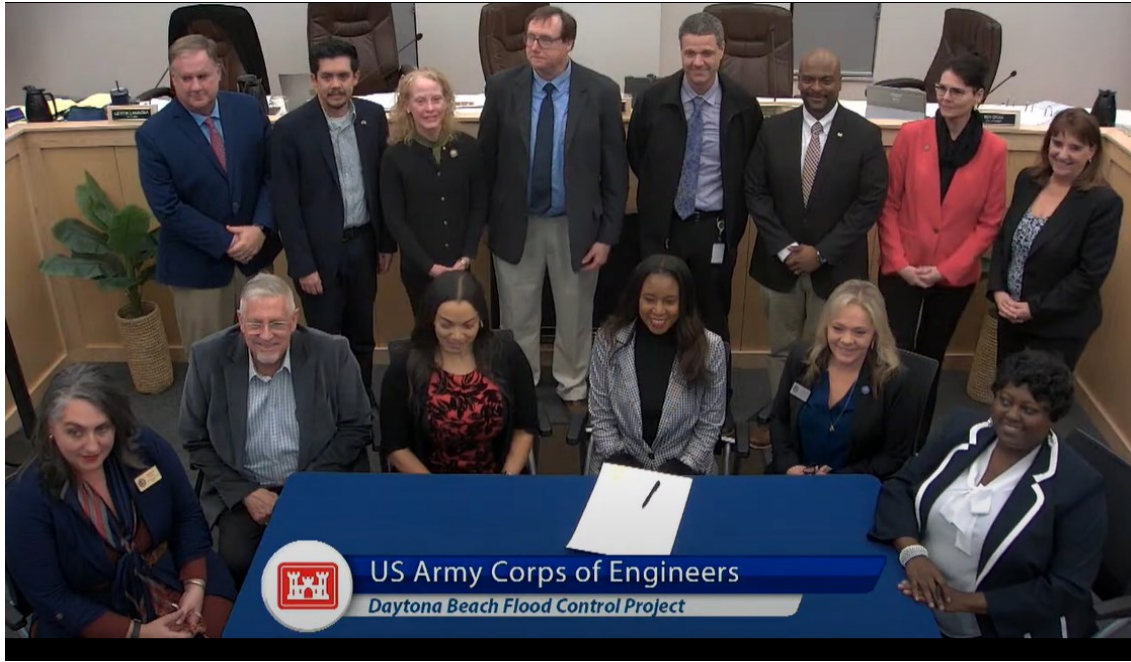




Volusia Matters Newsletter

Jim Cameron Consulting LLC

February 2024



Daytona Beach Partners with Army Core of Engineers for Flood Study

Jan 17 - Daytona Beach City Commission signed an agreement to partner with the US Army Corps of Engineers on a two-year, \$3 million flood mitigation feasibility study that will be fully funded by the federal government.

The intent of this flood control study is that it will lead to a mitigation project that will dramatically reduce the flooding.

The study will be led by a team of city officials, Army Corps employees as well as planners, engineers, biologists, geologists, hydrologists, surveyors, archaeologists, economists, real estate specialists. Numerous state and federal agencies will be involved.

It will conclude in February 2026. The study area entails Nova Rd, Orange Ave, Ridgewood Ave

and Beville Rd...basically low-lying areas adjacent to Nova Canal including Midtown and Fairway Estates where residents have repeatedly been forced out of their homes due to floodwater.

Daytona Beach Government Relations Administrator Hardy Smith said the problem that could cost between \$100 million and \$200 million to fix.

While the City has received \$3 million in federal funding for the study the other question is whether federal money for construction will be forthcoming. If that comes forth, it would be 65% feds and 35% City.

Hardy Smith also pointed out that this project was the result of work by **Cong Michael Waltz** as well as **Sens. Marco Rubio** and **Rick Scott**.



Legislative Update.....

The Senate passed President Kathleen Passidomo's Live Healthy legislation to expand [health care access](#) as the state's population continues to grow.

With Fla facing a shortages of doctors and other types of health providers, the plan seeks to expand medical residency programs, which receive state money. It offers student loan reimbursement to various health care practitioners to offset their educational expenses in order to entice them to practice in underserved locations where there are medical personnel shortages.

Another part of the bill would require hospitals to divert patients from emergency rooms to federally qualified health centers or other primary-care providers for non-emergency conditions.

The Senate plan includes 2 bills.....SB 7016 with a \$730 million price tag..... The House version would cost about \$580 million

SB 7018 requiring the Health Dept to administer a \$50 million revolving loan program for applicants seeking to implement certain health care innovations in this state.

House versions [H 975](#), [1475](#) and [1501](#) started moving forward last week...

Supermajority Votes to Increase Taxes?

Last week, the House Ways & Means Committee supported HB 1195 that would require a two-thirds votes by local entities to approve increases in millage rates. It's not before the State Affairs Committee.....ie. It's moving.....

Most local entities need simple majority votes to approve property-tax increases to help fund their annual budgets.

The Florida League of Cities and the Florida Association of Counties have not taken stands on Garrison's proposal.

The Senate version SB 1322 is before the Finance & Tax Committee (**Sen Travis Hutson member**).

A House bill analysis suggested the Legislature might need two-thirds votes to approve this due to a 2018 state Constitution amendment which requires two-thirds votes by the Legislature when mandating changes that would reduce local-government authority to raise revenues.

Space Florida, the state's aerospace development authority wants to boost Fla's status for aerospace commerce.

CEO Rob Long says space transportation infrastructure will be critical. **HB**

577/SB 968 expand Fla's

current spaceport system territory to include Tyndall AF Base and Homestead AF Base...**H 577 is on Commerce Committee agenda (Rep Webster Barnaby, Chase Tramont members).....**

SB 370 by Sen Tom Wright urges Congress to add spaceports as a qualified tax-exempt category of private activity bonds...**awaiting Senate floor vote**. Space Coast expects 100 launches this year .



Housing affordability is STILL a major under consideration this session with members of both parties wanting to address it.

Democrats say rents are too high and want government intervention....in other words, a fully funded Sadowski Housing fund.

Meanwhile, affordable housing has been a priority for Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, the driving force behind last year's Live Local Act. She too wants a fully funded Sadowski Housing fund.....However, she opposes several Democrat bills, including one that would impose rent controls.

The Live Local Act's primary goal is to reward companies for building more affordable housing....and it's still making its way through the construction markets...but it'll take some time.

Meanwhile, Democrats say lower-income Floridians need more urgent relief.

MEANWHILE....**SB 328 and HB 1239 aim to revise the Live Local Act revises the Live Local Act**, by no longer allowing industrial land to be used for affordable housing AND amongst other provisions....clarifies that only affordable units in a qualifying development must be rental units; requires a qualifying development within a transit-oriented development or area to be mixed-use residential. Both bills are making their way through committees.

HB 1365 and SB 1530 would prohibit people sleeping on public property in counties/cities, or in public buildings or rights-of-way, without a permit. This same thing is under consideration in Deland.

It further stipulates that if an entity wants an area for the homeless, it must have public restrooms, 24-hour security and access to behavioral health services.

Drugs and alcohol prohibited, and the designated area cannot adversely affect the "value or security" of any nearby residential or commercial properties

HB 1365 is on the Judiciary Committee agenda (Rep [Webster Barnaby](#) - member)

..... SB 1530 is on is the Judiciary Committee agenda , Monday afternoon.

It would allow any person/business to sue a local entity including attorney fees, court costs, and other reasonable expenses.

Miami-Dade, Broward and Pinellas counties have the state's biggest homeless populations.

Solicitation of Contributions Act HB 759 would make panhandling illegal in most cases would be an add-on to Florida's charitable solicitation law, restricting when and where panhandling occurs, and could make the act a felony....it's on **[Criminal Justice Subcommittee](#)** agenda ((Rep [Webster Barnaby](#) - member)..



**4th Children's Business Fair
March 23 9am-2pm
Riverfront Esplanade**

Kids launch their very own startup business i.e. develop a brand, create a product /service, build a marketing strategy, and then open for customers at the one-day marketplace with 90 booths!

It's a great opportunity for kids to experience to become an entrepreneur!

[Click here](#) to register...

