

THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



Florida Legislature 2025 April 1, 2025

At the halfway point for this year's Florida Legislative session, your input is needed. Here are some bills under consideration, and you are encouraged to make your position known to your legislators.

Single-Member County Commission Districts

A local Lee County Bill (HB 4001). This bill would allow Lee County voters to decide if the voters should elect commissioners in each district, rather than by a county-wide vote. The bill was unanimously approved by the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee on March 26. Single-member districts would make commissioners more representative and more responsive. Ask your legislators to support this bill.

Destroying the Citizen Initiative Process

Citizen-led amendments empower everyday citizens to pass policies that improve our lives and strengthen our communities, especially when politicians choose to ignore constituents and side with their billionaire and corporate elite donors. So, it's no surprise that Florida Republicans are doing everything in their power to make it even more difficult for citizens to make their voices heard through citizen initiatives. The process in Florida is already one of the strictest in the nation, with almost a million signatures required just to get on the ballot and a super-majority (60%) required to pass an initiative. A bill to further hamper the citizen initiative process just cleared committee. If passed, the bill, which is supported by Gov. DeSantis and introduced by Fort Myers representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka, would be, in the words of Representative Lindsay Cross, "a death knell for citizen-led ballot initiatives." The proposal would require citizen-led petitions to post a million-dollar bond once 25% of the required signatures have been gathered. It also introduces stricter rules on turning in signatures and provides stricter penalties, including criminal charges, for falling afoul of the complicated rules. This bill is another DeSantis-led effort to undercut the democratic process. Tell your legislators to vote "no."

Two Bills are Bad News for Educators

By India Palencia

Rep. Jenna Persons-Mulicka introduced two bills that would significantly weaken the teachers' union in Lee County. If passed, these bills would make it much harder for educators to organize and advocate for themselves, which raises an important question:

Who really benefits from this? Jenna Persons-Mulicka!

Adding another layer to the conversation, Rep. Persons-Mulicka's father, Armor Persons, sits on the Lee County School Board. While we can't say for certain if there's a connection, it's fair to ask:

Is this about what's best for education, or is a larger agenda at play?

Regardless of where you stand politically, we should all want a sound education system that attracts and supports skilled teachers. If the goal is truly to improve our schools, shouldn't we be talking about ways to invest in educators—not making it harder for them to have a voice? These bills are legislative union-busting.

Here are the links to the bills:

<https://housedocs.myfloridahouse.gov/.../billsdetail.aspx...>

<https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2025/1387>

What action are we suggesting? Contact [Jenna Persons-Mulicka](#) to outline how these bills are harmful and encourage her to no longer support the bills and pull them if possible.

India Palencia is the Lee County Democratic Committeewoman for Precinct 202