



Volusia Matters Newsletter

Jim Cameron Consulting LLC

October 2024

JIM CAMERON CONSULTING LLC has 40 years experience working with local government and is available to serve on a clientele basis regarding local government issues, campaign assistance and more.

For more information, visit www.JimCameronConsulting.com or call me at 386-566-2140.

*"Days, nights, and weekends, **my guarantee still stands.***

If I don't return your call in eight business hours, I will pay you \$1,000 cash."



November 5 General Elections Ballot

US Senate

[Mucarcel-Powell, Debbie \(DEM\)](#)

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

US Congress - House Dist 6

[Richard Paul Dembinsky \(WRI\)](#)

[John David Stockton \(DEM\)](#)

[Michael Waltz](#)* (REP)

US Congress - House Dist 7

[Adams, Jennifer \(DEM\)](#)

[Cory Mills \(REP\)](#)*

Fla Senate District 7

[George Anthony T Hill \(DEM\)](#)

[Tom Leek \(REP\)](#)

Fla House Dist 27

[Ferrari, Andy \(DEM\)](#)

[Richard Gentry \(REP\)](#)

Fla House Dist 28

[Joseph Hannoush \(LPF\)](#)

[John Navarra \(DEM\)](#)

[Bill Partington \(REP\)](#)

Fla House Dist 29

[Webster Barnaby](#)* (REP)

[Matt Johnson \(LPF\)](#)

[Rosemarie Latham \(DEM\)](#)

Fla House Dist 30

[Chase Tramont](#)* (REP)

[Smith, Kelly Anne \(DEM\)](#)

Sheriff

[Mike Chitwood \(IND\)](#)*

[James L Powers, Jr \(REP\)](#)

County Chair

[Jeff Brower](#)*

[Randy Dye](#)

County Council District 2

[Steve Miller](#)

[Matt Reinhart](#)*

School Board District 2

[Cassandra Gonyer](#)

[Krista Goodrich](#)

School Board District 4

[Donna Brosemer](#)

[Carl Persis](#)*

Daytona Beach Commission Zone 2

[Nicholas Edgar](#)

[Ken Strickland](#)*

Deltona Commission Zone 1

[Davison Heriot*](#)

[Brandy White](#)

Deltona Commission Seat 4

[Dori Howington](#)

[Dana McCool*](#)

Deltona Commission Seat 6

[Dominic Nick Lulli](#)

[Jody Lee](#)

Edgewater Commission Dist 2

[Gigi Bennington](#)

[Mike Thomas](#)

New Smyrna Beach—Mayor

[Fred Cleveland*](#)

[Frank Dalton](#)

New Smyrna Beach—Zone 3

[Jason McGuirk *](#)

[Larry Westley](#)

New Smyrna Beach—Zone 4

[Brian Ashely](#)

[Randy Hartman*](#)

Oak Hill Mayor

[Doug Gibson](#)

[Ricky Taylor](#)

Oak Hill Commission Seat 1

[Mark Drollinger](#)

[Steve McGee](#)

Orange City Mayor

[Kelli Marks](#)

[Laurie Scotton](#)

Orange City Council Seat 2

[Cristina Oyarbide](#)

[Lisa Stafford*](#)

Ormond Beach Mayor

[Jason Leslie](#)

[Susan Persis](#)

Pierson Mayor

[Samuel Bennett](#)

[Gray Leonhard](#)

Pierson Council Seat 4

[Jimmy Anderson](#)

[Sergia Cardenas](#)

Robert Carrow International

Helping Political Candidates Win Elections!

My Services:

- Public Speaking Coaching
- Image Consulting
- Speech Writing
- Media Training & Preparation

FREE CONSULTATION

386-451-7222
www.RobertCarrow.com

"Feel, Sound, and Look Your Absolute Best When It Counts!"



Next Team Volusia Bd meeting....

Friday, October 11, 9 AM

Piggotte Community Ctr

South Daytona

2024
Amendment
INFO

Nov 5.... Florida voters will decide whether to amend the state constitution.....

Amendment 1 - SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS *Legislative Amend-*

***ment*....** proposes that the **state bring back partisan school board elections on or after November 2026**. Fla school board races have been non-partisan since voters passed a 1998 constitutional amendment requiring candidates to run without party labels. Last session, legislature added this amendment that would identify school board candidates by their party affiliation.

School boards serve four-year terms.... control school property, establish/operate the district's schools, maintaining the school year schedule, and other duties... basically they set policy that is carried out by the Superintendent.

As of 2024, Fla was one of 41 states that have nonpartisan school board elections. Four states—Alabama, Connecticut, Louisiana, Pennsylvania—have state laws providing for partisan school board elections. Five states—Rhode Island, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia—allow the district to decide.

Opponents fear that party labels on local school board elections will politicize education.

Supporters say party labels will create more philosophical transparency for voters.

Amendment 2 - HUNTING AND FISHING *Legislative Amendment*... would **establish hunting/ fishing as a state constitutional right. It aims to “preserve forever fishing and hunting, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife.”**

While it won't infringe on Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission authority, **opponents** worry it'll hurt state's wildlife and encourage people to trespass on private property while hunting. AND it might be used to override protections for fish stocks and invalidate the prohibition on Gill Nets in Fla offshore waters.

Current state law already says that Floridians have “the right to hunt, fish and take game,” but **supporters** say it'll further protect residents' ability to fish and hunt from groups seeking to restrict those activities. Last year, bans brought forth by extremists were considered in about a dozen states that would criminalize hunting, fishing.

Currently, 23 states had constitutional provisions protecting the right to hunt and fish...starting with Vermont in 1777 and 22 other states 1996 If approved, it'd take effect in January.

Amendment 3 - RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA *Petition Amendment* by Smart & Safe Florida.... **allows adults 21 and older to purchase/ consume cannabis products without a doctor's recommendation.** It'd remove criminal/civil penalties for adults 21 and older who possess and use up to 3 ounces for personal use and allow marijuana dispensaries/state licensed entities to manufacture, sell, and distribute cannabis products and accessories. Voters approved medical marijuana in 2016. This amendment would open up the market to everyone 21 and up.

Supporters say federal /state tax revenue cannabis projected to be \$4 billion in 2025. There's no evidence in 37 states that legalized marijuana for medical/recreational use has not boosted underage consumption. while black market marijuana is out there, Fla users will have assurance that legal cannabis products are not laced with harmful chemicals.

DeSantis, state officials worry that the language it'd make it difficult for the state to regulate the cannabis industry, which remains illegal under federal law.

November 2023, 24 states legalized recreational marijuana. Fla is 1 of 10 states with an initiative process and that have not yet legalized marijuana. In the last 2 years, 4 other states rejected voter referendums to legalize marijuana. If approved, it will go into effect six months after the election.

Amendment 4 ABORTION *Petition Amendment* would protect abortion access in the state to allow abortions without condition until viability, which is estimated to be at about 24 weeks of pregnancy.

It also allows abortions when a healthcare provider deems it necessary to protect a patient's health, without any limit on when that determination could occur. If approved, it'd overturn Fla's six-week abortion ban that Legislature passed last year and it'd take effect in May.

Amendment 5 PROPERTY TAXES *Legislative Amendment*...could give homeowners more savings on their property taxes by adjusting one of the state's homestead exemptions for inflation.

In Fla, properties are taxed via "millage rates" assessed by cities/counties and school boards on a homes' value. There are two \$25,000 homestead exemptions available to most homeowners to clip \$50,000 off the taxable value of their homes.

Amendment 5 would create an inflation adjustment for that second \$25,000 homestead exemptions. As the cost-of-living increases, so would the value of the exemption. NOTE would NOT apply to taxes levied by school boards.

Opponents worry about the money that local governments could lose... more than \$111 million annually by 2029. Fla League of Cities concerned about the potential compounding effect saying that the savings enjoyed by homeowners could become an added tax burden for non-homestead commercial property owners, who'd pass that burden on to tenants. If approved, it'd take effect in 2025.

Amendment 6 CAMPAIGN MONEY *Legislative Amendment*...would repeal public campaign financing. In 1998, voters passed an amendment to allow candidates running for governor and other state cabinet positions to subsidize their campaigns with public money in exchange for agreeing to cap the amount of money spent by their campaign. In 2022, more than

\$12 million went to candidates running for Governor. **Opponents** of state public campaign money is needed to give more Floridians access to run for office, and to level the playing field among candidates.... they can afford to run against well-financed candidates. Supporters say repealing the measure will save taxpayers money that could be spent for education, healthcare, water projects, beach restoration, etc. In 2010, a similar constitutional proposal to repeal public campaign financing did not receive the needed 60% approval from voters.

A 60% supermajority vote is required for the approval for ANY of these amendments.

Florida's current Constitution was adopted November, 1968 and since then, it has been amended 144 times while the US Constitution only holds 27 amendments.

October 1 - Port Orange City Council introduced its legislative priorities for the 2025 legislative session.

They will continue working with lobbyist Sean Pittman.

Their list includes a variety of projects with requests for capital project funds.

I want to commend them for getting an early start. This session begins March 4 and the Volusia delegation will soon announce their upcoming annual meeting....December or January?

[Click here](#) for a list of Port Orange priorities.



2024 Election

Voter Requirements continued....

You must have current/valid ID with photo/signature....

- Fla driver's license or ID card
- US passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military or Student or Retirement Ctr or Veterans' health ID
- License to carry a concealed weapon/firearm
- Govt employee ID

To vote by mail...Vote-by-mail/absentee ballots must be completed and received by election officials by 7 p.m. on Election Day...**Election Supervisor Lisa Lewis** suggested 5 days to be safe. Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is call Volusia Elections to request.

But you must give driver's license number, a state-issued ID or the last four digits of your Social Security number.....not just your birthday or signature.

Drop boxes are secure metal boxes where you can slip your sealed ballot.... monitored by elections workers, video surveillance or law enforcement of-ficers....located at Elections Supervisor's office or outside early voting sites, open only during early voting hours.

An estimated 1.5 million voters used drop boxes in 2020 general election

The General Election will be Nov. 5. That deadline to register to vote is Oct. 7....deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot is Oct. 24.

To register online..... go to [RegistertoVoteFlorida.gov](https://www.RegistertoVoteFlorida.gov)

2024 Early Voting Dates:

Oct 21 - Nov 2

8:00am to 6:00pm



Early Voting Locations:

- Elections Office
1750 S Woodland Blvd DeLand
- Florence Little Town Hall 12 Colomba Rd DeBary
- Center at Deltona 1640 MLK Blvd Deltona
- Ormond Beach Library
30 S Beach St Ormond Beach
- Charles Cherry Cultural Ctr
925 George Engram Blvd Daytona Beach
Daytona Beach Library 105 Jackie Robinson Pkwy Daytona Beach
Lakeside Community Center 1999 City Center Cir Port Orange
New Smyrna Beach Library 1001 S Dixie Fwy New Smyrna Beach

[Interactive Early Voting Location Map](#)

Did you know?

Approximately 40 % of property taxes are paid via mortgages...per Will Roberts, Volusia County Tax Collector





Federal Reserve Cuts Interest Rates....