Volusia Delegation Bills of Interest.....	
<u>Rep Webster Barnaby</u>	
<u>HB 1183</u>	<u>Fla Main St Program/Historic Preservation Tax Credits</u>
1st Reading	
<u>Rep Tom Leek</u>	
<u>HB 5001</u>	<u>General Appropriations Act</u>
Filed	
<u>Rep Stan McClain</u>	
<u>CS/HB 1221</u>	<u>Land Use and Development Regulations</u>
Now in Commerce Committee	
<u>Rep Chase Tramont</u>	
<u>CS/CS/HB 1491</u>	<u>Pub. Rec./Investigations by Dept of Legal Affairs</u>
01/25 S Received	
<u>Sen Travis Hutson</u>	
<u>S 692</u>	<u>Public Records/Florida Gaming Control Commission</u>
1/29 Now in Rules	
<u>S 1468</u>	<u>Sales and Use Tax</u>
1/10 Introduced	
<u>S 1638</u>	<u>Funding for Environmental Resource Management</u>
1/25 Now in Fiscal Policy	
<u>S 804</u>	<u>Gaming Permits</u>
Last Action: 1/16 Now in Agriculture, Environment, Genl Govt Appropriations Committee	
<u>Sen Tom Wright</u>	
<u>S 228</u>	<u>Health Insurance Cost Sharing</u>
Last Action: 1/9 Introduced	
<u>S 230</u>	<u>Sales Tax on Aircraft Sales and Leases</u>
Last Action: 1/9 Introduced	
<u>S 370</u>	<u>Spaceports</u>
Last Action: 1/31 Placed on Calendar, on 2nd reading	
<u>S 714</u>	<u>Seaports</u>
Last Action: 1/9 Introduced	
<u>S 1354</u>	<u>Indian River Lagoon Protection Program</u>
Last Action: 1/10 Introduced	

Daytona Beach City Commission plan for Charter Review Commission

On their February 7 agenda, the DB City Commission will decide changes to their Charter Review Commission process.



The Commission is looking to the timing on when 7 CRC members must be selected and the number of required townhall meetings and when final amendments are due.

So while the County appears to have no Charter amendments on the November ballot.....so it's likely Daytona Beach and other cities there will be charter amendments on the November ballot.



DeLand Commission Addresses Homeless Issues

City of DeLand is looking to adopt 3 ordinances in an effort to combat a recent rise in homelessness

Downtown business owners have complained people living on the streets, were scaring customers away.

If passed, the ordinances would

- make it illegal to camp on public property,
- prohibit storing personal items on public property
- limit a person's right to sit on a sidewalk or alleyway.

Option 1 would be to take violators to The Bridge, or 1st Step Shelter. If they refuse, then they would go to jail.

Each scenario would be handled via the city, police, and local homeless organizations...for instance....the Neighborhood Center of West Volusia.



Jan 18 - Last week, DB Police Chief Jakari Young spoke to the Bellair Community Group



During the interview, Chief Young stated.....

Burglaries were slightly up in the city.....including auto thefts...especially Kias.

In order to address the homeless matter, the Dept will add 2 more bike cops to the current 2 bike cops to focus on homeless issues.

New Year's eve on Main St was ok...no problems...it was a family style night....

DBPD currently has 20 recruits in the police academy so when they graduate, the Dept will only have minimal vacancies.

The Dept is currently building their Crime Suppression Team..it'll be a big plus.

The On Patrol Live TV show has been a big help to recruit throughout the nation...very popular show!

DBPD has some of the highest paid officers in in Volusia County....There are currently 244 on the force....but adding more officers iwill be required as the city grows as Avalon and Mosaic and other developments take shape.....

The City's panhandling ordinance is being challenged....better not talk about that....

The new beachside substation is in good location on Grandview Ave

A major challenge has been Popup events...The Dept has a unit that partners with the Sheriff's Social Media team to monitor upcoming events.....DBPD also works with the sheriff for mutual aid for these events

DB Police also uses drones to monitor event crowds thanks to ERAU



DeBary's Main St Project Kicks Off.....

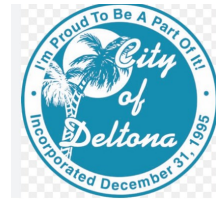
January 24 – DeBary City leaders hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for their two phases Main Street project.

Phase I of the project includes 290 townhomes and 36 live-work units; Phase II will include retail spaces like restaurants and shops.

Construction is set to begin later this year, with Phase I expected to be completed by 2025.

The project will be walking distance from the SunRail station.....back in the day when I was working on SunRail....THIS was the type economic development project that was envisioned... residential units whereby someone could live in DeBary and commute to Orlando or elsewhere.

City Manager Carman Rosamonda said, the downtown area's current value is \$400 million....in 3-5 years, it'll be almost \$1 billion.



Jan 29—**Deltona City Commission** appointed **Troy Shimkus** to fill the remainder of the **District 2 seat** which expires November, 2024 . This was to fill the seat of **Anita Bradford**, who resigned for health reasons. Jan 30, **Commissioner Tom Burbank** resigned so the City is seeking another replacement to fill the remainder of his term which is set to expire in November 2026. Commissioners have until March 1 to find someone to fill the vacant seat.

Constitutional Amendment Update....

Gov DeSantis expects the State Supreme Court to approve putting the recreational marijuana constitutional amendment for the November ballot.

If approved, it would legalize recreational marijuana for adults 21 years old and older and allow individuals to have up to 3 ounces of marijuana.

In Fla, constitutional amendments require a 60% supermajority vote of approval to pass.

Meanwhile, **Atty General Ashley Moody's** office

Filling City Vacancies.....



Jan 9 - **Daytona Beach Shores City Commission** appointed 2 City Commissioners for vacancies after two commissioners that resigned last month. They appointed **former Police Chief Stephan Dembinsky** for Seat 2 and **Realtor Mark Card** for Seat 3.....both terms will be for 10 months.

Orange City City Council had 2 resignations last month.....on February 5, they will interview potential appointees at a City Council special meeting after which they will decide on those appointees at their February 13 City Council meeting.



Fla Constitutional Amendments 2024

and **Fla Chamber** contend the amendment is misleading and fails the single subject rule.

The Fla Supreme Court has until April 1 to decide if the proposal should go to the voters.





Champion Elementary School's Emily Fagerstrom named Volusia Schools' Teacher of the Year.

She was selected from 70 nominees representing schools countywide and was one of five finalists for

the district award. She will now represent Volusia in the state Teacher of the Year program.

The VCS Teacher of the Year ceremony was co-hosted by FUTURES Foundation.

An educator in Volusia County Schools for 11 years, she is the math instructional coach at Champion Elementary.

She is the lead mentor at Champion Elementary and is co-chair of their School's Advisory Council and is an active member of their Parent- PTA.

She is also a facilitator with Volusia Learns, leading professional development sessions to educate and inspire fellow educators.

Volusia School District and Volusia United Educators Instructional Settle Contract



The Volusia United Educators (VUE) and Volusia County Schools (VCS) reached an agreement to include School Counselors and Speech and Language Clinicians under the stipends provided to School Psychologists. This agreement will be retroactive to July 1, 2023.



Assessed value is just value minus assessment limitations i.e. Save Our Homes

Fla Presidential Preference Primary is Tuesday, March 19.

- **Early Voting:** Saturday March 9 to Saturday, March 16, 8 AM – 6 PM
- **Locations...**
 - Elections Office DeLand...
 - Center at Deltona...
 - Florence Little Town Hall – DeBary.....
 - Daytona, Ormond, New Smyrna Libraries
 - Lakeside Center - Port Orange

January 19 - Volusia County Association for Responsible Development VCARD held its 36th Annual Installation & Awards Luncheon.



Keynote Speaker **Fla Dept of Business/Professional Regulations Secretary Melanie Griffin** delved into the State's current economic statistics.

Immediate Past Chair **Michael Chimento III** was named VCARD Member of the Year and **Amanda Mrozek** was named VCARD Citizen of the Year.

The newly sworn-in officials include:

- Jessica Gow, Chair
- Michael Chimento, Immediate Past Chair
- Kris Rowley, Vice-Chair
- Jane Terrell, Secretary
- Ron Nowviskie, Treasurer

Volusia County Schools Raises Graduation Rate to 91.6%



Fla Dept of Education just released the Federal Uniform Graduation Rate for 2022-23., and Volusia Schools' 2022-23 graduation rate is 91.6%.

It's 3.6% above the state average of 88%, and a 2.7% increase from the district's 2021-22 rate of 88.9%.

Graduation Rate Highlights

- All 10 traditional high schools in VCS saw an increase in graduation rate.
- Deltona HS had the highest graduation rate at 99.7%.
- Pine Ridge HS graduation rate rose from 83.4% in 2021-2022 to 93.4% in 2022-2023.
- Volusia Schools rank in the top 10 districts in the State for 2022-23 graduation rate and second among 11 Central Fla districts.
- Volusia Schools had the highest graduation rate increase (2.7%) among Central Fla school districts.

This year, the Fla Dept of Education stated Volusia Schools had significant growth in all Every Student Succeeds Act populations.....an increase in graduation rate of students with disabilities for the last four years.

