housing
- Authorizes local governments to provide property tax exemptions for housing developments of at least 50 units with at least 20% affordable
- Provides up to \$5,000 refund for sales taxes paid to build affordable unit
- Reinforces current requirement for local governments to make appropriate publicly owned lands available for affordable housing
- Codifies Hometown Heroes Program, expands eligibility beyond select occupations



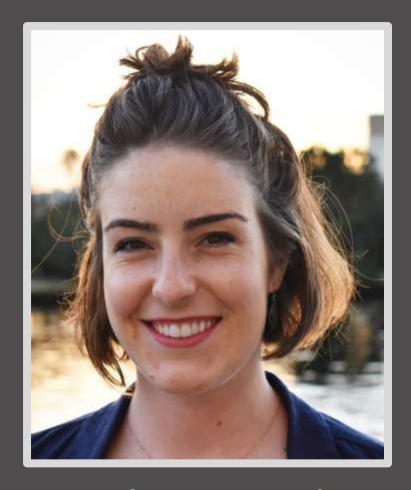
Senator Alexis Calatayud



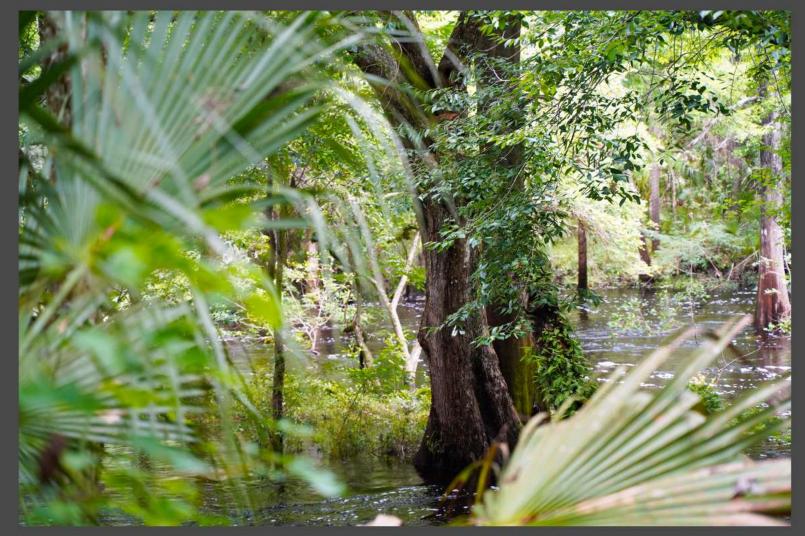
Rep. Demi Busatta Cabrera

#### Live Local Preemptions

- Prohibits rent control ordinances
- Prevents regulating use, density or height of affordable housing developments, or requiring zoning, land-use change or comprehensive plan amendment, in commercial, industrial or mixed-use zoned area if at least 40% of units are affordable
- Permits density at highest allowed within jurisdiction's residential zones
- Allows highest height currently allowed for commercial or residential development within a mile, or 3 stories – whichever is higher
- Exempts workforce housing development in the Florida Keys from the Keys' 24-hour evacuation standard.



Haley Busch



Hillsborough River State Park/Anja Weigelt

# Water Protection & Conservation

What we do on land directly impacts our rivers, streams, springs, lakes, estuaries, beaches, and aquifer.

Haley Busch, Outreach Director



#### HOW WE GOT HERE...







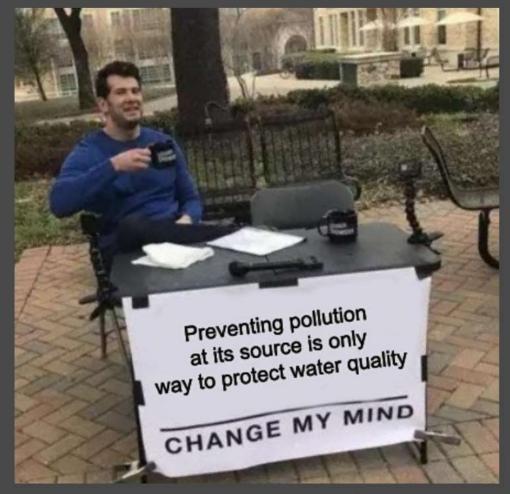
#### Since 2019:

- Executive Order 19-12
- Blue-Green Algae Task Force, Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force, Technical Advisory Committees
- Clean Waterways Act (SB 712)
- Executive Order 23-06
- Billions of dollars for water quality restoration projects



#### 2023 SESSION

- 1000 Friends' Priorities:
  - Implement Governor DeSantis's Blue-Green Algae and Red Tide Task Force recommendations and adopt incentives for water conservation





# BUDGET LINE ITEM 146: LOCAL FERTILIZER ORDINANCE PREEMPTION

- SB 2500 includes a line item appropriating \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds for a study "to evaluate the effectiveness of timing of seasonal fertilizer restrictions" and preempts local governments from adopting or amending their fertilizer ordinances with prohibited application periods, weakening their ability to protect their local water supplies from nutrient pollution.
- 1000 Friends has submitted a request to Gov. DeSantis to exercise his <u>line-item veto</u> authority.







# SB 1632 / HB 1379 - Environmental Protection

- Amends comprehensive planning process to achieve Basin
  Management Action Plan (BMAP) goals; adding projects to capital
  improvements element and prioritizing sewer connections over new
  septic tank installations, no new septic tanks within a BMAP area,
  requires septic tank remediation plan for Outstanding Florida Spring
  BMAPs
- Establishes Indian River Lagoon Protection Program
- Increases contract price of Florida Forever land acquisition agreement requiring Board of Trustees approval from \$1 million to \$5 million
- Dedicates \$100 million annually from Land Acquisition Trust Fund to Florida Forever program



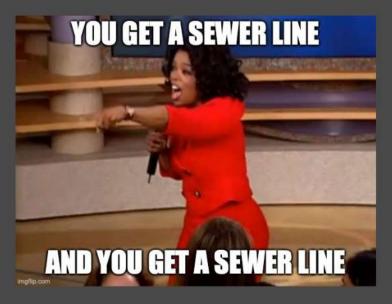




## SB 702 / HB 407 Apalachicola Bay Area of Critical State Concern

 Authorizes the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to expend up to \$5 million annually for the next five years for the City of Apalachicola for water quality projects such as septic-to-sewer conversions







Doug Alderson / Apalachicola Riverkeeper



## HB 7027 / SB 7002 - Ratification of the Rules of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection

- Ratifies FDEP rules to enact statewide septic tank system remediation plan
- Creates new regulations for wastewater treatment facilities to prevent sanitary sewer overflows and leaks





Bob Self / Florida Times-Union





#### **SB 880 / HB 1405 - Biosolids**

- Expands the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's wastewater grant program to include grant projects for the conversion of wastewater residuals to Class A and AA biosolids
- Provision limiting the land application of Class B biosolids was struck from the bill







#### HB 1181 / SB 724 Seagrass Restoration

 Establishes the Seagrass Restoration Technical Development Initiative within the Department of Environmental Protection as a partnership between Mote Marine Laboratory and the University of Florida to develop technologies to restore coastal seagrass ecosystems









## HB 423 / SB 1538 - Implementation of the Recommendations of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force

- As initially filed, required 5-year septic system inspection program and county-specific implementation plan in critical springsheds
- Would have strengthened BMAPs to more effectively reduce nutrient pollutant loading, account for future pollutant loading due to population growth
- Would have required BMAP projects exceeding \$1 million undergo comprehensive monitoring for effectiveness
- Senate delete-all amendment scrubbed the septic tank inspection provision.
   House version stalled







## HB 1425 - Onsite Sewage Treatment & Disposal System Inspections

 Would have directed the Department of Environmental Protection to create and administer a septic tank inspection program and require inspections once every five years, with priority given to areas within a BMAP



Never received a committee hearing or Senate counterpart





#### SB 172 / HB 177 - Safe Waterways Act

- Would have required owners of public bathing places to notify the local county health department within 24 hours after a water quality test result fails to meet health standards, and close the bathing place if the Department of Health deems closure necessary to protect public health.
- Would have required the Department to establish signage and a statewide interagency database to report fecal indicator bacteria data for public bathing places
- Passed one House agenda, did not get a hearing in the Senate











## SB 458 / HB 827- Wastewater Grant Program

 Would have expanded the projects eligible for funding by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's Wastewater Grant Program to include water bodies on the verified list of impaired waters.