Sept 18 - the Federal Reserve agreed upon a 0.5 percent point reduction....their first rate reduction since March 2020 which should provide some relief for consumers looking to purchase a home or auto.

Apparently, the Fed's decision to adjust its monetary policy came after inflation dropped to a 3-year low 2.5%, AND they felt that the economy is basically sound and that continued expansion is likely. However, signs of a deteriorating labor market over the last couple of months got their attention.

It's expected to kick off additional rate reductions later this year (*the Fed meets November and December*) and MAYBE in 2025, which could have lasting implications on lending rates, but it could also lessen the rather high returns enjoyed by savers.

For now, board members will probably shift to more gradual rate-cuts, BUT also ready to adjust if need be.



Current Fed funds' target rates range from 4.75% to 5.00%...a small but promising reduction.

Mortgage rates?

Mortgage rates have surged alongside the Fed's hikes, with the 30-year fixed-rate loan at 7% in 2023 (it's now about 6.45%) which put many potential homebuyers out of the market, when home prices climbed.

Now this rate cut may not mean a major drop in especially if the economy remains fairly strong but it

might get some to start looking at the home market. And some homeowners may also want to consider refinancing their mortgage to a lower rate.

Auto loan rates?

Currently, based on credit score.....local rates for a new car begins at 7.2%, and 7.49% for a used car...according to Broker Jami Gallegos... probably won't crowd showrooms but it'll likely nudge consumers back for a look/see.



But for now, with current 2.5% inflation near their 2% target, the Fed apparently don't see need to keep higher rates to crimp demand AND that declining labor market needed attention now....while Fla's unemployment rate remained at 3.3% in August, the US rate climbed to 4.2%.

But for now.....perhaps you might see a quarter-point reduction at their November meeting and perhaps December meeting.....but if they're wrong, they're ready to react. On this topic, I want you to check out my September 24 interview with **Economist Sean Snaith** (Volusia Matters podcast).....see page 40

NEWS FLASH!! Oct 4 - 10:03 AM

US hiring accelerated in September and unemployment rate dropped to 4.1% indicating that



the economy is building strength after the Federal Reserve's .5% interest cut on Sept 18.

Employers added 254,000 jobs in September up from previous 116,000 per month average in the 2nd quarter. With inflation falling to 2.5%, the Fed changed its focus to hiring.

The Fed meets again November 6-7 and many economists expect another rate reduction... perhaps .25%.

Listen for more details on next week's Volusia Matters podcast



Congress Approves Federal Government Spending Plan.....

Last week, US House of Representatives approved Speaker Mike Johnson's federal government spending plan [CR 9747](#) which funds agencies

through December 20. Otherwise, government agencies would've run out of money on September 30. The vote was 341 to 86 (both **Cong Micheal Waltz and Cory Mills voted NO** both saying it "kicks the can down the road").



So far, No GOP lawmaker is threatening

to oust Johnson over this week's short term bill.



House and Senate leaders reached a deal on a bipartisan bill after conservative House Republicans voted down Johnson's other spending proposal last week that included a bill requiring people to provide proof of citizenship when registering to vote.

The Senate then passed [H.R.9747](#) by a 78-18 vote (**Sen Rubio voted YES/Sen Scott did not vote**).



And with THIS funding bill now approved, negotiations for the NEXT bill to fund the government through FY 2025 *comes after the November elections*, when control for the House and Senate in the next Congress is decided.

In FY 2024, the federal government has incurred a deficit, so far by spending \$1.27 trillion more than its revenue collections.



Join us for the Riverfront Market at the Riverfront Esplanade on the last Sunday of each month!

Sip, Shop & Stroll with us at our next one on October 27....10am-3pm with local vendors, music, and FREE yoga with Renew Yoga Studio at 9am in the Rose Garden! Be sure to bring your own mat and water!

Mark your calendars! Can't wait to see everyone there!

**Riverfront Market - 179 S. Beach St.
Yoga in the Rose Garden - 255 S. Beach St.**

JAMI GALLEGOS
PRESIDENT & CEO / LIC. BROKER
386.872.8742
386.951.6565
JAMI.GALLEGOS@LIFESTYLEREALTY.GROUP
LIFESTYLE REALTY GROUP
11095 N US HWY 1, STE. #3, ORMOND BEACH, FL 32174



What is the Federal Reserve?
It's the US central bank, created by the **Federal Reserve Act** of 1913 to establish a monetary system that could respond effectively to stresses

in the banking system.

The Federal Reserve System includes

- Bd of Governors, in federal agency in Washington
- 12 Federal Reserve Banks around the nation.....

Boston	New York	Philadelphia
Cleveland	Richmond	Atlanta
Chicago	St. Louis	Minneapolis
Kansas City	Dallas	San Francisco

Fed performs 5 functions to serve promote the health/stability of the US economy/financial system:

- ◇ conducts the nation's monetary policy,
- ◇ promotes financial system stability,
- ◇ supervises/regulates financial institutions,
- ◇ fosters payment/settlement system safety and efficiency
- ◇ assists consumer protection/community development

Three Key Entities for the Federal Reserve System

- ◇ Board of Governors, a federal agency in Washington DC
- ◇ 12 Federal Reserve Banks, operating around the US actions,
- ◇ the 12 voting members who serve on the Federal Open Market Committee that sets crucial monetary policy.



Corporations in the U.S. are subject to a variety of taxes at different levels of government.



Here's a composite overview of the main types of taxes they typically pay:

Federal Corporate Income Tax: This is a tax on the profits of U.S. resident C-corporations, currently set at 21%.

State Corporate Income Taxes: These vary by state, with rates ranging from 0% to around 12%. Fla's corporate income tax rate is 5.5% which applies to all corporations operating within the state, regardless of their revenue.

1. **Payroll Taxes:** Corporations must pay Social Security/Medicare taxes for their employees, which are shared between employer/employee.
2. **Property Taxes:** If a corporation owns real estate, it must pay property taxes based on the assessed value of the property.
3. **Sales and Use Taxes:** Corporations may be required to collect/remit sales taxes on goods/services sold, and pay use taxes on goods/services purchased out of state.
4. **Excise Taxes:** taxes on specific goods like fuel, tobacco, and alcohol, or activities like transportation and communication services.
5. **Franchise Taxes:** Some states impose a franchise tax on corporations for the privilege of doing business in the state.

Additionally, corporations may also face other local taxes and fees depending on their specific ac-

There are some 2000 spaces in the county's 65 off beach parking lots.

Social Security in Trouble?

Social Security payments are sent monthly to [seniors](#) during their [retirement](#) as well as those living with disabilities in the US.



Social Security is facing an insolvency crisis as the Security Trust Fund reserves (about \$2.8 trillion) could run out as early as 2034 as more [Baby Boomers retire into the system](#) and fewer younger workers paying into it, meaning there might not be enough for full payments unless major reforms are passed.

Congress has a dilemma.....Social Security is a “third rail issue” in Washington.....like Elliot Ness....it’s virtually untouchable.

Social Security is comprised of two programs

- Old-Age/Survivors Insurance (OASI)
- Disability Insurance (DI) —

Each with its own trust fund.

Currently, Social Security spends more on benefits for OASI each year than it collects, thus draining that trust fund..... current projections show it being depleted by 2034, whereby benefits would be reduced by 21%.

The program’s financial shortfall is largely caused by an aging population. In 1964, there were 4.0 workers per beneficiary; that ratio has dropped to 2.7 today and will continue to fall in the future.

Current law sets the [early retirement age at 62 and the normal retirement age at 67](#).

Social Security provides benefits to nearly 59 million beneficiaries (equivalent to about 18% of the US population) each year.

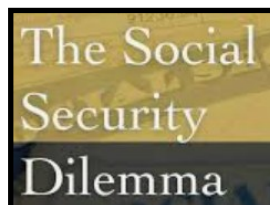
SS is funded via a payroll tax rate of 12.4 percent (6.2% from the employee and 6.2% from the employer).

The 2024 cap on taxable earnings is \$168,600. It’s been suggested that increasing or eliminating the cap on taxable earnings would make the payroll tax system less regressive. However, others argue that increasing or

eliminating the Social Security tax cap would force higher-income earners to pay a disproportionate amount into the system relative to the benefits they receive.

In addition,

- SS benefits are only taxed if they surpass \$25,000
- benefits ranging \$25,000 - \$34,000 are taxed up to 50%;
- benefits above \$34,000 are taxed up to 85%.



Collections from taxation of Social Security benefits return to the trust fund and are used for future Social Security payments.

Social Security also pays monthly disability insurance benefits for disabled or blind workers and their families via the DI trust fund. Under current law, DI applicants who are 30 years old or older must have worked for five of the last 10 years.

Needless to say that Congress will have to take up reforms in the next several years in order to keep the OASI and DI trust funds solvent.

Did you know that you can search anyone by name in the Case Inquiry on www.clerk.org to see if they’ve involved in court cases in Volusia County for FREE? And you can re-search if they’ve been involved in eviction proceedings, domestic violence, charged with a crime, or been sued for unpaid debt, among many other case types?



Jim Cameron Consulting LLC / Budget Chart

FY 2024-25 Tax Rates

Click Links for more details	FY 2023-24 Millage Rate	Proposed Rate 2024-25 (Roll Back Rate)	General Fund Proposed FY 2024-25vs (General Fund FY 2023-24)	Total Budget Proposed FY 2024-25 vs (Total Budget FY 2023-24)	Contact for more info	
	5.43	5.93 (5.07)	\$155.1 m (\$138.9 m)	\$392.2 m (\$343.2 m)	Budget Dir Fred Coulter 871-8080 DB Commission	Approved
	4.58	4.58 (4.21)	\$23.9 m (\$20.1 m)	\$45.8 m (\$24.6 m)	Budget Director Lori Irwin 783-5353, ext 2 DB Shores Comm	Approved
	4.99	4.97 (4.61)	\$61.1 m (\$58.7 m)	\$205.2 m (\$187.8 m)	Budget Dir John McKinney 508-5710 Pt Orange City Council	Approved
	4.00	4.09 (3.63)	\$49.1 m (\$43.3 m)	\$106.9 m (\$120.1 m)	Finance Dir Kelly McGuire 676-3226 Ormond Bch City Comm	Approved
	5.90	5.80 (5.41)	\$12.2 m (\$10.9 m)	\$35.8m (\$31.6 m)	248-9426 Finance Dir Michele Moore Holly Hill Commission	Approved
	7.75	7.75 (7.11)	\$12.3 m (\$12.0 m)	\$36.5 m (\$40.6 m)	322-6063 Finance Dir Jason Oliva S Daytona City Comm	Approved
	5.40	5.285 (5.088)	\$657.1 m (\$662.1 m)	\$1.2 b (\$1.4 b)	Budget Dir Todd Seis 255-6475 ext 20385 Volusia School Board	Approved
	3.39 – County 1.4541 – Sheriff *4.8499 – Total	3.20 – City 1.59 Sheriff *4.85 Total Rollback (3.14 – City) (1.34 Sheriff)	City \$356.5M Sheriff \$146.8M (\$324 M – County) (\$130 M – Sheriff)	\$1.32 b (\$1.19 b)	Bdgt Dir Aaron van Kleeck 736-5934 Volusia County Council	Approved