ESSA SUB-GROUPS	2022-23	Change	2021-22
White	92.5%	2.8	89.7%
Black	88.4%	2.9	85.5%
Hispanic	90.3%	1.9	88.4%
Students with Disabilities	91.0%	3.8	87.2%
Economically Disadvantaged	88.8%	3.2	85.6%
English Language Learners	86.6%	7.1	79.5%
At-Risk	83.6%	6.6	77.0%

Volusia Flagler Coalition for the Homeless' 24-hour point-in-time count was January 24 - 25.

During this time volunteers go to areas frequented by homeless individuals in order to interview them. The information from these interviews is sent to HUD in Washington in order to bring federal dollars to Daytona/Volusia.

This was my 17th year doing interviews and you can

Volusia Flagler Coalition for the Homeless Point in Time Count

hear a lot of different situations on how these

individuals became homeless.

For years, I've gone to labor halls before their workers hit the job sites. The last several years it was encouraging most workers earn a steady paycheck and have a place to live....in other words...they're NOT homeless.

NOT ANY MORE.....This morning I heard of more workers are sleeping in their cars due to the high price of rents in Daytona. The cost of housing is out of their price range. Kinda disheartening....because these are working folks!

Volusia County Sheriff's Office has a new program that drastically cuts response times for deputies. Sheriff Chitwood



says there's anywhere

from 3 to 6 minutes between the 911 call taker, dispatch, and a sheriff deputy sent to respond.

The Sheriff's office new app reduces response times to seconds whereby deputies now have an app on their laptops that tracks their location and any calls that come in within a certain radius will automatically show on their computer. Deputies can then be directed to the location of the emergency...without waiting for dispatch.



Federal Deficit Update.....

Treasury Dept and Congressional Budget Office budget data shows that federal spending (\$170 billion) rose faster than tax receipts (\$83 billion)resulting in a \$510 billion deficit that was \$89 billion larger than last year's \$421 billion deficit in FY 2024's first quarter.

CBO found that the cost of servicing the nation's \$34 trillion debt, was the biggest contributor to increased spending as Interest expenditures rose by \$73 billion.

Another factor was the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation....FDIC's \$62 billion spending increase to resolve [bank failures](#) in 2023.

Mandatory spending programs played a role in the larger overall spending – [Social Security benefits](#) increased by \$37 billion (12%, compared to a year ago) while Medicare benefits increased by \$18 billion (or 13%).

On the revenue side, corporate income [tax collections](#) rose \$44 billion (42% increase from last year) and federal income/payroll tax collections rose \$42 billion (5% increase over last year).

This comes after the federal government saw a

- \$3.1 trillion shortfall in FY 2020,
- \$2.7 trillion shortfall in FY21 re - surge of federal spending due to [COVID-19 pandemic](#) and [Office of Management and Budget](#)

A \$1.877 trillion deficit is estimated THIS year.

Holly Hill City officials broke ground for a new \$3 million fire station at Daytona Ave and 10th St.



Holly Hill Fire Chief James Bland said the new station's cost will be split with City and State funding and will be able to withstand hurricane-force winds.

The station will house 5 firefighters and should be completed by year's end.



Sip, Shop & Stroll at the Riverfront Market on February 25, 9am - 1pm! Featuring local vendors, music, and FREE yoga with [Renew Yoga Studio](#) at 8 am....bring your own mat and water!

Riverfront Market is the last Sunday of each month and always needs local vendors! Click the Vendor Application below for a future market!

[Vendor Application](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- **February 14, 12:00 2024 State of the County** Center at Deltona, 1640 MLK Blvd, Deltona....an annual event where the County Council reflects on partnerships/ accomplishments from 2023 and outline the county's future goals.
[Click here to RSVP](#)
- **February 16, 7:30 AM Volusia Economic Q4 Breakfast** Daytona Intl Airport

Other meetings.....

- Feb 7, 9 am Environmental Natural Resources Advisory Committee ENRAC Cty Admin Bldg
- Feb 15, 9 am Planning Land Development Regulation Committee PLDRC Cty Admin Bldg
- Feb 16, 9 am ECHO Advisory Bd Cty Admin Bldg
- West Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority
Feb 21, 9 am MainSt DeLand office 100 N. Woodland Blvd DeLand.
- SE Volusia Tourism Advertising Authority
Feb 27, 9:00 am
New Smyrna Beach Area Visitors
- River to Sea TPO
Feb 24, 9:00 am
Daytona Intl Airport
- Volusia Growth Mngt Commission VGMC
Feb 24, 6 pm
Cty Admin Bldg

We lost a very good friend on January 16, unexpectedly. **SKIP DIEGEL** began his career in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where he worked as a DJ.



He found a passion in the world of radio and obtained his broadcasting degree. He worked as a radio announcer in Michigan, Illinois, Ohio and Florida. He loved music, especially classical and “the Oldies.” In 2008 he purchased WSBB Radio Station, in New Smyrna Beach.

Skip stayed up to date as to what was happening locally/statewide to inform his radio audience. He interviewed local, and State elected officials along with other community “movers and shakers.” During “Volusia Days at the Capitol,” he’d take his equipment to Tallahassee for live interviews with State Legislators. A big supporter of The Arts, he sponsored many events around the county. He enjoyed tennis, golf, and Notre Dame football. He’ll be remembered for his friendliness, generosity, humor and kindness.

HGC
Merchant Services
Michael J. Pawelski
CEO
904.993.3205 Cell
www.hgcmerchantservices.com

Taxable value is the assessed value minus exemptions and is the value the tax collector uses to calculate the taxes due.



BLACK PEARL
REAL ESTATE

386-527-2230
BlackPearlRealEstateLLC@gmail.com

211 E. International Speedway Blvd.
Daytona Beach, FL 32118
BlackPearlProperty.com



Loretta Arthur
Licensed Real Estate Broker
Founder



In December, the Fed Reserve seemed somewhat optimistic about the rate of inflation that last tracked at 2.6%....and at their Dec 13 meeting, they left interest rates unchanged and hinted at maybe three cuts in 2024. However, the December CPI report saw inflation increase to 3.4%....where economists had predicted a monthly increase of 0.2%.

With that news, the stock market fell by more than 50 points.

SO....the looks that the Fed Reserve will continue its plan to bring inflation to 2%....but they have to balance lending rates with maintaing a healthy economy.

However, if the inflation reading is higher than expected, it may potentially delay the stock market's anticipated rate cuts for 2024.

**Assessed value is just value
minus assessment limitations
i.e. Save Our Homes**

Jan 16 - County Council approved \$329M Transform 386 lan relief contracts.

These are Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery funds that will assist the County in meeting the housing and infrastructure needs after lan's destruction.



The county has already begun accepting home repair applications for its Homeowner Recovery Program.

The Council voted 4–2 to move forward with the program. **Councilmen Don Dempsey and Danny Robins** voted no.

The Council approved \$3 million for two contracts with SWCA Environmental Consultants and Tetra Tech for environmental consulting.

The Council also approved \$6 million for two contracts with CSA Associates and Tetra Tech for property damage assessments.

Just value is the property's market value.

Click link below..... Volusia's [Attainable Housing Dashboard](#)



Candidates update.....
(8/20/2024) (11/5/2024)

Clerk of the Court
[Laura Roth \(REP\) *](#)

Supervisor of Elections
[Lisa Lewis \(REP\) *](#)

State Attorney
[Larizza, RJ \(REP\) *](#)

Sheriff
[Mike Chitwood \(IND\)*](#)
[James L Powers, Jr \(REP\)](#)

Public Defender
[Matt Metz \(REP\) *](#)

Tax Collector
[Will Roberts \(REP\) *](#)

Property Appraiser
[Larry Bartlett \(REP\) *](#)

County Chair
[Jeff Brower*](#)
[Don Burnette](#)
[Randy Dye](#)

County Council District 2
[Matt Reinhart*](#)

County Council District 4
[Troy Kent*](#)

School Board District 2
[Cassandra Gonyer](#)
[Krista Goodrich](#)
[Angela Kopnicky](#)

School Board District 4
[Donna Brosemer](#)
[Merrick Brunker](#)
[Carl Persis*](#)

County Judge
[Bryan Feigenbaum*](#)

Daytona Beach Commission Zone 2
[Ken Strickland*](#)

Deltona City Commission Zone 2
[Elizabeth Chavez](#)
[William Mabery](#)
[Emma Santiago](#)

Deltona Commission Seat 6
[Dominic Nick Lulli](#)

Edgewater Commission Dist 4
[Gary Conroy](#)

Holly Hill—Mayor
[John Penny](#)

New Smyrna Beach—Mayor
[Fred Cleveland*](#)
[Louis Joseph Pate](#)

New Smyrna Beach—Zone 3
[Jason McGuirk *](#)
[Larry Westley](#)

New Smyrna Beach—Zone 4
[Randy Hartman*](#)

Orange City Mayor
[Kelli Marks](#)
[William O'Connor](#)

