

THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



The 2025 Florida Legislative Session

Thumbs Up/Thumbs Down

April 1, 2025

By Madison Fitzpatrick

With the 2025 Florida legislative session about halfway over, we as Floridians must keep up with the bills trying to get passed by both political parties. Unfortunately, with the Republican majority in both houses, Democrats can rarely get their partisan bills seen, let alone passed. Below are some examples of bipartisan bills that we, as Democrats and Floridians should support, and some bills that we, as Democrats and Floridians should oppose. I urge you to call your Senator and make your opinions on these and other bills known- after all, they should be representing us.

Thumbs Up

SB 280- Candidate Qualification

This bill places more requirements on those wanting to run for office in a certain political party. Namely, it requires that a person be registered as a Democrat, Republican, or third-party member for at least 365 days before running for office under that affiliation. This helps to ensure that true Democrats are running for these positions.

SB 72- Use of Campaign Funds for Child Care Expenses

This bill allows those running for office to use a portion of their campaign funds to pay for their childcare expenses. This bill opens doors for parents who want to make a difference through official positions. Since our government is meant to be for the people, by the people, opening doors for any group is a great way to have a truly representative government.

SB 1346- Fentanyl Testing

This bill would require hospitals and other related entities to include fentanyl testing as a part of testing for possible drug overdoses in patients. With the rise of deaths attributed to fentanyl overdoses, a bill such as this would help to save the lives of Floridians across the state.

Thumbs Down

SB 1624- Higher Education

This bill is one of many that targets DEI. SB 1624 would remove the requirements that members of the Assistive Technology Advisory Council be representative of the population they represent in terms of race, ethnicity, gender, and age. This further shows that Republicans do not care about government or people meant to be representing others actually representing them--they are concerned with hoarding the power that comes with these positions.

SB 440- Gender Identity Employment Practices

This bill targets the rights of the LGBTQ+ community. SB 440 essentially allows employers and employees to misgender transgender and nonbinary people in the workplace. This closes

the door for members of this community to claim mistreatment or harassment from their workplace when they are constantly being misgendered by those around them.

SB 1678- Entities that Boycott Israel

Regardless of one's views on the Israel /Palestine conflict, this bill opens the door for the government to put more restrictions on boycotting and protesting anything they want to. This is a piece of legislation that is a slippery slope to an America where boycotting and protesting are either outlawed or made so difficult for Floridians that there is no way to feasibly do so for the average person.

Unfortunately, many good bills introduced by Democratic leadership will not see the light of day because of the Republican majority in both houses. One such bill is SB 1380- Reproductive Health Rights, which would have solidified a woman's right to make medical choices about her own body. Another is SB 252- Weapons and Firearms, which would have made us Floridians much safer by putting more requirements around being a responsible gun owner. There are many more bills like this that cannot be passed this year, but we need to look ahead. We need to keep this in mind in our next election for these officials--we cannot keep allowing the Republicans to dictate our laws and our lives.

Ready to Contact Your Legislators? See below.

Lee County Representatives in the Florida House

District 76 [Vanessa Oliver](#) (850) 717-5076

District 77 [Tiffany Esposito](#) (850) 717-5077

District 78 [Jenna Persons-Mulicka](#) (850) 717-5078

District 79 [Mike Giallombardo](#) (850) 717-5079

District 80 [Adam Botana](#) (850) 717-5080

Lee County Senators in the Florida Senate

District 27 [Ben Albritton](#) (850) 487-5027

District 28 [Jonathan Martin](#) (850) 487-5033

District 33 [Kathleen Passidomo](#) (850) 487-5028