New Smyrna Beach	4.70	4.63 (4.08)	\$53.2 (\$49.5 m)	\$136.9 (\$139.6 m)	Budget Dir Ken Abida 410-2650 NSB Commission	Approved
Deltona	7.35	7.00 (6.77)	\$71.1 m (\$53.7 m)	\$147.0 m (\$124.1 m)	Finance Dir Mari Leisen 878-8555 Deltona Commission	Approved
Deland	6.48	6.28 (5.96)	\$48.2 m (\$44.9 m)	\$129.5 m (\$103.9 m)	Budget Dir Dan Stauffer 626-7079 Deland Commission	Approved
DeBary	2.92	3.40 (2.77)	\$34.4 m (\$31.1 m)	\$52.9 m (\$55.8 m)	Budget Dir Mike Jones 601-0222 DeBary Council	Approved
Lake Helen	6.50	7.25 (5.94)	4.2 m (3.6 m)	\$6.6 m (\$4.7 m)	City Admin Lee Evett 228-2358 Lk Helen Comm	Approved
Pierson	5.24	5.24 (4.93)		\$1.22m (\$1.18 m)	Clerk Yvonne Braddock 749-2661 Pierson Council	Approved
Edgewater	6.33	6.33 (5.81)	\$29.7 m (\$24.4 m)	\$73.0 m (\$88.0 m)	Budget Dir Bridgette Vaissiere 424-2400 x 4000 Edgewater Council	Approved
Ponce Inlet	6.50	6.4 (5.80)	\$10.8 m (\$9.8 m)	\$23.0 m (\$15.0 m)	Finance Dir Kim McColl 236-2150 Ponce Inlet Council	Approved
Orange City	7.12	6.86 (6.59)	\$10.9 m (\$10.1 m)	\$30.1 m (\$32.7 m)	Finance Dir Devlin Moore 775-5427 Orange City Council	Approved
Oak Hill		5.38 (5.32)	(\$3.3 m)		City Admin Jerome Adams 345-3522 Oak Hill Commission	Approved

Property Tax Collection is year-round...

On average since, 2020*

- 4% are paid in installments
- 1% are paid in partial payments
- 4% go delinquent..tax certificates sold in May....

Majority of property taxes are paid in November.

Revenue is distributed once a month (twice in November) to taxing authorities in the County.

- 44 tax districts (ad valorem)
- 188 special districts (non-ad valorem)

Tax Years 2020-2030

Property Facts...per Will Roberts

Volusia Tax Collector

- In 2023, Volusia County sent 288,053 property tax bills.
- Approx 40% percent of property taxes are paid through mortgages
- In 2023, Volusia Tax office billed \$1.1 billion in property tax
- Excess/unused funds at the end of the fiscal year are distributed back to Volusia's taxing authorities

Now that local entities have decided their tax rate for FY 2024-25, tax bills will be sent November 1.

Understanding Local Property Taxes

It's not just the mileage rate per se, in determining how much you pay, but it's the millage rate in proportion to the property's value.

One city with high value properties may be able to generate \$10,000 in revenue with a quarter of a mill while another city with lower property values may have to charge three or four mills to generate \$10,000 in revenue.

And on a side note.....Homestead properties receive two \$25,000 exemptions AND they have the Save Our Homes 3% assessment limit.....and these and any future proposed benefits means a higher tax burden for non-homestead properties, including business/commercial/industrial and renters.

Another factor regarding property tax is the percentage of commercial/industrial to residential.

County Council may be rethinking their monthly meeting times. Currently, the Council meets the first Tuesday 9 AM / fourth Tuesday 4 PM.



The idea for the 4 PM meeting was to allow more working people to attend and participate. However, evening meetings aren't attracting any new attendees and those that DID attend often left early.....especially if meetings drag into late night hours.

One proposal is to drop the evening sessions and revert to 9 AM daytime-only meetings.

Councilmembers agreed to postpone meeting time discussion until its organizational meeting in January 2025.

Volusia's Clerk of Court has over 100 million digitized court/land record images, most are available to the public for FREE at www.clerk.org



Jayme Dickey

Volusia Flagler

REAL PRODUCERS.
CONNECTING. ELEVATING. INSPIRING.

Volusia Flagler Real Producers is an **exclusive network** dedicated to connecting, elevating, and inspiring **top professionals** in the Volusia and Flagler counties.

Being part of this exclusive community offers unparalleled opportunities for growth, collaboration, and success.

jayme@n2co.com 816-642-6800

GROW YOUR BUSINESS WITH VFRP!

Volusia Property Data

Info supplied by Volusia Property Appraiser Larry Bartlett

	Residential	Commercial Industrial	# Parcels	# Homesteads	Just Value
Daytona Beach	48%	38%	43,132	14,192	\$15.5 B
DB Shores	84%	12%	8,001	1,989	\$2.8 B
DeBary	54%	7%	13,708	7,504	\$5,04 B
Deland	64%	21%	20,849	9,503	\$6.04 B
Deltona	86%	7%	43,227	26,463	\$10.9 B
Edgewater	72%	16%	14,764	7,413	\$3.5 B
Holly Hill	56%	31%	8,036	2,595	\$1.5 B
Lake Helen	74%	12%	2,103	899	\$408 M
NSB	84%	11%	26,209	11,051	\$11.2 B
Oak Hill	72%	11%	2,095	727	\$425 M
Orange City	32%	48%	7,181	2,391	\$2.0 B
Ormond Beach	67%	23%	26,223	12,504	\$8.79 B
Pierson	43%	14%	1,608	345	\$234 M
Ponce Inlet	93%	1%	4,002	1,498	\$1.9 B
Port Orange	0.67	0.24	32,292	16,272	\$9.3 B
South Daytona	0.61	0.29	7,541	3,256	\$1.6 B



Summary

**Properties Paying No Taxes
2024 Preliminary Tax Roll Counts**

Category	Parcel Count	% Prcl Ct : Real Property	Pay No Tax	% No Tax : Real Property	Pay Tax	% Pay Tax : Real Property
Countywide	308,936	100.0%	24,046	7.8%	284,890	92.2%
Unincorporated	90,885	100.0%	10,094	11.1%	80,791	88.9%
Volusia County Fire District	94,009	100.0%	10,512	11.2%	83,497	88.8%
Municipalities - Total Overall	217,964	100.0%	13,950	6.4%	204,014	93.6%
Daytona Beach	35,558	100.0%	2,432	6.8%	33,126	93.2%
Daytona Beach Shores	6,702	100.0%	209	3.1%	6,493	96.9%
DeBary	11,888	100.0%	826	6.9%	11,062	93.1%
DeLand	17,530	100.0%	1,767	10.1%	15,763	89.9%
Deltona	40,179	100.0%	2,031	5.1%	38,148	94.9%
Edgewater	12,499	100.0%	789	6.3%	11,710	93.7%
Holly Hill	5,980	100.0%	253	4.2%	5,727	95.8%
Lake Helen	1,736	100.0%	131	7.5%	1,605	92.5%
New Smyrna Beach	22,516	100.0%	1,540	6.8%	20,976	93.2%
Oak Hill	1,840	100.0%	187	10.2%	1,653	89.8%
Orange City	4,599	100.0%	365	7.9%	4,234	92.1%
Ormond Beach	20,935	100.0%	1,321	6.3%	19,614	93.7%
Pierson	1,284	100.0%	100	7.8%	1,184	92.2%
Ponce Inlet	3,598	100.0%	230	6.4%	3,368	93.6%
Port Orange	25,357	100.0%	1,517	6.0%	23,840	94.0%
South Daytona	5,763	100.0%	252	4.4%	5,511	95.6%



Countywide

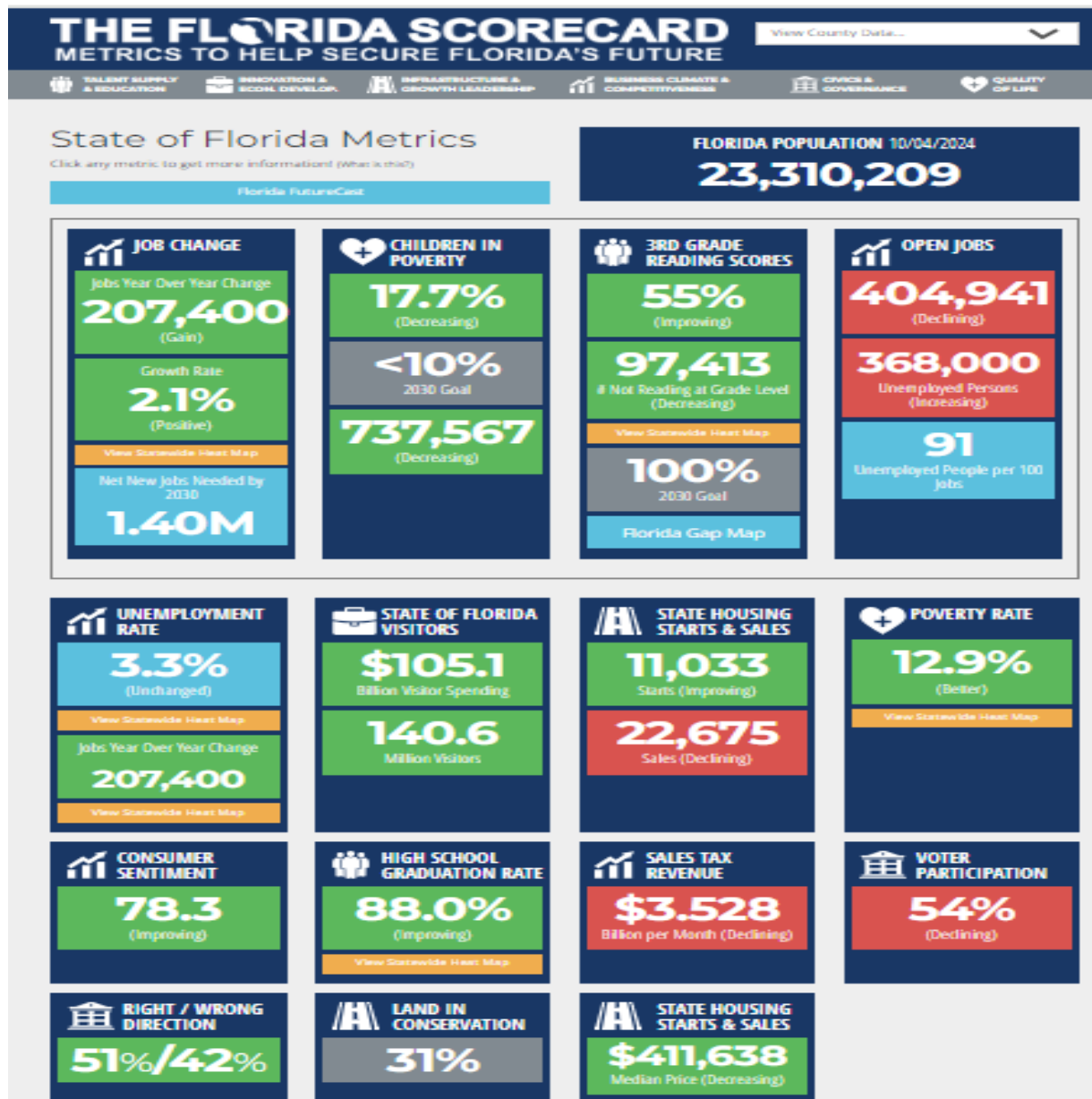
**Properties Paying No Taxes
2024 Preliminary Tax Roll Counts/Values**