Ormond Beach Mayor
[Jason Leslie](#)
[Susan Persis](#)

Ormond Commission Zone 2
[Travis Sargeant*](#)

Ormond Commission Zone 3
[Barbara Bonarrigo](#)
[Kristen Deaton](#)

Ormond Commission Zone 4
[Harold Briley](#)

Port Orange Mayor
[Scott Stiltner](#)

Port Orange City Council Dist 3
[Shawn Michael Goepfert](#)
[Barry Pitek](#)

Fla Senate District 7
[Michael Levone Gist \(NPA\)](#)
[George Anthony T Hill \(DEM\)](#)
[Gerry James \(REP\)](#)
[Tom Leek \(REP\)](#)

Fla House Dist 27
[Richard Gentry \(REP\)](#)
[Stephen Wayne Shives \(REP\)](#)
[Beckie Sirolli \(REP\)](#)

Fla House Dist 28
[John Navarra \(DEM\)](#)
[Bill Partington \(REP\)](#)

Fla House Dist 29
[Webster Barnaby* \(REP\)](#)

Fla House Dist 30
[Chase Tramont* \(REP\)](#)
[Smith, Kelly Anne \(DEM\)](#)

US Senate
[Scott, Rick *](#) (REP)

US Congress - House Dist 6
[Michael Waltz* \(REP\)](#)

US Congress - House Dist 7
[Cory Mills \(REP\)*](#)
[AlleK Pastrana \(DEM\)](#)

Volusia County is home to over 14,000 enterprises that produce or provide a variety of goods and services. These companies transact business locally and globally, contributing annually to the \$17 billion GDP generated within Volusia County

Bill Status of Legislative Session (Feb 1)			
	Filed	Passed Senate	Passed Both Chambers
Senate Bills	922	21	7
House Bills	891	19	0
House & Senate Bills	1813	19	0

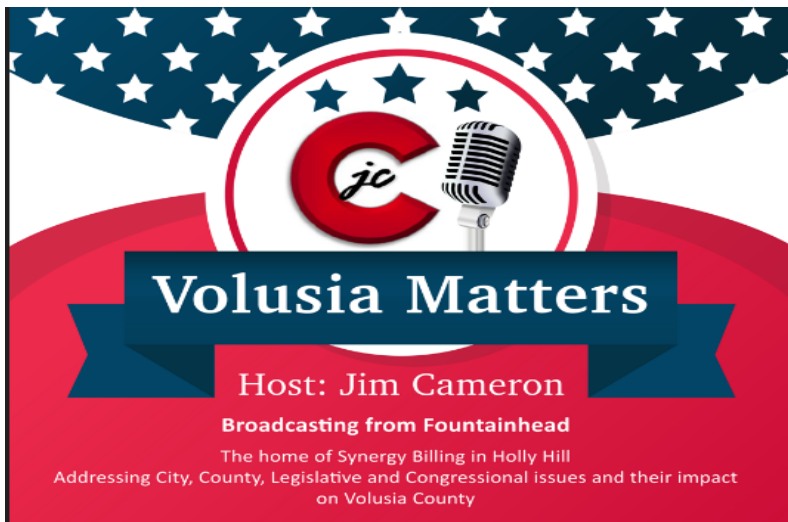


New Smyrna Beach Update....

Jan 23 – with **Khalid Resheidat** retiring in August, the New Smyrna Beach City Commission selected Strategic Government Resources to lead the quest for a new city manager.

There will be numerous public meetings and other venues whereby the public can meet and learn more about candidates for manager..

Mayor Fred Cleveland expects to have a new manager on board by mid-April. Listen for more updates in my VM podcasts.....



Episode 52 includes local/state governmental news plus interview with **First Step Shelter Exec Victoria Fahlberg**.



CLICK HERE for Podbean Podcast
 OR **CLICK HERE** for Apple Podcast

- 2024 Legislative Session Update
- County Adopts Transform 386 Contracts
- Presidential Preference Primary Vote Dates

Volusia County Definitions.....

Bulkhead: a structure/partition to retain/prevent sliding of the land....and to protect the upland against damage from wave action. A form of rigid armoring.

Bulkhead line: a governmentally ordered line, set in or along the Atlantic Ocean, a river, watercourse or other body of water, that establishes the minimum distance from the water any property improvements must be located. "Bulkhead line" shall include the term "seawall line."





CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION for VOLUSIA COUNTY



[Sen. Marco Rubio](#)

284 Russell Senate Office Bldg Washington DC 20510

marcorubio@senate.gov 202-224-3041

Chief of Staff –

Dist Office – 201 S Orange Ave Ste 350 Orlando 32801
407-254-2573

Regional Director – Ryleigh Wogoman

Ryleigh_Wogoman@rubio.senate.gov 407-223-9503

COMMITTEES – [Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe](#)
[Appropriations](#); [Foreign Relations](#); [Small Business/Entrepreneurship](#);
[Committee on Intelligence \(Vice Chair\)](#); [Special Committee on Aging](#)



[Sen Rick Scott](#)

110 Hart Senate Office Bldg Washington, DC 20510

Rick_scott@senate.gov 202-228-0493

Chief of Staff – Craig Carbone

District Office – 225 E Robinson St Orlando 32801

Regional Director – Barry Cotton

barry_cotton@rickscott.senate.gov 407-872-7161 – c

COMMITTEES – [Committee on Armed Services](#); [Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs](#); [Budget](#); [Special Committee on Aging](#)



[Cong Michael Waltz](#) (R - 6)

213 Cannon House Office Bldg Washington DC 20515

(202) 225-2706 michael.waltz@mail.house.gov

Chief of Staff – Micah Ketchel

Dist Office - 22 South Beach St Ormond Beach, FL 32174

Dist Staff – Ernie Audino, Brandi Anderson 281-4949

COMMITTEES – [Armed Services](#); [Foreign Affairs Committee](#);
[Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence](#)



[Cong Cory Mills](#) (R-7)

1237 Longworth House Office Bldg Washington DB 20515

(202) 225-4035 Cory.mills@mail.house.gov



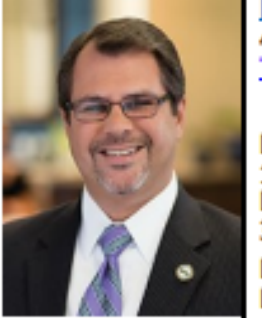
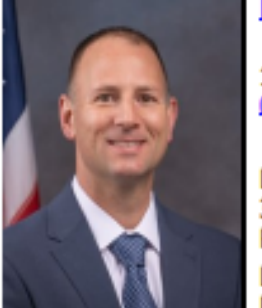
Chief of Staff –

Dist Office– 1000 City Center Circle Pt Orange 32127 238-9711

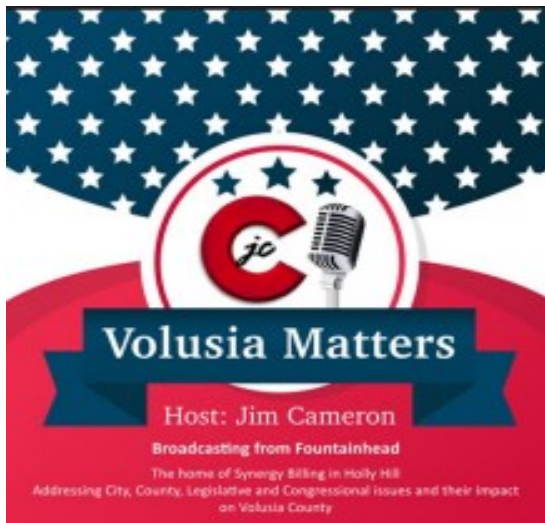
Dist Staff – Amy Dunn, Vanessa Horgan, Debbie Phillips

COMMITTEES – [Armed Services](#); [Foreign Affairs](#)