• <u>Though this bill died, its provisions were amended into HB 1379, which</u> <u>did pass.</u> Wastewater Grant program renamed as "Water Quality Improvement Grant Program"





## SB 1240 / HB 1197 Land & Water Management

- Would have preempted local governments from adopting regulations relating to water quality, water quantity, pollution control, pollutant discharge prevention or removal, and wetlands
- Did not receive a hearing in either the House or Senate





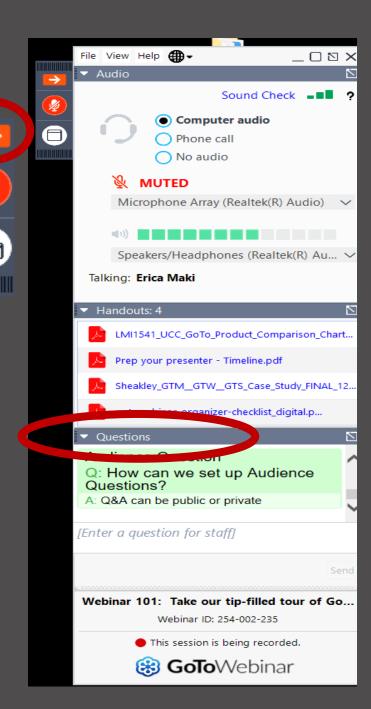
#### LOOKING AHEAD...

- Statewide stormwater rule
- Summer algal bloom season
- Federal PFAS/PFOA requirements





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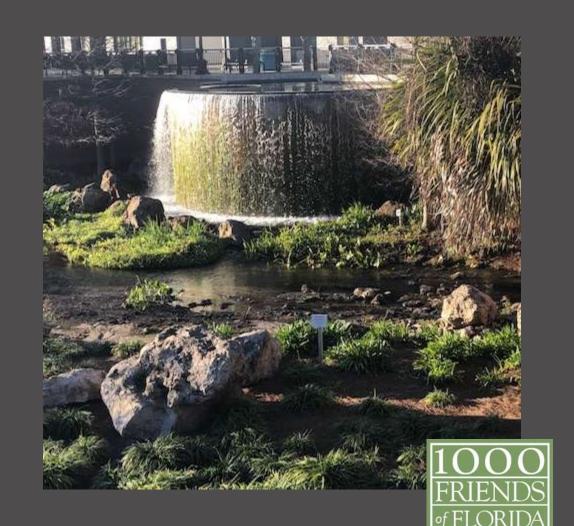
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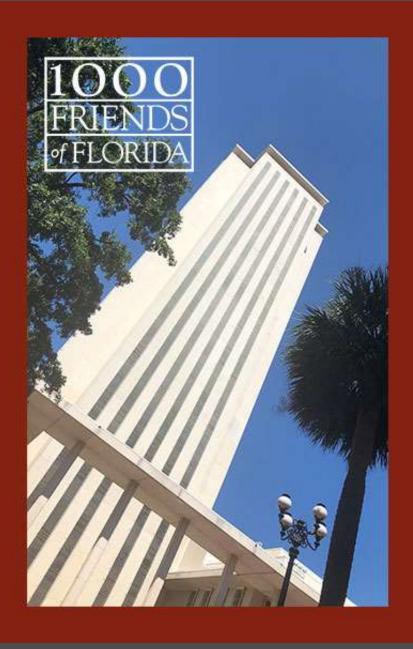
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