Category	Parcel Count	County Taxable Value	Pay No Tax	% No Tax : Real Property	Exempt Value for Properties w/No Tax	% Ex Val : Co Txbl Val
Residential	229,354	42,416,125,320	5,549	1.8%	1,326,291,851	2.3%
Commercial	8,805	9,283,161,328	214	0.1%	287,317,309	0.5%
Industrial	2,185	1,595,809,881	3	0.0%	3,323,180	0.0%
Vacant	44,563	2,187,975,621	2,283	0.7%	59,931,508	0.1%
Governmental	8,617	25,862,470	8,531	2.8%	4,551,650,964	8.0%
Institutional	1,151	575,347,436	802	0.3%	1,324,809,455	2.3%
Miscellaneous	6,615	169,946,325	4,597	1.5%	24,980,858	0.0%
Agricultural	7,646	404,583,052	2,067	0.7%	31,534	0.0%
Total Real Property:	308,936	56,658,811,433	24,046	7.8%	7,578,336,659	13.4%

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

SYNERGY BILLING

Category	Parcel Count	% Prcl Ct : Real Property	Pay No. Tax	% No Tax : Real Property	Pay Tax	% Pay Tax : Real Property
Residential	229,354	74.2%	5,549	1.8%	223,805	72.4%
Commercial	8,805	2.9%	214	0.1%	8,591	2.8%
Industrial	2,185	0.7%	3	0.0%	2,182	0.7%
Vacant	44,563	14.4%	2,283	0.7%	42,280	13.7%
Governmental	8,617	2.8%	8,531	2.8%	86	0.0%
Institutional	1,151	0.4%	802	0.3%	349	0.1%
Miscellaneous	6,615	2.1%	4,597	1.5%	2,018	0.7%
Agricultural	7,646	2.5%	2,067	0.7%	5,579	1.8%
Total Real Property:	308,936	100.0%	24,046	7.8%	284,890	92.2%
Tangible Personal Property and Centrally Assessed	50,060		40,731		9,329	
	1,716		1,193		523	
Total Roll:	360,712	100.0%	65,970	18.3%	294,742	81.7%





October 1 – County Council addressed an item from Chair Jeff Brower whereby future land use designations contained in Volusia’s Comprehensive Plan shall control the density and intensity of development on all Rural Lands. The County Council would then have authority to approve all changes to future land use designations of all Rural Lands, regardless if these Rural Lands are located within a city.

This proposal aims to slow or halt new development in designated rural areas. The council could consider a charter amendment requiring a super-majority vote to approve urban development in specified areas and to allow governments to annex unincorporated land.

October 1 - regarding the County Council meeting, 5 Council members (**Johansson and Robins** were absent) discussed establishing a rural boundary to control urban sprawl and protect rural areas. Key points of the discussion included:

- Charter Amendment Proposal: The council could be considering a charter amendment that would require a majority-plus-one vote to approve any urban development within the designated rural boundary areas. This item could make it more difficult to transfer rural land into urban developments.
- The amendment would also allow local governments to annex unincorporated land within these rural boundaries, provided they meet specific criteria.

- There were about 20 speakers...mainly residents expressing concerns about flooding and preserving the rural character of their communities and potential impacts of increased development.

Per FaceBook.....**Chairman Brower** said Rural Boundaries is a powerful development tool would that give the county government authority to protect rural areas, better regulate new commercial and residential development, and reduce "hostile annexations."

The council has not yet made a final decision and will likely continue to review and discuss the proposal in future meetings. Some council members wanted to move this discussion until March, 2025.

NOTE - this comes down to a proposed Charter Amendment in November, 2026.

County Council will probably select Charter Review Commission members in January or February 2025.....the CRC shall commence work in March 2025. Appointees will review and *could* propose amendments to the County’s Charter for the November 2026 ballot.



LEADS CREATIVE

JIM CAMERON
Volusia Sales Representative

386-566-2140 | 1200 Synergy Way
jim@jimcameronconsulting.com | Holly Hill, FL 32117

**CYBERSECURITY • PHYSICAL SECURITY
IT INFRASTRUCTURE
CLOUD SERVICES • SUPPORT SERVICES**

LeadsCreative.net

CONNECT • PROTECT • SIMPLIFY



A Silent Cry 5K

October 19 | 8:00 AM | 355 N. Beach Street

The Domestic Abuse Council has announced its inaugural A Silent Cry 5K Run/Walk with Presenting Sponsor, Brown & Brown in partnership with Auto-Owners Insurance. It'll be Saturday, October 19, at 8:00 am. The event aims to raise awareness and provide crucial resources and support services to those affected by Domestic Violence. The 5K will take place at the Riverfront Esplanade, allowing participants to enjoy the charm of our city while championing an important cause.

Every sponsorship and donation contribution will be directly allocated to the Domestic Abuse Council, aiding survivors on their journey toward safety and well-being. Sign Up Link: <https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/DaytonaBeach/ASilentCryK>

Special Session for Condos?

Gov DeSantis wants lawmakers to convene a special session before the end of the year. to provide relief to struggling condo owners.



It would provide remedy to owners seeking to afford renovations demanded by recent legislation intended to prevent another Surfside Condo tragedy that killed 98 people in 2021.

Senate President Kathleen Passidomo doesn't want a special session.

Calls for a Special Session have been growing as condo owners navigate new, and costly, regulations that require mandatory inspections, repairs and cash reserves.

DeSantis floated two ideas:

- 0% interest loan to condos,
- an extension for the law's compliance deadline while seeking other means of consumer relief

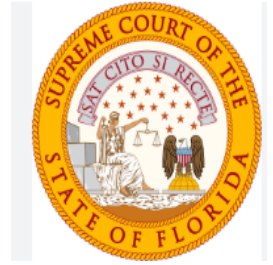
At the same time, the focus will be safe and structurally sound buildings.

Meanwhile, the next regular session is scheduled to begin on March 4, with committee weeks starting in December.

Federal investigators are still looking into the Surfside collapse. Final report been delayed until 2026.



Congressional District to be Decided by State Supreme Court



A few months ago, the State Supreme Court received a case regarding Fla's congressional districts the where voting rights groups claim the current map is unconstitutional.

2022 legislative session, congressional maps drawn by Gov DeSantis's office changed Dist 5, which stretched west of Tallahassee to Jacksonville. That district is now centered in the Jacksonville area.

It HAD BEEN a predominantly Black-district for years and represented by Democrat Al Lawson until last year. Fla law says districts can't diminish minority voters' ability to elect someone of their choice. Lawson lost re-election after the map changed.

The state argued that the previous district stretched more than 200 miles and was not cohesive nor reasonably compact AND THAT the PREVIOUS District 5, which the Fla Supreme Court ordered, VIOLATED the US Constitution's Equal Protection Clause which bans race-based gerrymandering.

Whatever the Fla court decides, it's too late for the maps to change for this year's election AND there is a separate redistricting lawsuit in federal court.

Six states including Alabama and Georgia have had to redraw congressional districts this year.....and that's especially important in the US House with Republicans holding an ultra slim majority.



Call Barbara 386-676-5050 for more info.

8 locations around Volusia and Flagler.

www.storitselfstorageall.com

They're nice people!

Registered Voters as of October 1, 2024

Political Affiliation	Active	Inactive	Total
Democrats	105,921	24,559	130,480
Republicans	161,098	19,501	180,599
No Party Affiliation	100,255	30,219	130,474
Other Parties (Green, Libertarian, etc)	12,960	1,509	14,469
Totals	380,234	75,788	456,022

Did you know that you can obtain a copy of any deed, mortgage, or land record recorded in Volusia County from 1988 to present, for FREE on www.clerk.org?

Did you know? The Volusia Sheriff's Office uses Live911 to give deputies on patrol a live audio feed of 911 calls in their area. Hearing a live 911 call in real time can help speed up response time and get valuable first-hand information directly to responding units with zero delay.

Fla Legislature House/Senate Interim Committee weeks set -

Senate

Week of December 2nd
 Week of January 13th
 Week of January 21st
 Week of February 3rd
 Week of February 10th
 Week of February 17th

House

Week of December 9th
 Week of January 13th
 Week of January 21st
 Week of February 3rd
 Week of February 17th

2025 Legislative Session begins March 4.



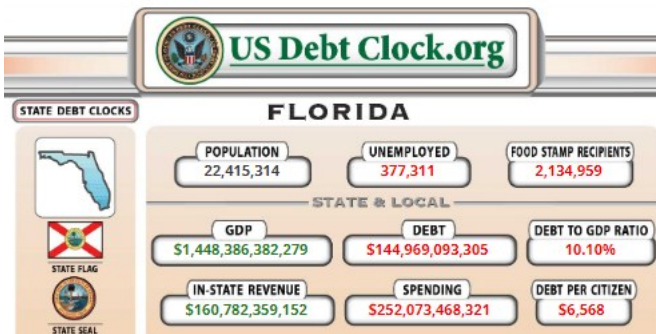
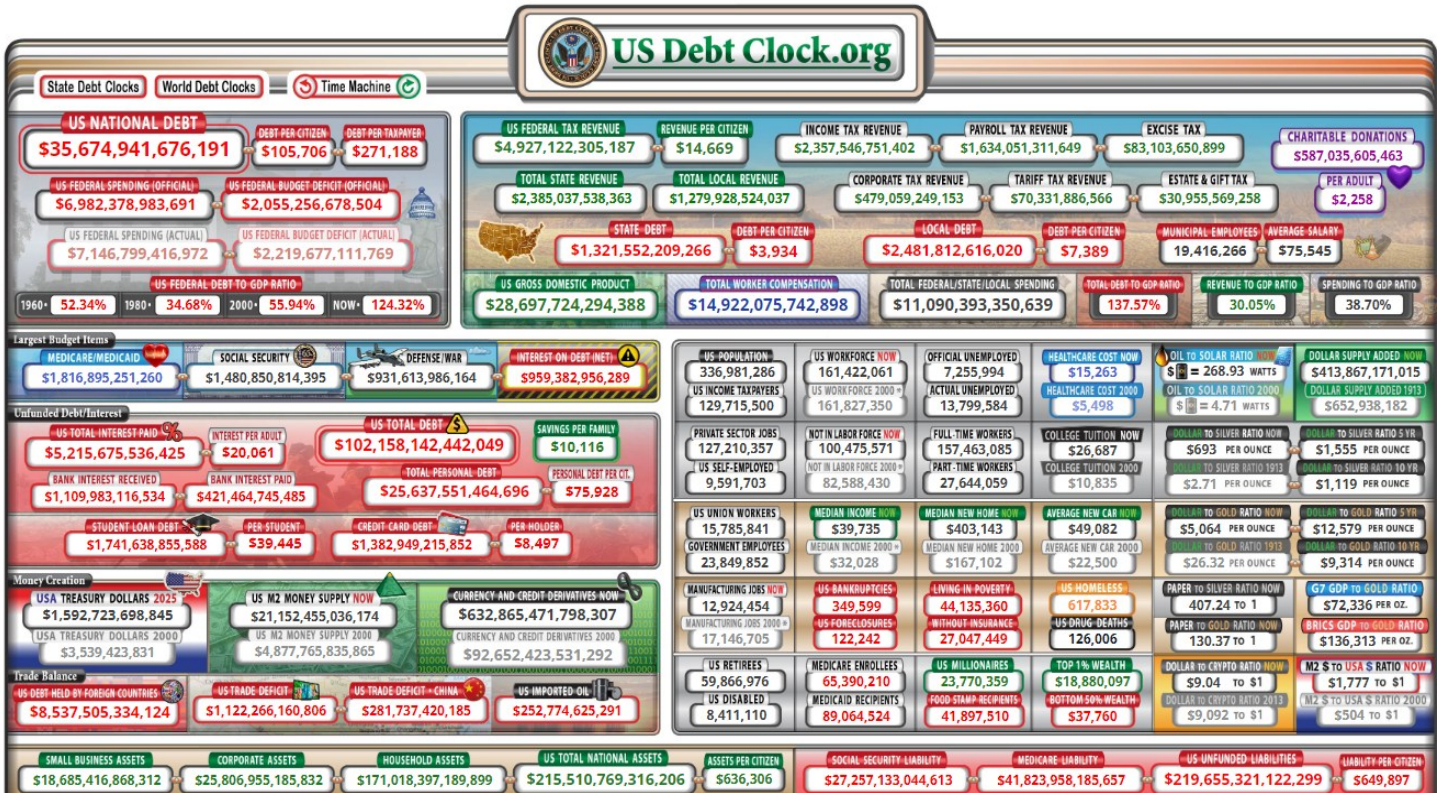
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