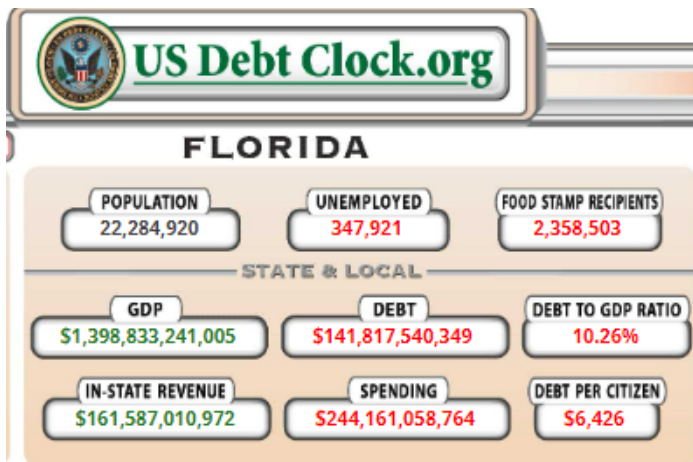
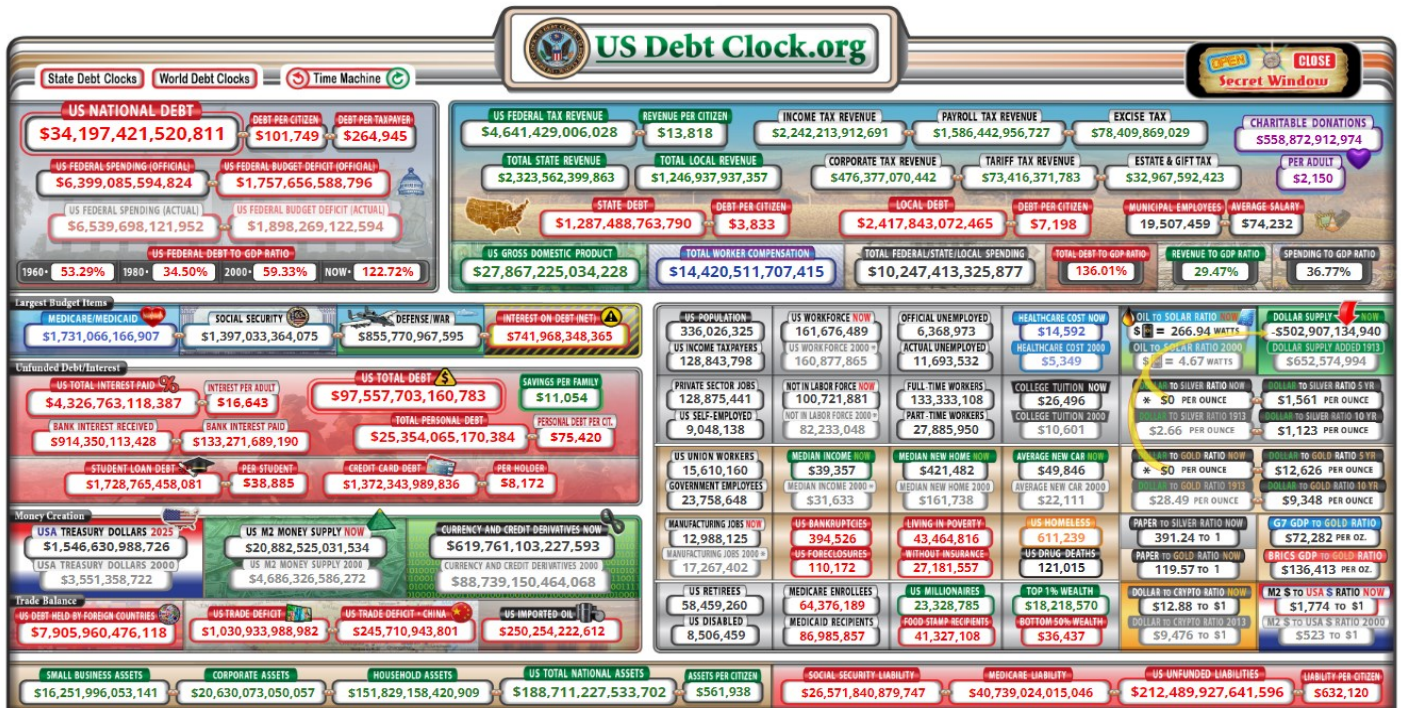
Volusia Legislative Delegation
2024 Session Dates—January 9—March 8

	<p>Sen Travis Hutson R – District 7 420 Senate Office Bldg (850) 487-5007 Hutson.Travis@flsenate.gov District Office 4875 Palm Coast Pkwy NW, Ste 5 Palm Coast, FL 32137 386-446-7644 Legislative Aides – Hunter Clary, Katherine Babcock, Danielle Curbow, Mat- thew Kauffman</p>	<p>Committee Assignments Fiscal Policy, Chair Appropriations Committee on Education Banking and Insurance Commerce and Tourism Education Pre-K -12 Finance and Tax Regulated Industries Rules Joint Legislative Budget Com- mission</p>
	<p>Sen Tom Wright R – District 8 416 Senate Office Bldg (850) 487-5008 Wright.Tom@flsenate.gov District Office 4606 Clyde Morris Blvd Suite 2-J Port Orange, FL 32169 386-304-7630 Legislative Assts – Charlene Gagnier, Diane Suddes, Amanda Wheeler, Christopher Morris</p>	<p>Committee Assignments Military, Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security, Chair Commerce, Tourism, Vice Chair Appropriations Committee on Crim- inal and Civil Justice Appropriations Committee on Transportation, Tourism, and Eco- nomic Development Environment, Natural Resources Fiscal Policy Governmental Oversight and Ac- countability Select Committee on Resiliency</p>
	<p>Rep Tom Leek R – District 28 418 Capital (850) 717-5028 Tom.Leek@myfloridahouse.gov District Office 1540 Cornerstone Blvd, Ste 240 Daytona Beach 32117 386-238-4865 District Secretary – Lynnette Phillips Legislative Asst – Stephanie Wohlford</p>	<p>Committee Assignments Appropriations Committee <i>Chair</i> Joint Legis Budget Commis- sion <i>Chair</i> Commerce Committee Judiciary Committee</p>
	<p>Rep Chase Tramont R District 30 1301 Capital 850-717-5030 Chase.tramont@myfloridahouse.gov District Office 3731 S Nova Rd Port Orange 32127 Legislative Aide: Duncan DeMarsh District Aide: Beri Bastian</p>	<p>Committee Assignments Commerce Committee Insurance & Banking Subcommittee Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining Judiciary Committee Children, Families & Seniors Subcom- mittee Ethics, Elections, Open Govt Subcom- mittee</p>

	<p><u>Rep Webster Barnaby</u> _ R – District 29</p> <p>300 House Office Bldg (850) 717-5029 Webster.Barnaby@myfloridahouse.gov</p> <p>District Office 736-5042 120 S Florida Ave Deland 32720</p> <p>Legislative Asst – Darryl Boyer District Aide - Robb Marcantonio</p>	<p><u>Committee Assignments</u> <u>Constitutional Rights, Rule of Law & Government Operations Subcommittee</u> Vice Chair</p> <p><u>Criminal Justice Subcommittee, Vice Chair</u></p> <p><u>Commerce Committee</u></p> <p><u>Judiciary Committee</u></p> <p><u>Ways & Means Committee</u></p>
	<p><u>Rep Stan McClain</u> R – District 27</p> <p>418 Capital 850-717-5027 McClain.Stan@myfloridahouse.gov</p> <p>District Office (352) 732-1313 315 Southeast 25th Ave Ocala, FL 34471-2689</p> <p>Legislative Aide: Ryan Thomas District Aide: Jennifer Treiber</p>	<p><u>Committee Assignments</u> <u>Ways & Means Committee</u> Chair</p> <p><u>Education & Employment Committee</u></p> <p><u>Choice & Innovation Subcommittee</u></p> <p><u>Rules Committee</u></p> <p><u>Local Administration, Federal Affairs & Special Districts Subcommittee</u></p>



...when my daughter, Holley was little and wanted something....she'd say, "you don't need money Dad, just write a check."



Medicaid Expansion Const Adm in 2026???

A new Florida Decides Healthcare has begun collecting signatures collection for a 2026 ballot initiative for Medicaid expansion.

The intent of expanding Medicaid is to close the "coverage gap" for people who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to afford private insurance.

Florida is 1 of 10 states that hasn't expanded Medicaid to low-income childless adults as allowed under the Affordable Care Act.

Efforts to expand Medicaid go back to Gov Rick Scott's first term.....2011 or 2012.....and legislative leadership i.e. then-House Speaker Richard Corcoran opposed it.

Under the AHCA, the feds pay 90% to expand Medicaid to childless low-income adults and the state pays the remaining 10%. Additional federal matching funds would come via 2021 American Rescue Plan Act for the first two years following a Medicaid expansion.

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo wants to improve access to healthcare via Live Healthy Act... "Medicaid expansion is a false government promise."

Instead of wholesale Medicaid expansion, Rep Renner wants targeted reforms to assist specific groups from facing a "fiscal cliff" when a family gets additional income that disqualifies them from receiving a benefit. A good example was last year's expansion of KidCare, which raised the program's income level from \$60K max to \$90K for a family of 4.

Renner also made the argument about a 40-year old, unemployed recipients...living in Mom's basement playing video games.

Local Government Links

[Volusia County Council](#) - February 6, 9 am/ 20 - 4 pm Admin Bldg

[Daytona Beach City Commission](#) February 7, 21 - 6 pm City Hall

[Ormond Beach City Commission](#) February 6, 20 - 7 pm City Hall

[Port Orange City Council](#) February 6, 20 - 6:30 City Hall

[Holly Hill City Commission](#) February 13, 27 6 pm City Hall

[South Daytona City Council](#) February 13 - 6 pm City Hall

[DB Shores City Commission](#) February 13, 27 - 6 pm City Hall

[DeBary City Council](#) February 7, 21 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Deland City Commission](#) February 5, 19 - 7 pm City Hall

[Deltona City Commission](#) February 5, 19 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Edgewater City Council](#) February 5, 12 – 6:00 pm City Hall

[Lake Helen City Commission](#) February 15 - 7 pm City Hall

[New Smyrna Bch Commission](#) February 13, 27 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Oak Hill City Commission](#) February 5 - 6 pm City Hall

[Orange City City Council](#) February 13, 27 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Ponce Inlet Town Council](#) February 15 - 6:00 pm City Hall

[School Board of Volusia](#) February 13, 27 - 4:30 pm Deland

[River to Sea TPO](#) February 28 - 9 am Daytona Intl Airport



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Mon - Fri 9am-5pm
Saturday 10am-4pm

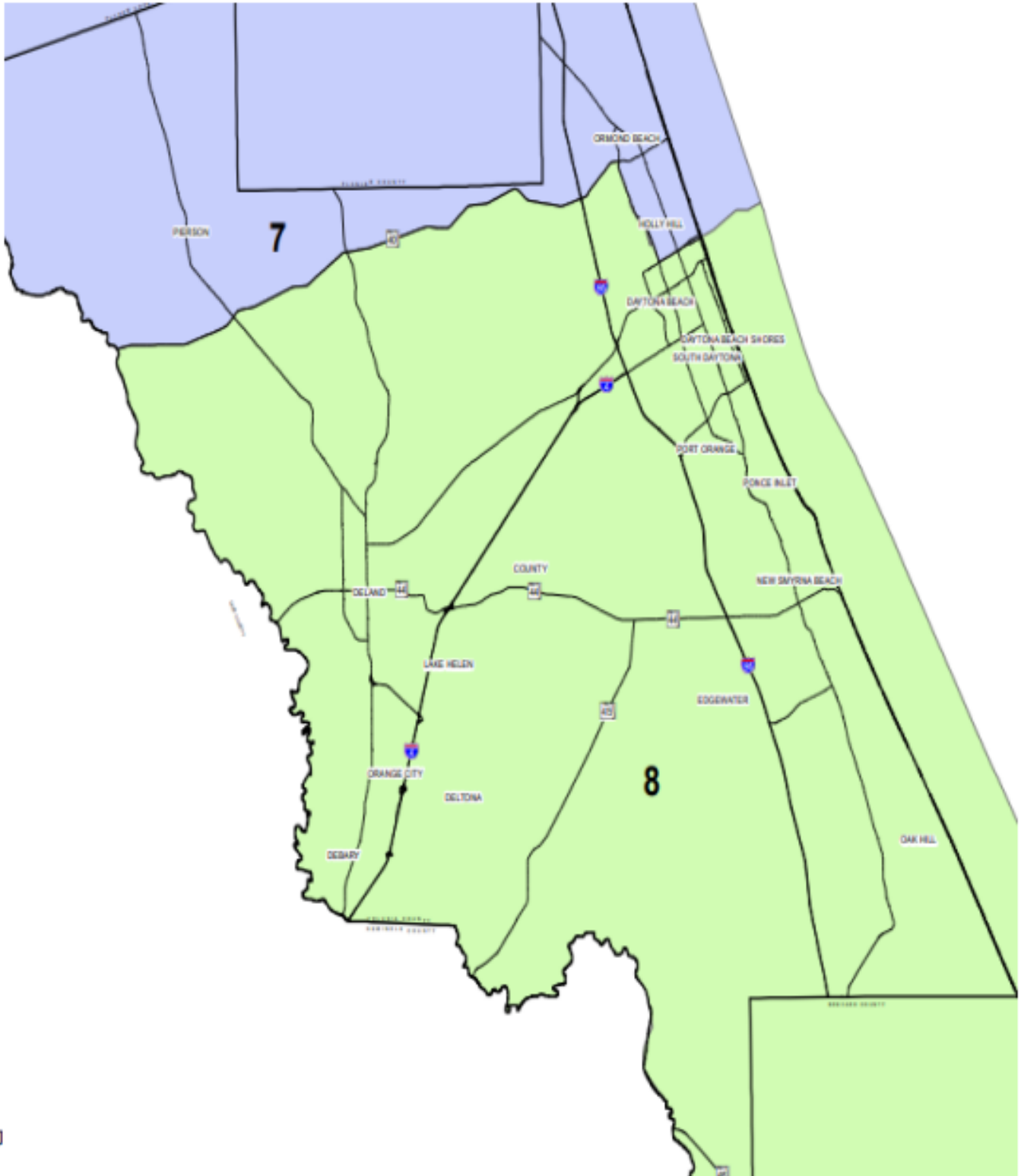
(386) 761-2251 • WholesaleLightingDaytona.com