....when my daughter, Holley was little and wanted something...she'd say, "you don't need money Dad, just write a check." as of 9:43 AM October 2024



In 2000, US national debt was just \$3.4 trillion..... about one-third of annual gross domestic product. Back then, the Congressional Budget Office felt it could be wiped out completely within a decade.

Today it's \$35.6 trillion....nearly 100% of GDP.... highest level since World War II. On the current trajectory it will hit 200% of GDP by 2050.

Recently, US GAO warned the national debt is growing at a rate that threatens the vitality of our nation's economy AND will more than double over the next 30 years ..."posing serious economic/security problems if not addressed".

Most of the growth in government spending is three things.....

- Social Security,
- healthcare (Medicare/Medicaid),
- interest on the debt.

Despite economic growth, FY 2023 deficit was \$1.3 trillion, 4th year in a row of a deficit above \$1 trillion. Projections show the federal government will pay more than \$1 trillion in net interest costs starting in 2029. The recent rise in net interest spending has been driven by higher interest rates.

GAO has previously suggested that Congress develop a plan to address the government's unsustainable fiscal path.

Local Government Links

[Volusia County Council](#) - October 15, 4 pm Admin Bldg

[Daytona Beach City Commission](#) October 16 - 6 pm City Hall

[Ormond Beach City Commission](#) October 1, 15 - 7 pm City Hall

[Port Orange City Council](#) October 1, 15 - 6:30 City Hall

[Holly Hill City Commission](#) October 8, 22 6 pm City Hall

[South Daytona City Council](#) October 8 - 6 pm City Hall

[DB Shores City Commission](#) October 8, 22 - 6 pm City Hall

[DeBary City Council](#) October 3, 17 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Deland City Commission](#) October 7, 21, 15 - 7 pm City Hall

[Deltona City Commission](#) October 7, 21- 6:30 pm City Hall

[Edgewater City Council](#) October 7, 21 – 6:00 pm City Hall

[Lake Helen City Commission](#) October 10 - 7 pm City Hall

[New Smyrna Bch Commission](#) October 8, 22 - 5:00 pm City Hall

[Oak Hill City Commission](#) October 7 - 6 pm City Hall

[Orange City City Council](#) October 8, 22 - 6:30 pm City Hall

[Ponce Inlet Town Council](#) October 17 - 6:00 pm City Hall

[School Board of Volusia](#) October 8, 22 - 4:30 pm Deland

[River to Sea TPO](#) October 23, 9 am DBIA Airlines Rm



Maria Elena, Deltona Mayor Santiago Avila



Port Orange Mayor Don Burnette,
Real Producers Magazine Publisher Jayme Dickey



Charter Spectrum's Alex Redkin,
Rep Chase Tramont



State Rep Candidate Richard Gentry,
School Bd Member Jamie Haynes

At Volusia Elected Officials Roundtable, Sept 9



Ormond Beach Comm Lori Tolland, County Councilman
Matt Reinhart, County Councilman Danny Robbins



Charter Spectrum's Alex Redkin,
Volusia Tax Collector Will Roberts



Ernie Audino, District Director for Cong Michael Waltz
Gov DeSantis Press Conference Sept 3



Charter Spectrum's Alex Redkin...
Ormond Beach Mayor Bill Partington
Elected Officials Roundtable—Sept 9



Ponce Inlet Planner Patty Rippey,
Ponce Inlet Mayor Lois Paritsky



Sen Tom Wright, School Bd Member
Jessie Thompson, Rep Webster Barnaby
Gov DeSantis Press Conference Sept 3



Anne Phillips, Kathryn Nagib, Tabitha Schmidt,
John Phillips at MOAS dinner Sept 14



Lori McMullin, Terri Shurmdom (Blanchard
Insurance), Remy Colin (Aerial Messages) at Daytona
Chamber BAH Sept 15

Holly Hill Mayor's Golf Tournament, Sept 28



Holly Hill Mayors John Penny, Gordon Currie, Chris Via,
Roy Johnson, Roland Via



Comm Elect Debra Kay Snow, Tom Jordan,
School Bd Candidate Krista Goodrich

New Smyrna Beach 2024 Coastal Clean Up, September 21. thank you VCARD and FPZA



Beach Clean Up Volunteers



Jayson Meyer and his sons Maddoc, Max, Maverick,
Macen and my grandson Royce Miranda

Daytona Regional Chamber's HobNob—October 3



Charter Spectrum's Alex Redkin, DB Commissioner Ken Strickland



Ormond Comms Travis Sargent, Lori Tolland, Tom Cafferty



PW Mabry, Randy Dye, Leah Selig, Colby Allman



Jim Rose, Larry Bartlett, Will & Jennifer Roberts



Stephanie Wohlford, Senate Dist 7 Candidate Tom Leek



Sheriff Mike Chitwood, DB Commissioner Stacy Cantu, Holly Hill Commissioner Roy Johnson



Charter Spectrum's Alex Redkin, Colby Allman (Sabaticle) County Councilman Troy Kent



Synergy Billing CEO Jayson Meyer, UCF VP Fred Kittinger



School Bd Cand Krista Goodrich, Bob Rand, DB Commissioner Ken Strickland

I want to congratulate Nancy Keefer, David Robinson and all Daytona Regional Chamber staff members for a successful HobNob. There were numerous attendees in addition to candidates.most of all...lots of conversations. I'd also like to thank Elections Supervisor Lisa Lewis and her staff for setting a table to explain Nov 5 General election details.



Khalid Resheidat (far right) with Mayor Fred Cleveland and City Commission members

August 29.....more than 100 locals attended a retirement ceremony for **City Manager Khalid Resheidat** who worked at the City for 35 years. It was a fantastic evening with lots of stories by former mayors, commissioners and staff members. The highlight of the evening was naming a street as **Khalid Resheidat Blvd.**



Edgewater Mayor Diezel...former Edgewater City Manager Tracey Barlow



DMC President Shaleish Patel...retiring NSB City Mgr Khalid Resheidat

Did you know? Sheriff's Office runs Volusia Family Resource Center at 3747 W ISB Daytona Beach (former United Way bldg). The program screens/connects youthful offenders and their families with juvenile justice agencies and mental health resources. Partners include Dept of Juvenile Justice, Volusia County Schools, Halifax Health Behavioral Services, Children's Home Society, and Hope Florida.



Container/Field Office Bldg for sell. Ready to move..... Can withstand up to 200 mph winds. Constructed by [SnapSpace Solutions](#). Call Jim Cameron 566-2140.



Sept 24 - the School Board and Superintendent heard a report from the Half-Cent Sales Tax Project Oversight Committee regarding the implementation, progress, status and completion of projects funded by the sales surtax. Two of the most recent projects was Turie T Small and Tomoka Elementary Schools.



Bright Line trains.....a few weeks ago, Stuart City commissioners in Martin County to the south of Volusia voted 3-2 to kill a 7-month effort to build a Brightline train station in their downtown.

Stuart was one of three applicants to bid on a train new station for the region along the West Palm Beach-Orlando route.

Brightline officials are reevaluating their next steps to understand where a station would go along the Treasure Coastincluding Fort Pierce which previously put in a bid to have a station in their city.

And it's connection to Volusia? Bright Line will eventually move up the east coast to Jacksonville and we need to begin a game plan to initiate a stop in Daytona Beach.....and that's why Volusia Matters keeps abreast of Bright Line news.

The School District and Volusia United Educators (VUE) have settled their contract for the next year with the following points.....

An increase in health insurance contribution from \$565 per month to \$605.

A salary package valued at \$1 million, which in-

cludes step salary schedule.

An increase in translation supplement from \$100 to \$500.



Supt Carmen Balgobin and VUE President Elizabeth Albert expressed gratitude to their respective the bargaining teams for negotiations.

Tentative ratification occurs next week..... **That agreement was ratified by the School Board on Sept 24.**



County Council may be re-thinking their monthly meeting times. Currently, the Council meets the first Tuesday 9 AM and fourth Tuesday 4 PM.



The idea for the 4 PM meeting was to allow more working people to attend and participate. However, evening meetings aren't attracting any new attendees and those that DID attend often left early.....especially if meetings drag into the late night hours.

One proposal is to drop the evening sessions and revert to 9 AM daytime-only meetings.

Councilmembers agreed to postpone meeting time discussion until its organizational meeting in January 2025.

Candidate Donald Trump's economic plans.....

It primarily includes drilling for more American energy, lowering taxes, eliminating inflation, sending migrants back home, saving Social Security and Medicare.



Other points include.....

- promised to pay down the \$35 trillion national debt.
- broader and higher tariffs on imported goods
- maintaining items in the 2017 Tax Cuts Jobs Act (keep in place [tax cuts set to expire in 2025](#))
- mass deportations of immigrants...jobs for US citizens
- reduce energy/electricity prices within 12 months to 18 months
- eliminate 10 regulations for every new regulation introduced.
- make America the “world capital” for bitcoin and cryptocurrencies
- lower corporate tax rate from 21% to 15% for "companies who make their product in US"
- special manufacturing zones on federal land with ultra low taxes and regulations for American producers
- eliminate spending on “Green New Deal”..take back unspent dollars set aside in Inflation Reduction Act, which [included funding for clean energy projects](#).
- to boost housing...open large tracts of federal land for housing development.
- eliminate taxes on tips and on Social Security payments.