2500 South Nova Rd., Daytona Beach • I-95 Exit 260A
1.4 miles off Beville Road

Elections 2022

Florida Senate Districts 7 and 8

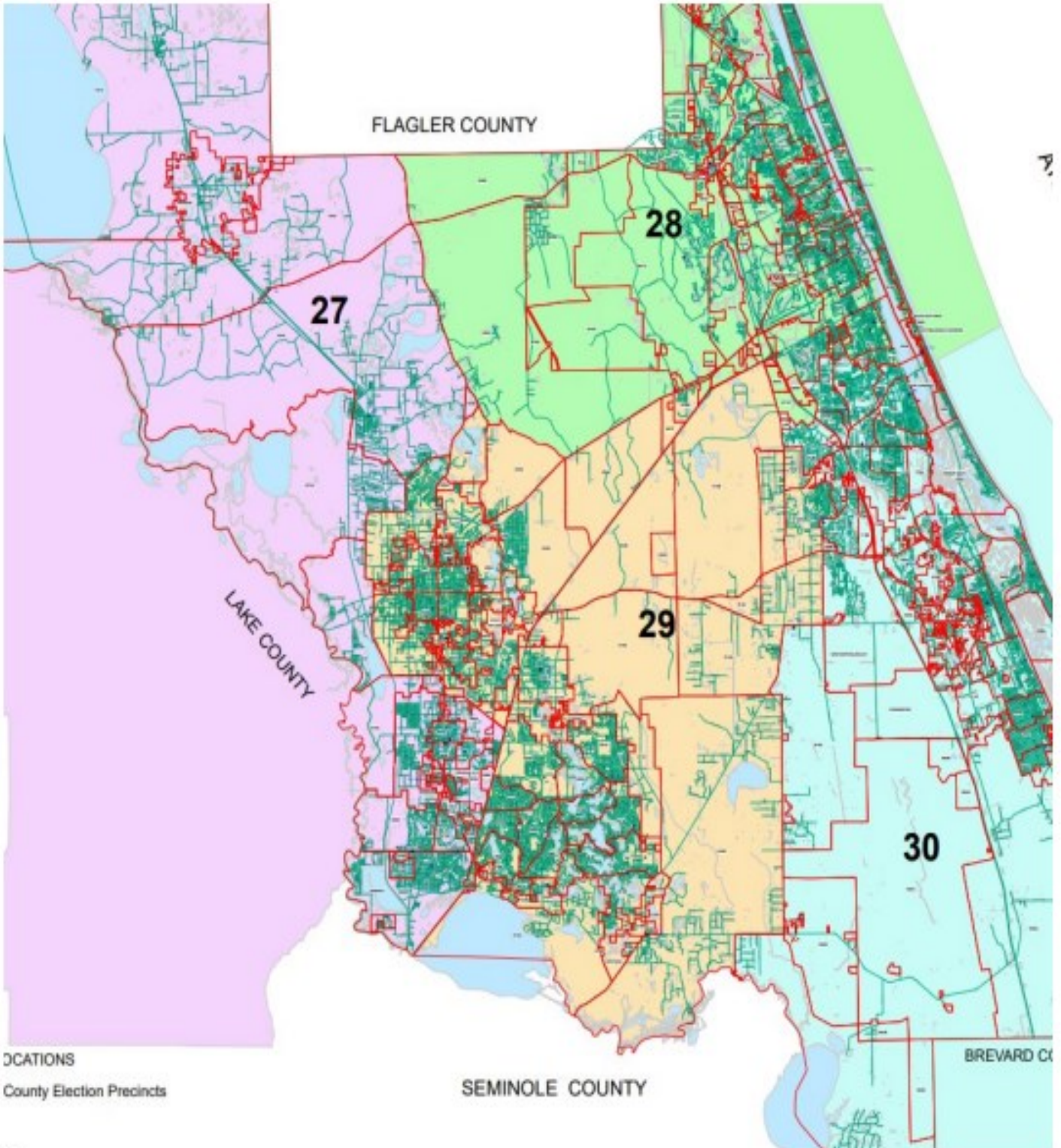
Volusia area



Elections 2022

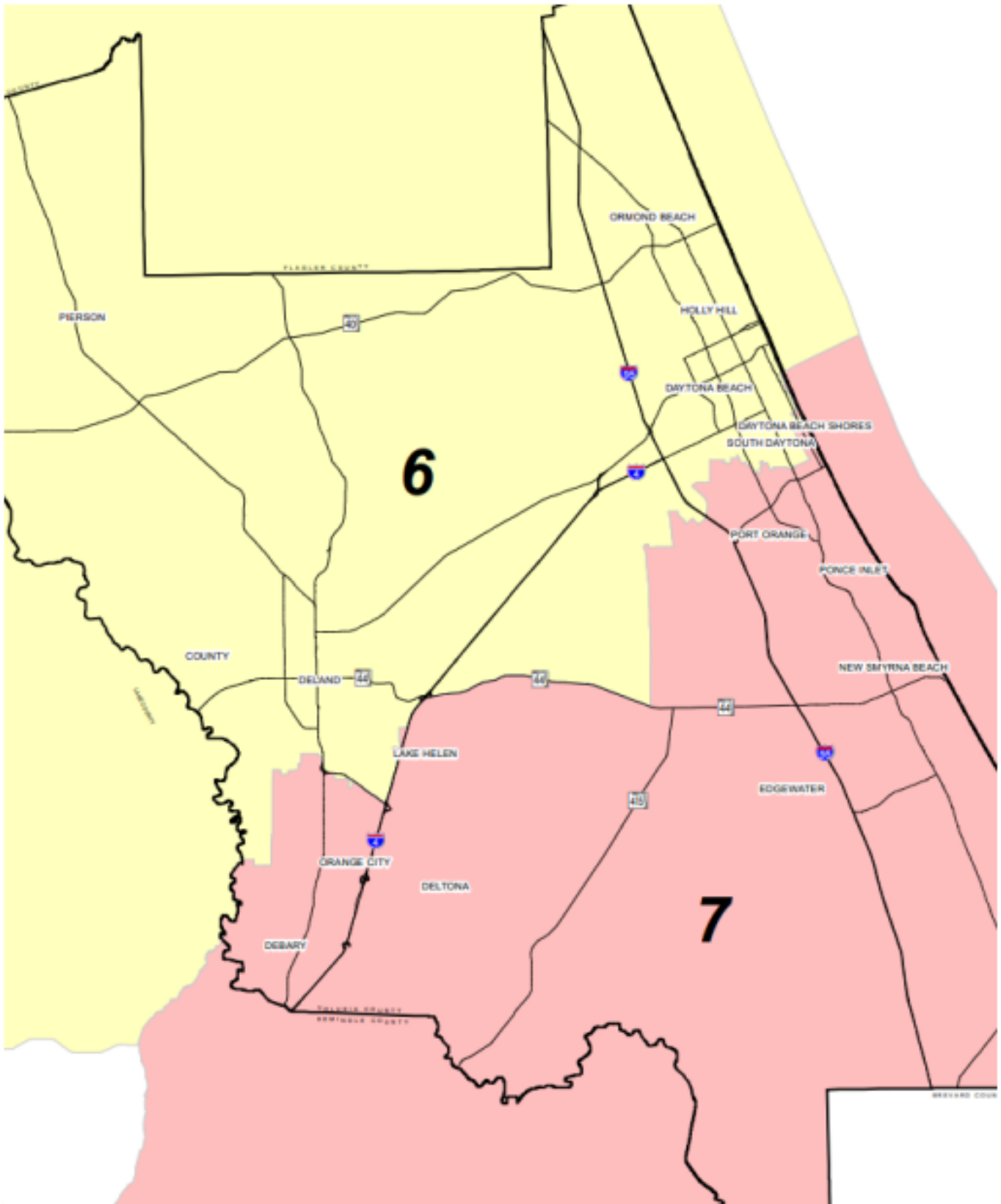
Official Florida House Districts

Volusia area

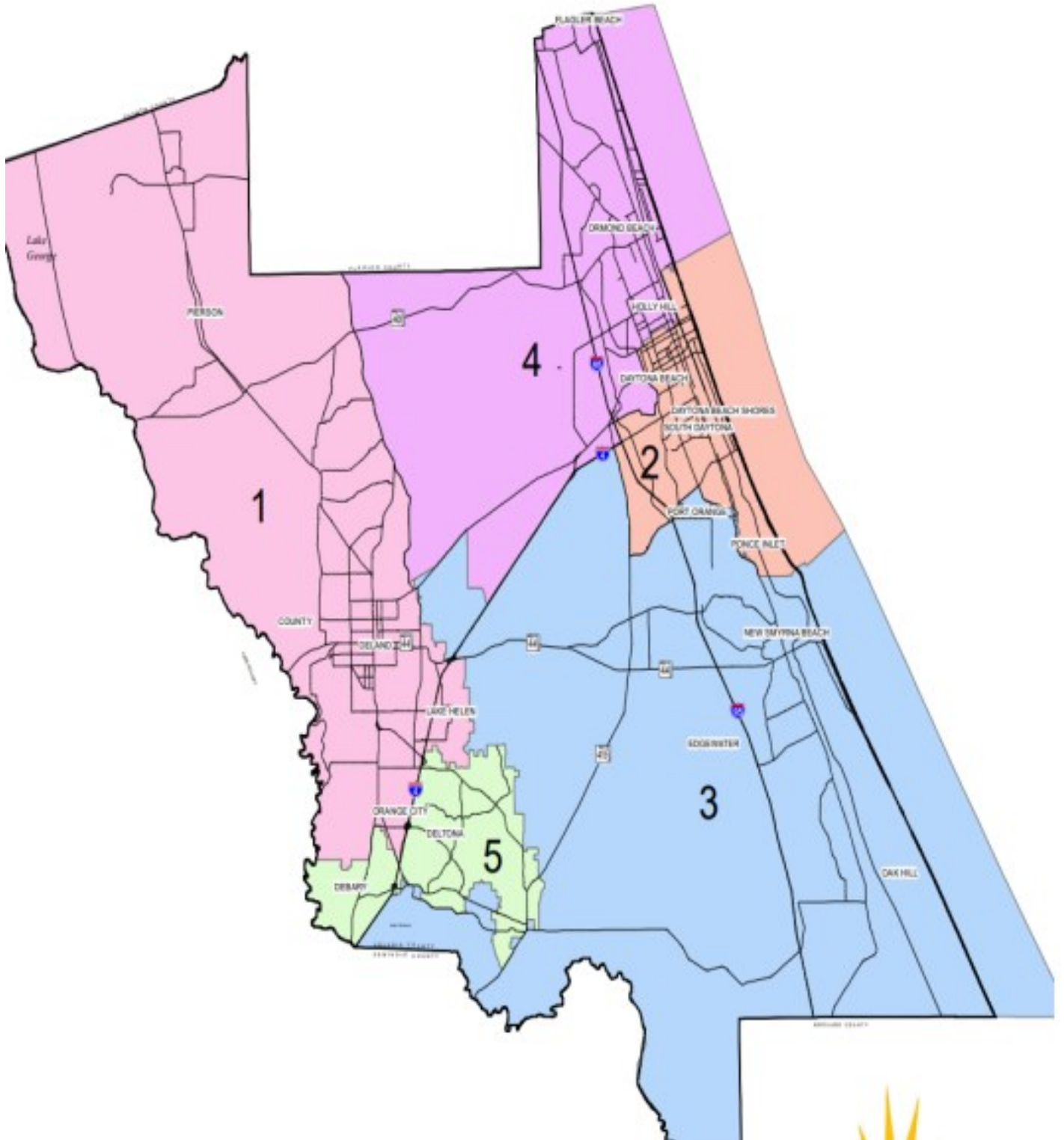


Elections 2022

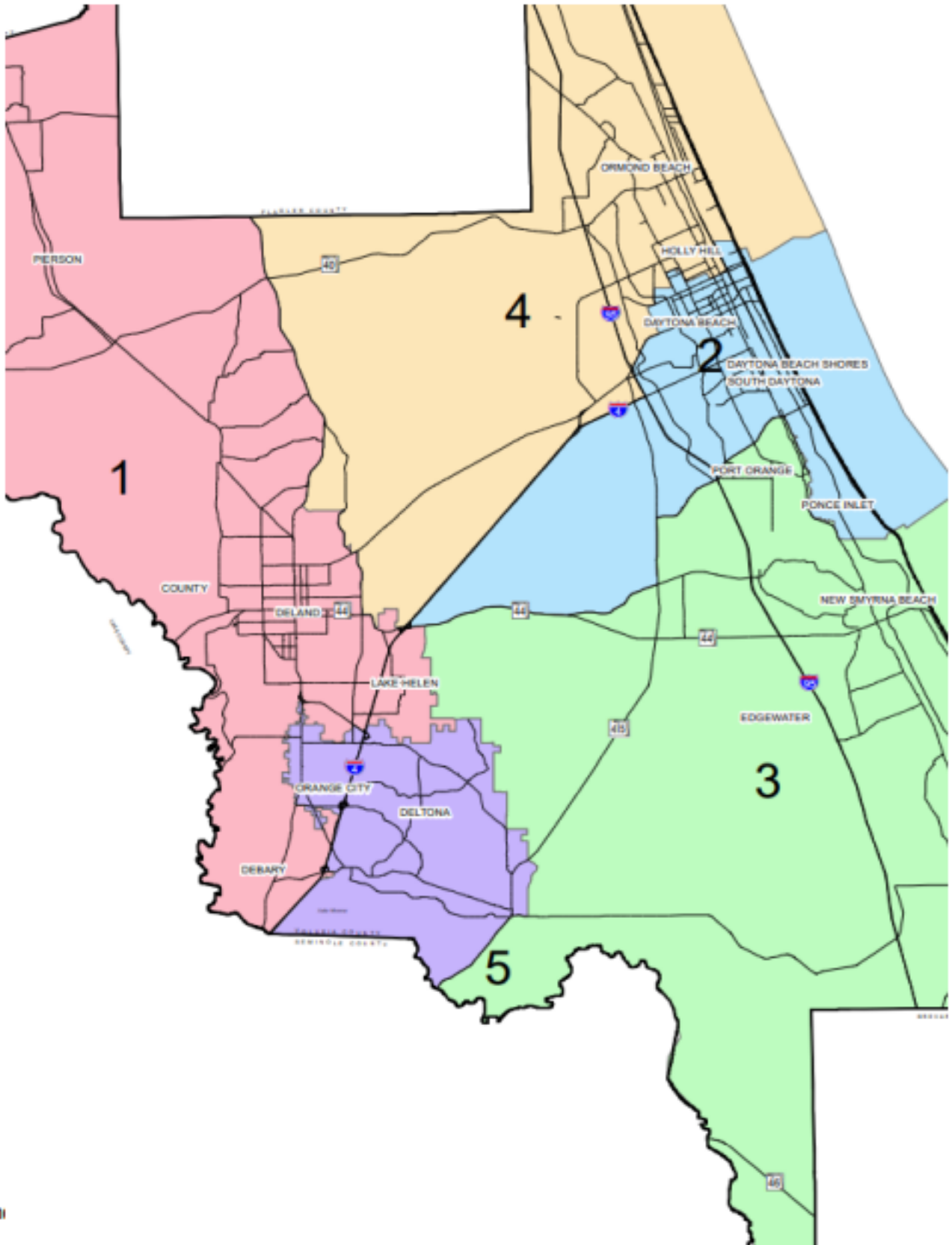
Congressional Districts 6 and 7



Volusia County Council Districts



Volusia County School Board Districts





What are you reading?

Do you have a book that you're reading now or recently read?
If so, text it to 566-2140

- Abbas Abdulhusein Turning Ordinary Moments into Extraordinary Results
- Amanda Thorpe The Tattooist of Auschwitz Heather Morris
- Ammie Olson - The Atlas Paradox Olivie Blake
- Anne Ruby - All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
- Bob Apgar-Zero Day by David Baldacci
- Bob Williams-Living Buddha Living Christ by Thich Hahn
- Bobbie Doyle Heaven and Earth Grocery Store James McBride
- Brandon Frey - 12 Rules for Life by Jordan Peterson
- Cathy Washington-Lead Guide or Get Out of the Way by Frank Sennett
- Charlene Gagnier—How to Win Friends & Influence People by Dale Carnegie
- Chris Via Warrior Diplomat Cong Mike Waltz
- Chuck Gaurra Backstage Pass Paul Stanle
- Colby Allman The Richest Man in Babylon by George Samuel Clayson
- Cong Cory Mills—Creature from Jekyll Island Edward Griffin
- Dale Ketcham Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Dan Francati - Killing the Witches by Bill O'Reilly
- Darold Schonscheck Prodigal Daughter by Jeffrey Archer
- David Batten-Georgia Bottoms by Mark Childress
- Deborah Crock Forrester- Courage to be Disliked by Fumitaki koga
- Didiayer Snyder - Don't Just Stand There Pray Something Ronald Dunn
- Diego Handel 100 Years of Solitude Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Don Burnett-Living the Dream by Dick Vitale
- Doug Kosarek Wabi Sabi Beth Kempton
- Duncan Demarsh Master of The Senate Robert Caro
- Ernie Audino— A Message to Garcia Elbert Hubbard
- Fred Guzman Leadership Challenge Kouzes Posner
- Fred Lowry The Books of Matthew and Luke
- Hardy Smith The Long Game Dorie Clark
- Hugh Grimes - 1619 Project Nikole Hannah Jones
- Hyatt Brown - Elon Musk Walter Isaacson
- Jake Johansson -Death and Life of the Great Lakes Dan Egan
- Jayson Meyer – Team of Teams Gen Stanley McChrystal
- Jeff Brower Coolidge An American Enigma Robert Sobel
- Jesse Thompson David and Goliath by Malcolm Gladwell
- Jessica Lovatt-Finlay Donovan is Killing It by Elle Cosimano
- John Booker - Truman David McCulloug