Candidate Kamala Harris' economic plan

It primarily focuses on bringing costs down for American consumers dealing with increased cost of living.



Other points include.....

- federal limits on price increases for food, producers/grocers, and crackdown on food, industry, mergers and acquisitions.
- construct 3 million new affordable housing units over four years
- create tax incentives for builders who build starter homes for first time homebuyers
- \$40 billion innovation fund for builders seeking to build affordable housing rental units.
- speed up permitting process to get housing stock to the market more quickly
- provide \$25,000 down payment assistance to help renters become first time homebuyers
- repurpose some federal land to use for affordable housing.
- allow Medicare/other agencies to negotiate cost of prescription with drug makers.
- make permanent a \$3600 per child tax credit for eligible families and new \$6000 tax credit for those with newborn children
- expand earned income tax credit to cut taxes up to \$1500 for frontline workers
- reduce taxes on healthcare plans offered on the market created by the Affordable Care Act
- introduce 25% minimum tax on unrealized capital gains
- [elimination of federal taxes on tips](#) for service and hospitality workers.



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



Sept 9— **Volusia Elected Officials roundtable met and Community Health Update was the main focus.**



Halifax Health spoke of their three medical centers in Daytona Beach Port Orange in Deltona. They have 4300 team members including more than 500 positions on staff last year they had 91,600 emergency room

visits as well as 36,000 hospital admissions and 15 1000 surgeries. They are building freestanding emergency rooms and Port Orange and Forman beach which should open sometime next year.

Advent Health spoke of their facilities and Flagler/ Palm Coast, Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Deland and Bert Fish Memorial

facility. Last year they had more than 50,000 inpatient visits, 2.2 million total visits and that 6000 of their employees are residents. AdVent also has a \$220 million expansion of their facility in Daytona Beach



Volusia Department of Health provides clinical and dental services as well as emergency response and preparedness environmental health women with infant children program as well as other community needs they real soon have a mobile outreach unit that can provide health care services in both east and West Volusia.



SMA Healthcare serves to provide substance abuse, mental



health and primary care services as they focus on individuals with addiction and mental health needs.

They have facilities in Daytona Beach, DeLand, DeBary as well as Flagler, Putnam and Marion counties. They partner with the county as well as numerous cities, Halifax and advent health, West Volusia hospital authority, Volusia County schools, as well as other entities.

In 2021, Volusia Sheriff's Office established its own Training Academy....3 years later, the VSO Academy has brought in 7 recruit classes of the next generation of deputies. For more Academy info and VSO careers.....
<https://www.volusiasheriff.gov/careers/>

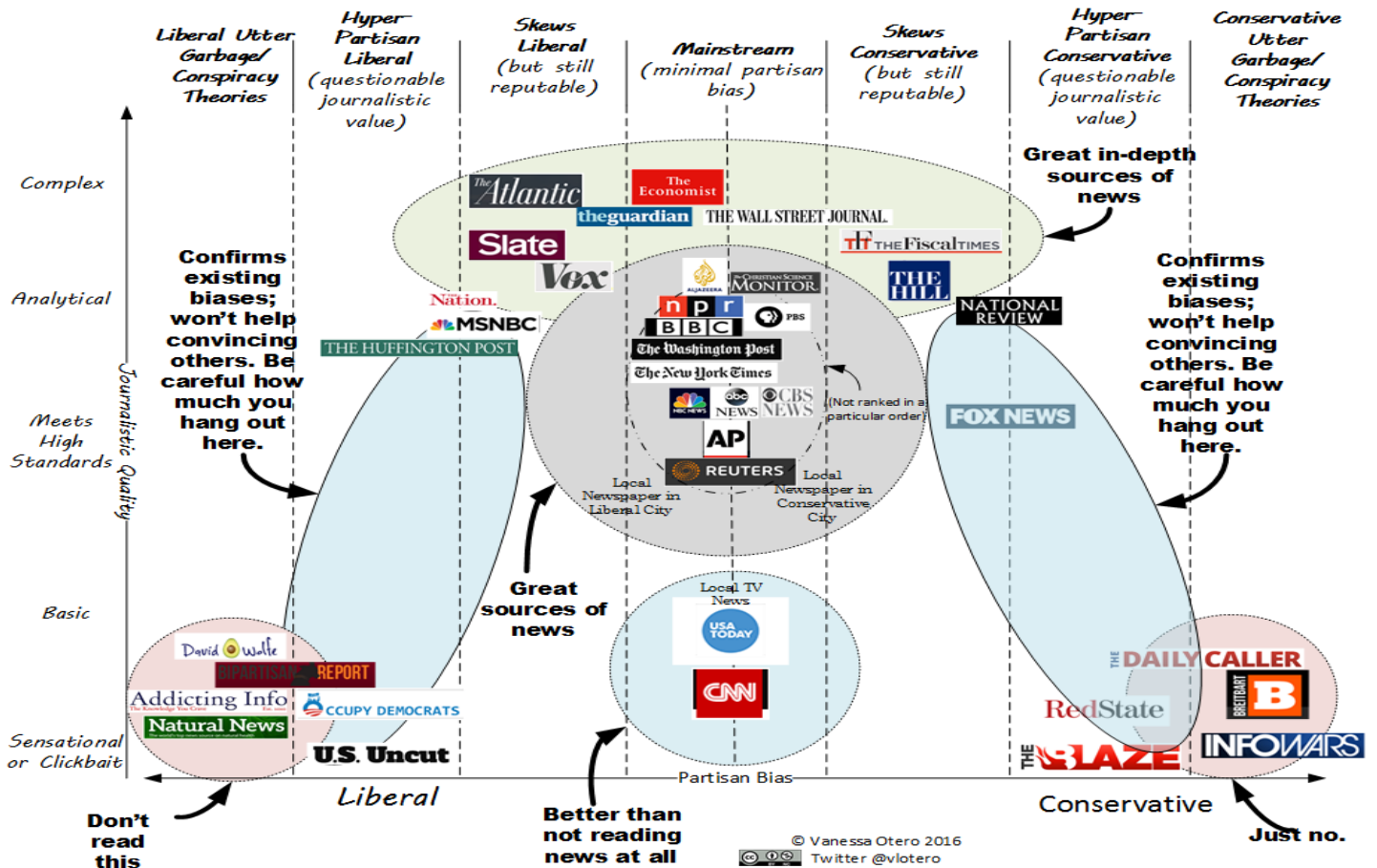


AllSides™ Media Bias Chart

All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content. Ratings do not reflect accuracy or credibility; they reflect perspective only.



L LEFT L LEAN LEFT C CENTER R LEAN RIGHT R RIGHT



© Vanessa Otero 2016
Twitter @vlotero



On a sad note...Some friends we lost.....



Tom Brown who once lived in Port Orange and onrepresented Volusia district in the Fla House of Representatives 1980-1986 and the Fla Senate from 1987-1991. He was a dedicated legislator who did his homework pertaining to critical legislation.

City of Daytona Beach is seeking volunteers for their Advisory Boards

- Affordable Housing Board - 2 vacancies
- Beachside Redevelopment Board.....3 terms will expire 12-31-24
- Board of Adjustment – Zone 3 (**Comm Quanita May**) is open for applications
- Board of Building Codes has 1 vacancy
- Downtown Redevelopment Board – 2 terms will expire 12-31-24
- Midtown Redevelopment Bd - 2 vacancies
- Planning Board - 3 terms will expire 12-31-24 (Zone 2,6 and ATL)

Want to know more? Call **Anita Pologa** in City Clerk’s office 671-8028.

Paul McKitrick former Daytona Beach permits and licensing director left us suddenly last week. He held numerous positions in city because was he talented and outgoing but he could work with virtually anyone. He was strict but reasonable and was always available to meet.



Oct 2—Daytona Beach City Commission postponed-discussion of a proposed ordinance to create an Essential Housing Opportunity Trust Fund to provide loans / grants for projects/programs that will serve very low to moderate income households.

US Census stated approx 60% of renters in the City paid 30% or more their income on housing... 48% paid 35% or more for rent.....40% of homeowners "with a mortgage" are paying over 30% of their income on housing,...33% paid 35% or more....an affordability problem.

Shimberg Ctr for Housing Studies, Volusia/Flagler Counties had a 16,412 affordable housing unit deficit in 2019 .

Commission will revisit the Trust Fund item soon.

Daytona Beach’s population has increased 18% since 2020 census count. Recent data estimates Daytona Beach’s current population to be 84,891. These estimates are used for distributing state revenue-sharing dollars and for budgeting, planning by state and local government agencies, businesses, and researchers.



Call Barbara 386-676-5050 for more info.
8 locations around Volusia and Flagler.

www.storitselfstorageall.com

They’re nice people!



Anne Phillips has just celebrated 11 years with ERAU in her role as Associate Chair, Security Studies/Intl Affairs Dept and Associate Professor with Security Studies and International Affairs Dept. Congratulations Anne!



Sept 10 - School Bd meeting, Supt Bagoblin appointed Rose Roland to become Coordinator School Choice which oversees options such as charter and alternative schools, advanced placement, dual enrollment, International Baccalaureate, virtual and home schools and CTE Academies.

Craig Baumgartner just celebrated 10 years with finance department county of Volusia.



Sept 3—County Council meeting, **Mark Swanson announced his retirement.** He began with EVAC in 1985....in 2013, he became Beach Services Director...was promoted to Deputy Director of Public Protection and then became

Director of Public Protection in 2021. you did a fine job Mark.



John Cox ...former Holly Hill Economic Director has transferred to become the new Economic Director for Deltona. His new office number is 386-878-8619



Making Strides of Volusia-Flagler
October 26 | 7:00 AM | 355 N. Beach Street

Join Making Strides of Volusia-Flagler on Saturday, October 26, at Riverfront Esplanade to make strides against breast cancer! Making Strides Against Breast Cancer is a 5k non-competitive fundraising walk with no registration fee or minimum donation required. All are welcome! [Click here](#) to register.

Volusia Sheriff's Office' 306,430 service calls in 2023.....an 8.8% increase from 2022. VSO's 7,603 total arrests in 2023.....a 9.7% increase from 2022.



CFO Jimmy Patronis announced that more than \$39 million in unclaimed property was returned to Floridians last month.

It's estimated that one in five Floridians has unclaimed property averaging \$825.

Unclaimed property is a financial asset that's unknown or lost or has been left inactive or unclaimed by its owner...this being dormant bank accounts, unclaimed insurance proceeds, stocks, dividends, uncashed checks, deposits, credit balances.

To search for unclaimed property or to claim an account, go online to FLTreasureHunt.gov



November 5.....City of Edgewater residents will vote on... TERM LIMIT EXCEPTION FOR COUNCIL MEMBERS RUNNING FOR THE

OFFICE OF MAYOR..that being.....Should City term limit requirements be amended to allow a city council member whose second consecutive term of office concluding at the same time as the Mayor’s term, to qualify and run for Mayor without leaving city council for at least one year....in other words, a 2-term councilmember could presently run for mayor.