- John Danio-Being Henry by Henry Winkler
- Joie Alexander-Cigar City Murders 1950 by GD Storch
- Kate Wallace - Build the Life You Want by Arthur Brooks and Oprah Winfrey
- Kathy Smith-Words are Powerful by Susie Yelvington
- Ken Hunt-Starbucks Experience Joseph Mitchell
- Kent Sharples -Empire of the Summer Moon S C Gwyne
- Linda Bradley - Seven Girls Gone Allison Brennan
- Lise Forte - Thinking in Systems by Donella Meadows

Many of these books are available via Kindle through the Volusia County Library. Go to <https://volusialibrary.org/> click Digital Library. GREAT selection of online books!

- Lois Paritsky - Triumph and Tragedy of Robert Oppenheimer Kai Bird
- Loretta Arthur - Destinations of a Lifetime
- Mark Bontrager - Outlive Peter Attia
- Martin Tooley - Cognitive Behavior Therapy
- Mary Bennett - The Making of Vince Carter Michelle Carter
- Mary Margaret Kelley - The 2% Way Myron Rolle
- Matt Foxman - Start Stay Or Leave Trey Gowdy
- Michael Kahn - TE Lawrence Michael Corda
- Michelle Carter Scott The Making of Vince Carter - A Basketball Mom's Memoir
- Mike Orfinger - Oath and Honor by Liz Cheney
- Mike Pawelski - The Wager David Grann
- Mike Scudiero - Enemy at the Gates by Kyle Mills
- Mike Springer - Atomic Habits by James Clear
- Pat Northey - Jimmy by Jim Sayre
- Richard Bryan - Prevention First by Anand Parehk
- Rob Merrell - The Sun Also Rises Ernest Hemingway
- Robin King - Zen in The Art Of Writing Ray Bradbury
- Ron Nowviski - War at Sea Nathan Miller
- Roy Johnson - Book of Proverbs
- Ryleigh Wogoman - The Blue Zones Dan Buettner
- Sandy Bishop - Strong Towns by Charles Marohn
- Sue Barry - Lessons in Chemistry Bonnie Garmus
- Susan Persis - Luck of the Draw by Frank Murphy
- Tammy Kozinski - Eye of The Needle by Ken Follett
- Ted Rover I Am by N Marharaj
- Teresa Rand - Culture Shock Jim Clifton
- Terri Hinks - Good bye Things by Fumio Sasaki
- Tom Self - Devil in the Grove by Gilbert King
-

- Toni Hunt Perspectives by Judge Hugh Grimes
- Valli Perrine Unwoke How to Defeat Cultural Marxism in America Ted Cruz
- Vic Baker - Government Gangsters Kash Patel
- Victoria Fahlberg - The Girl Who Kicked the Hornets Nest by Stieg Larsson
- Jim Cameron—The Thin Blue Line



THE FLORIDA SCORECARD

METRICS TO HELP SECURE FLORIDA'S FUTURE

- Consumer Confidence 68%
- Right Direction 51% vs Wrong Direction 42%
- Land in Conservation 31%
- 3rd Grade Reading Scores 50%
- Kids in Poverty 18.2%
- Population 22.9 million

Taxable value is the assessed value minus exemptions and is the value the tax collector uses to calculate the taxes due.