With all the heavy rains the past few weeks, Deltona residents from numerous neighborhoods are raising flood issues concerns.



The City has monitored lake levels throughout all basins in areas known to flood in the past. Public Works Dept ordered a detailed drainage study of their numerous retention ponds and draining those ponds once they’re full to neighboring lakes.

A few months ago, Public Works staff cleaned debris from canals, storm grates and drainage ditches. **Director Glenn Whitcomb** said because of these proactive measures, there has been no reported street flooding or water entering homes.



Sept 15—Deland City Commission approved a \$34,000 grant to assist the African American Museum of the Art in the City’s Core Gateway area. The museum is a cultural

arts and historical facility dedicated to promoting African American and Caribbean arts and providing educational, historical and cultural opportunities.

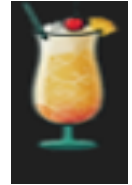


Colby Allman, a local young business owner, has just released his flagship product, **Sabbatical** that focuses on developing, maintaining, and improving AI systems for businesses.

Sabbatical is a suite of AI systems that enables cutting-edge automation for

businesses—saving you time and money.

Your website is a critical part of your business’ identity and a key gateway to new clients and higher revenue. Unfortunately, most websites are messy/disorganized with 1,000 products, property listings, or articles that visitors resent having to filter through to finding what they want.



Most websites are cluttered with scattered or buried information/details resulting in visitors frequently having to peruse multiple pages just to find the key facts they need.....no means of reaching out and grabbing visitors before they get confused or frustrated. Other visitors end up saying, "I'll call/email them later," but never calling you, and go on to a different business.

Sabbatical streamlines your process, reduces your bounce rate, and increases your conversion rate. It automatically updates itself with the newest information, products, and listings from your website. Sabbatical acts as a widget on your website that customers click and converse with.

It asks prospects exactly what they are looking for and suggests the items that best fit their needs. It can help retain your visitors by sending them a message first. Sabbatical can provide information to visitors so they don't have to call you or wait for an email back, saving time and turning "maybe" into "yes!"

Sabbatical can create appointments inside your existing business calendars, summarize visitor conversations then post warm information to your spreadsheet or CMS, and research and email your prospects to turn them into clients. Sabbatical can even integrate with your API creating endless possibilities.

AI is not only a powerful tool but now, it’s a necessity. Here’s your chance to automate your business™ with Sabbatical.

Click www.sabbatical.cloud to discover how it can help your business.

THE VOLUSIA MONEY & REAL ESTATE SCORECARD

The Volusia Money & Real Estate Scorecard is a monthly report that identifies and tracks various key metrics that are important to Volusia County's economy and consumers.

Compiled by Jami Gallegos, MBA, Owner & Lic. Broker of Lifestyle Realty Group, Inc.

VOLUSIA COUNTY SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Source: Florida Realtors

AUGUST
2024

CLOSED SALES



753

↓ -2.3%
FROM A YEAR AGO

MEDIAN SALE PRICE



\$350,000

↓ 2.8%
FROM A YEAR AGO

MONTHS SUPPLY OF INVENTORY



4.4 Mos

↑ UP FROM 2.7 MOS.
A YEAR AGO

DOLLAR VOLUME



\$308
Million

↓ -3.6%
FROM A YEAR AGO

ACTIVE INVENTORY



3,055

↑ %56
FROM A YEAR AGO

NEW LISTINGS



696

↑ .2%
FROM A YEAR AGO

AVERAGE MORTGAGE RATES

Source: Mortgage News Daily

Last Updated
October 2, 2024

30-YR. FIXED

6.25%

↑ +0.05

6.11% | 8.03%

15-YR. FIXED

5.62%

↑ +0.07

5.88% | 7.35%

30-YR. JUMBO

6.43%

↑ +0.03

6.37% | 8.09%

7/6 SOFR ARM

6.15%

↓ -0.01

5.95% | 7.55%

30-YR. FHA

5.76%

↑ +0.01

5.65% | 7.44%

30-YR. VA

5.78%

↑ +0.01

5.66% | 7.46%

COMMERCIAL MORTGAGE RATES

Source: BlackSource



Last Updated
SEPT 30,
2024

Freddie Mac	5.34%-6.86%
Fannie Mae	5.54% - 6.81%
HUD 223(f)	6.00% - 6.70%
CMBS	6.33%-7.93%
Regional Banks/Credit Unions	6.77% - 10.50%
HUD 221(d)(4)	6.60% - 7.30%

AVG AUTO LOAN RATES

Source: US News & World Report



SEPT
2024

Credit Score Range	New Car Loan Rates	Used Car Loan Rates
781-850	5.25%	7.13%
661-780	6.87%	9.36%
601-660	9.83%	13.92%
501-600	13.18%	18.86%
300-500	15.77%	21.55%

DAYTONA BEACH
KIWANIS PRESENTS...

Adopt a DUCK. Help a CHILD!



Walt & Suzanne Steiner



\$2,500

\$1,000

\$500

1ST PLACE

2ND PLACE

3RD PLACE

October 26th, 2024 11 AM- 4PM
JACKIE ROBINSON BALLPARK
DAYTONA BEACH, FL
RACE BEGINS...

1:00 pm

Join us as we dump 10,000 ducks into the Halifax River. We will have food, vendors, music, kid activities, and trick-or-treating. This will be a fun community-wide event for the whole family.

duckrace.com/daytonabeach

SCAN QR
CODE FOR
MORE INFO
AND
ADOPT A
DUCK!



Local company is seeking.....

- Mechanical Draftsman familiar with Solid Works and Fusion 360
- Inventory Control Expediter...a hands on in production position not a computer or purchasing job.
- CNC Operator
- Finish Carpenter / Cabinet Maker

If you know anyone in these fields that might be looking for a position or looking to change employers...have them call Jim Cameron, 566-2140.



B & B Brown & Brown
INSURANCE*

THE POWER OF WE

Headquartered in Daytona Beach since 1939.



Join Our Winning Team.

Explore Careers





November 5 - there will be 435 elections across the country that will determine control of the US House of Representatives.

There are currently 220 Republicans, 212 Democrats and three vacancies.

Looking at the math.....Democrats need to flip four seats to win back control of the House.....it comes down to a much smaller scale....**where there's 435 members of Congress, there's only 35 who won their seat with 5% or less so they're very few seats up for grabs when you look at the total map..... so of those 35, there's probably about 22 (11 on each side that are really up for grabs).**

So in the battlefield of trying to pick up seats vs what seats each party has gotta hold.....there's very few.

US House of Representatives has numerous



caucuses, whereby members come together to pursue common legislative objectives:

Ideological Caucuses:

- **House Freedom Caucus:** group of conservative Republican members.
- **Progressive Caucus:** group of Democrats who advocate for liberal policies.



Interest Group Caucuses:

Congressional Black Cau-

cus: Focuses on African American issues

Congressional Hispanic

Caucus: Addresses Hispanic and Latino issues



Congressional LGBTQ+ Caucus: Advocates for LGBTQ+ rights.

Regional Caucuses:

Northeast-Midwest Congressional Coalition:

Focuses on Northeast/Midwest regions issues.

Western Caucus: Addresses concerns of the Western states.



Issue-Specific Caucuses:
Climate Solutions Caucus: Works on bipartisan solutions to climate change.

Second Amendment Caucus: Advocates for gun rights.

Industry and Sector Caucuses:

Tech Caucus: Addresses technology industry issues

Agriculture Caucus: Focuses on agricultural issues.

These caucuses allow members to collaborate on specific issues, share information, and advocate for legislation that aligns with their goals.



Beachside Neighborhood Watch meeting where sheriff Mike Chitwood provided a scary as hell update on scams aimed at our senior citizens.



These high pressure scammers often call seniors, claiming a family member is in trouble and urgently needs money and in some cases sending Uber drivers to collect cash from victims. He stressed that neither his or local other offices will call on the phone to demand that you pay money. Other scammers call with a too good to be true type investment that you have to buy into now and only now! He stated that over \$4 million has been lost recently and that his dept has recovered some of this money which often goes overseas. So be vigilant.

IN ADDITION.....Chitwood's office also reported 2 Middle School students (ages 13 and 14) were arrested for posting online threats to commit a school shooting AND were charged with making written threats to kill, which is a felony.

Any "anonymous" online threats can be traced, even if the post/account are later deleted and the Sheriff's Office will pursue criminal charges in every case possible. "Jokes" are no exception.

Recently, Fla law enforcement agencies have dealt with a spike in school threats which cause law enforcement's time and resources to be used to investigate. Fla law allows the cost of these investigations to be charged to the parents of the juvenile defendants.



First Step Shelter continues to see an increase in referrals...averaging 90 people per day. This month, FSS received 52 new intakes and were able to house 20.

Most coming to FSS have substance/alcohol abuse or mental health issues, and many have serious medical issues.



Case in point.....One particular client no health insurance was not receiving preventive or on-going medical care.....so the ER was their health care. Over time, this client worked at 4 different jobs but was let go each time due to hospital stays.

Meanwhile, their FSS case manager helped them apply for disability insurance, housing assistance, food stamps in addition to securing health insurance via AHCA's Marketplace....thus their health situation was stabilized.

This client then returned to work and was able to receive a Rapid Rehousing subsidy and was able to move into their own place. They also have regular follow-up doctor visits to via Medicaid.

See page 38 for the latest First Step Shelter stats.....

In 2021, Volusia Sheriff's Office established its own Training Academy....3 years later, the VSO Academy has brought in 7 recruit classes of the next generation of deputies. For more info on the Academy and careers at VSO, go to <https://www.volusiaheriff.gov/careers/>

First Step Shelter Stats

Shelter Intakes	2020	2021	2022	2023	Q1	Q2	July	Aug	Sept	Total
Daytona Bch PD	54	65	89	123	70	48	23	24	35	531
Ormond Bch PD	2	2	5	2	1	5	0	0	0	17
Pt Orange PD	0	2	4	8	2	3	0	1	1	21
DB Shores PD	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
S Daytona PD	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ponce Inlet PD	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Holly Hill PD	2	1	6	10	2	4	3	1	1	30
Sheriff's Office	3	3	18	36	3	3	1	4	0	71
NSB PD	-	-	-	2	1	1	3	0	0	7
Deland PD	-	-	-	-		1	1	4	3	9
All Police Depts	62	75	125	182	79	65	31	34	40	693
DOC			3	12	3	6	2	0	0	26
Total Hospitals	38	20	50	57	22	33	7	11	11	249
Total SS/Worship	55	145	165	100	24	25	9	5	1	529
FSS Help Line			37	6	0	0	0	0	0	43
Total	155	240	380	357	128	129	49	50	52	1540

Safe Zone Referrals	Dec 31	2021	2022	2023	Q1	Q2	July	Aug	Sept	Total
Daytona Bch PD	23	2469	252	420	302	69	44	32	50	3661
Ponce Inlet PD	0	0	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	5
Ormond Bch PD	0	20	20	22	8	4	0	0	0	74
Pt Orange PD	0	25	21	22	10	3	2	1	3	87
DB Shores PD	0	20	12	14	0	3	2	0	0	51
S Daytona PD	0	8	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	18
Holly Hill PD	7	19	14	38	19	18	6	5	4	130
NSB PD	-	-	-	14	9	3	6	2	0	34
Deland PD	-	-	-	-	3	0	0	0	1	4
Sheriff's Office				101	26	12	5	4	11	159
Total	30	2561	329	636	377	112	65	44	69	4223

[Click here](#) for more details regarding First Step Shelter....



New Smyrna Bch Police Dept’s boat patrol began marine enforcement operations on the water full-time, enhancing safety and security.

Chief Eric Feldman said it’s to enhance public safety on city’s waters and expand dept’s presence with more boating activity in the area. Among other duties...the marine patrol unit will monitor boating activities to ensure compliance with safety regulations and prevent illegal activities.

It will be equipped to respond quickly to boating accidents, medical emergencies, and search and rescue operations.

All in all, it’ll aim to improve safety and security on New Smyrna Beach’s waterways

Last week, the New Smyrna Beach City Commission heard an action plan from Lassiter Transportation Group to address parking in the city core business district.



The report focused on two downtown areas of Canal St which has a deficit of 396 spaces and Flagler Ave which has a deficit of 556 spaces.

LTG is proposing 22 action items ranging from paid/metered parking and better signage to changing the schedule of the N Causeway Drawbridge and creating a shuttle system during special events from Residents and employees hope parking would stay free for them.

The report also pointed out that beach driving stretched approx a half-mile from Smyrna Dunes Park to 27th Ave which was able to accommodate 1,000 to 1500 cars daily.



It’s likely that the city commission will make decisions and get the work going on many of the action items within the next 30 to 60 days.

To read the full report, [click here](#).

Tax collectors also provide State services

- Only official DMV in Volusia
- Driver licenses/IDs
- Vehicle/vessel registrations/titles
- Concealed weapon licenses
- Disabled parking permits
- Hunting & fishing licenses
- Birth certificates

Did you know? Sheriff’s Office runs Volusia Family Resource Center at 3747 W ISB Daytona Beach (former United Way bldg). The program screens/ connects youthful offenders and their families with juvenile justice agencies and mental health resources. Partners include Dept of Juvenile Justice, Volusia County Schools, Halifax Health Behavioral Services, Children’s Home Society, and Hope Florida.



For more immediate and timely news, check out my Volusia Matters podcast.....it covers local political, governmental, business, economic development topics plus interviews with local business/community leaders as well as elected officials.... Listen online on your laptop, smart phone or in your car en route to work!

Episode 84...interview with Economist Sean Snaith plus local/state governmental news.

Click either to listen.....

<u>Podbean Podcast version</u>	or	<u>Apple Podcast version</u>
--	----	--



- *Cities/County finishing FY 2024-25 budget hearings*
- *After Fed Reserve cut Interest Rates .5%...Nov mtg?*
- *DeSantis wants Special Session to address condos*

Episode 83local/state governmental news.

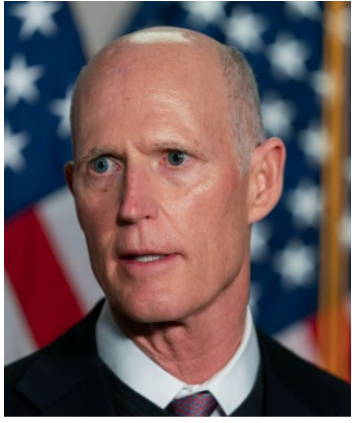
<u>Podbean Podcast version</u>	or	<u>Apple Podcast version</u>
--	----	--



- *Federal Reserve Bd cuts Interest Rates*
- *State Supreme Court hears case regarding Fla's Congressional District 5*
- *County Council rethinking monthly meeting times*

Episode 82....Interview with Senator Rick Scott and local/state governmental news

<u>Podbean Podcast version</u>	or	<u>Apple Podcast version</u>
--	----	--



- *Cities, County, School board holding budget hearings*
- *County's Economic Development Dept to Host Small Business Funding Readiness Workshop*
- *Oct 1, Volusia residents can drive beach/park in off-beach lots.....free*
- *Volusia Elected Officials Roundtable hears Community Health Update*
- *Important Election Dates*



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 Abdulhussein Turning Ordinary Moments into Extraordinary Results
- Alhadi Abdulhussein - The Big Short
- Amanda Thorpe Tattooist of Auschwitz Heather Morris
- Ammie Olson - The Atlas Paradox Olivie Blake
- Anne Ruby— From Wall St to White and Back Anthony Scaramucci
- Ben Johnson - Better Off Dead Jack Reacher Series
- Ben Sedrine Elon Musk.....Walter Isaacson
- Bill Partington Sr TrafficTom Vanderbilt.
- Billie Wheeler The Women Kristen Hannah
- Bob Apgar Democracy Awakening Heather Richardson
- Bob Williams Hillbilly Elegy JD Vance
- Bobbie Doyle - Heaven and Earth Grocery Store James McBride
- Judge Bryan Feigenbaum - It's Hard for Me to Live with MeRex Chapman
- Brandon Frey-12 Rules for LifeJordan Peterson
- Cathy Washington-Lead Guide or Get Out of the Way Frank Sennett
- Charlene Gagnier—How to Win Friends & Influence People Dale Carnegie
- Chris Via Warrior Diplomat Cong Mike Waltz
- Chuck Gaurra - If These Walls Could Talk
- Colby Allman The Richest Man in Babylon George Samuel Clayson
- Cong Cory Mills—Creature from Jekyll Island Edward Griffin
- Cynthia Slater—Untold Story of Harry Moore America's First Civil Rights Martyr Ben Green
- Dale Ketcham Black Tongue Thief Christopher Beuhlman
- Dan Francati - Killing the Witches Bill O'Reilly
- Darold Schonscheck Prodigal Daughter Jeff Archer
- David Batten-Georgia Bottoms Mark Childress
- Deborah Crock Forrester—Dorito Effect
- Didiayer Snyder - Don't Just Stand There Pray Something Ronald Dunn
- Don Burnett Most Dangerous Man in America, Making of Douglas MacArthur
- Doug Daniels After the Empire Emmanuel Todd
- Doug Kosarek Million Dollar Weekend Noah Kagan
- Duncan Demarsh Master of the Senate Robert Caro
- Elizabeth Albert—You're the Leader You've Been Waiting For.....Eric Klein
- Ernie Audino— Flashpoint Emerging Crisis in Europe
- Erika Benefield—Drive Through Napa Book
- Fred Guzman Debt of Honor Tom Clancy
- Fred Lowry Books of Matthew and Luke
- Georgia Turner Leaving God for God Phil Davis
- Holley Miranda Mother of God Paul Roslie
- Hardy Smith Ego Is The Enemy..... Ryan Holiday
- Hugh Grimes - Teaching Black History to White People...Leonard Moore
- Hyatt Brown - Elon Musk Walter Isaacson
- Jake Johansson Common Sense Thomas Paine
- Jami Gallegos—Zia Summer... Rudolfo Anaya
- Jayson Meyer Going Infinite Michael Lewis
- Jeff Brower Great Land Hustle Morton Paulson
- Jenny Nazek - Nation of Strangers Vance Packard
- Jesse Thompson - David and Goliath.. Malcolm Gladwell
- Jessica Lovatt— Wildflower...Drew Barrymore.
- Jim Cameron Forces of NatureClay Henderson
- Jim Tobin The Firm..... John Grisham
- JJ Royer Covenant of Water.....Abraham Verghese

- Joe Yarbrough - Big Sky...AB Guthrie
- John Booker - The National Parks Ken Burns
- John Danio Drums & Demons...Joel Selvin
- John Phillips - First 90 Days.....Michael Watkins
- Joni Hunt - Between Two Kingdoms Suleika Jaouad
- Joie Alexander-Cigar City Murders 1950 Glenn Storch
- Judge Matt Foxman - Start Stay Or Leave Trey Gowdy
- Judge Mike Orfinger-Calamity of Souls David Baldacci
- Kate Wallace - Build the Life You Want Arthur Brooks and Oprah Winfrey
- Kathy Smith-Words are Powerful Susie Yelvington
- Ken Hunt-Starbucks Experience Joseph Mitchell
- Kent Sharples -Empire of the Summer Moon
- Kevin Captain—Never Split the Difference....Chris Voss
- Leila Gosney—Hillbilly Elegy....JD Vance
- Linda Bradley -Seven Girls Gone Allison Brenna
- Linda Cuthbert - Enough Cassidy Hutchinson
- Lise Forte— Never Split the Difference Chris Voss
- Lois Paritsky Edmund Fitzgerald Legendary Shipwreck
- Lori Tolland The Last Lecture Randy Pausch
- Loretta Arthur - Destinations of a Lifetime
- Lynn Flanders 5 Dysfunctions of a Team
- Mark Bontrager - Outlive Peter Attia
- Marguerite Ardito— 15-Minute City.. Carlos Moreno
- Martin Tooley - Quantum Faith Ann Capps
- Mary Bennett - Making of Vince Carter Michelle Carter
- Mary Margaret Kelley -The 2% Way Myron Rolle
- Michael Burton—Demon of Unrest
- Michael Kahn - Exodus Leon Uris
- Michelle Carter Scott Making of Vince Carter
- Michael Fowler—How to Know a Person David Brooks
- Mike Pawelski Meditations Marcus Aurelius
- Mike Scudiero- Blossom: Cultivating More Joy/Success Nancy Lohman
- Mike Springer Outliers ...Malcolm Gladwell
- Nate Quartier—Endurance: Shackleton’s Incredible Voyage...Alfred Lansing
- Nick Conte Art of Practice
- Pat Northey - Audubon Birds of Florida
- Pierre Lewis Lead from Any SeatAndrei Anca
- Randy Hartman Who Moved My Cheese
- Renae Ann—You’re a Badass at Making Money Jen Sincero
- Richard Bryan-Eat Drink Be Happy Dr Walter Willett
- RJ Larizza - Elevation Stephan King
- Rob Merrell The Sun Also Rises Ernest Hemingway
- Robin King - Zen in The Art of Writing Ray Bradbury
- Ron Nowiski War at Sea Nathan Miller
- Roy Johnson Book of Romans
- Ryleigh Wogoman - The Blue Zones Dan Buettner
- Sandy Bishop Strong Towns Charles Marohn
- Stan Escudero 1177 Eric Cline
- Sue Barry - Lessons in Chemistry Bonnie Garmus
- Susan Persis—Shogun James Clavell
- Tammy Kozinski - Life We Bury Allen Eskens
- Ted Rover - I Am N Marharaj
- Teresa Rand Culture Shock Jim Clifton
- Terri Hinks - Good Bye Things Fumio Sasaki
- Tom Self - Living Athena
- Toni Hunt 360 Leader John Maxwell
- Traci Woodard - Walking with God . Tim Gray Jeff Cavins
- Valli Perrine Unwoke How to Defeat Cultural Marxism in America Ted Cruz
- Vic Baker - Government Gangsters Kash Patel
- Victoria Fahlberg Wizard of Earthsea Ursula Le Guin