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- Founded in 1986, 1000 Friends of Florida is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit membership organization.
- We work to save special places and build better communities.
- We educate, advocate and negotiate to protect Florida’s high quality of life.
- Our bipartisan board of directors includes advocates and experts from across the state.
- Visit [www.1000friendsofflorida.org/alerts/](http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org/alerts/) to sign up for email alerts!
- Please join us at [www.1000friendsofflorida.org/donate-now/](http://www.1000friendsofflorida.org/donate-now/)
- Follow 1000 Friends on [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com) and [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com)!
May 4, 1924 – April 13, 2012
Icon of comprehensive planning both in Florida and across the nation
One of the founders of 1000 Friends of Florida
First Secretary of the Florida Department of Community Affairs
His accomplishments recognized with the John M. DeGrove Eminent Scholar Chair in Growth Management and Development at Florida Atlantic University
To find out more, please visit: www.1000friendsofflorida.org/dr-degrove/
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Email [vyoung@1000fof.org](mailto:vyoung@1000fof.org) for more information
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Upcoming Dr. John M. DeGrove Webinars

We are now planning the Spring 2017 webinar series.
All webinars are noon to 1:30 unless otherwise noted.

- **Register Now!** Wednesday, February 15 -- Implementing Water 2070: Water Conservation Planning for Florida Communities
- Wednesday, March 22 – 2017 Florida Legislative Update
- April Topic Pending
- Wednesday, May 17 – 2017 Florida Legislative Wrap Up

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Lester Abberger

- Board Member Emeritus and past Chairman of 1000 Friends of Florida.
- Chairman of The Trust for Public Land (TPL) Florida Advisory Council, and serves on the TPL National Leadership Council.
- Chairs the Florida Conservation Campaign, and is a director and chair of the Finance Committee.
- Past Chair of Leadership Florida, The Seaside Institute, and the City of Tallahassee Urban Design Commission.
- A graduate of Davidson College, where he serves on the Board of Visitors.
- A Knight Fellow at the University of Miami School of Architecture.
Ryan Smart

- President of 1000 Friends of Florida
- Past staff coordinator of the Florida Conservation Coalition, which focuses on water policy, communications and advocacy
- Holds a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from the University of Florida
• Policy and Planning Director for 1000 Friends of Florida
• Teaches courses in land use law at University of Florida Levin College of Law and College of Design, Construction and Planning
• Holds Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law and Master of Science in Real Estate from University of Florida Hough Graduate School of Business
Session Overview

Lester Abberger
Board Member Emeritus & Past Chairman,
1000 Friends of Florida
Context and Issues

• 2016 Elections
• The New Legislature
• The Budget
• Major Issues
• Constitutional Revision Commission
Make Up of the 2017 Legislature

Ryan Smart
President, 1000 Friends of Florida
Senate

• Leadership
  • Joe Negron (R), President
  • Anitere Flores (R), President Pro Tempore
  • Wilton Simpson (R), Majority Leader
  • Oscar Braynon II (D), Minority Leader

• Composition
  • 40 members
  • 25 Republicans, 15 Democrats

Joe Negron
Appropriations

Jack Latvala (R), Chair
Anitere Flores, Vice Chair (R)

Aaron Bean (R)
Lizbeth Benacquisto (R)
Lauren Frances Book (D)
Randolph Bracy (D)
Rob Bradley (R)
Jeff Brandes (R)
Oscar Braynon II (D)
George B. Gainer (R)

Bill Galvano (R)
Audrey Gibson (D)
Denise Grimsley (R)
Bill Montford (D)
Bobby Powell (D)
David Simmons (R)
Wilton Simpson (R)
Kelli Stargel (R)
Environment and Natural Resources (Appropriations Subcommittee)

- Rob Bradley (R), Chair
- Lauren Frances Book (D), Vice Chair
- Oscar Braynon II (D)
- Dorothy L. Hukill (R)
- Travis Hutson (R)
- Debbie Mayfield (R)
- Linda Stewart (D)
Transportation, Tourism, and Economic Development (Appropriations Subcommittee)

• Jeff Brandes (R), Chair
• Bobby Powell (D), Vice Chair

• Frank Artiles (R)
• Lizbeth Benacquisto (R)
• George B. Gainer (R)
• Audrey Gibson (D)
• Kathleen Passidomo (R)
• Kevin J. Rader (D)
• Wilton Simpson (R)
• Perry E. Thurston, Jr. (D)
Community Affairs

- Tom Lee (R), Chair
- Jeff Clemens (D), Vice Chair
- Aaron Bean (R)
- Jeff Brandes (R)
- Daphne Campbell (D)
- Keith Perry (R)
- Jose Javier Rodriguez (D)
- David Simmons (R)
Lauren Frances Book (D), Chair
Rob Bradley (R), Vice Chair

Gary M. Farmer, Jr. (D)
Travis Hutson (R)
Jack Latvala (R)
David Simmons (R)
Linda Stewart (D)
House

• Leadership
  • Richard Corcoran (R), Speaker
  • Jeanette Nunez (R), Speaker Pro Tempore
  • Ray Rodrigues (R), Majority leader
  • Janet Cruz (D), Minority leader

• Composition
  • 120 members
  • 79 Republicans, 41 Democrats

Richard Corcoran
Appropriations

• Carlos Trujillo (R), Chair
• George R. Moraitis, Jr. (R), Vice Chair
• Jared Evan Moskowitz (D), Democratic Ranking Member
• 27 additional members

Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee

• Ben Albritton (R), Chair
• Charles Stone (R), Vice Chair
• Clovis Watson, Jr. (D), Democratic Ranking Member
Commerce

• Jose Felix Diaz (R), Chair
• Bryan Avila (R), Vice Chair
• Evan Jenne (D), Democratic Ranking Member
• 27 additional members

Agriculture & Property Rights Subcommittee
• Tom Goodson (R), Chair
• Elizabeth W. Porter (R), Vice Chair
• Katie A. Edwards (D), Democratic Ranking Member
Matt Caldwell (R), Chair
Charlie Stone (R), Vice Chair
Barbara Watson (D), Democratic Ranking Member
21 additional members

Natural Resources & Public Lands Subcommittee
Holly Raschein (R), Chair
Ben Albritton (R), Vice Chair
Kristin Diane Jacobs (D), Democratic Ranking Member

Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee
Brad Drake (R), Chair
Clay Ingram (R), Vice Chair
Barbara Watson (D), Democratic Ranking Member
Bills to Watch

Ryan Smart and Thomas Hawkins
SB 90 (Brandes): Renewable Energy Source Devices

• Implements Amendment 4 which voters approved on August 30, 2016 primary election
• Exempts renewable energy source devices from ad valorem and tangible personal property taxation
• If passed, installing renewable energy source device will not lead to a new or higher tax bill.
• Not limited to solar panels (passive solar water heaters, wind generators, etc. are included)
• Applies to all property types (e.g., commercial, industrial, residential)
SB 98(Farmer)/HB 35(Jenne): Well Stimulation

• Prohibits well stimulation (fracking) in Florida
  • Similar legislation filed in previous sessions never heard in committee.
  • Expectation that SB 98 will be considered by EPC Committee
  • No “fracking regulation” bills filed thus far for 2017 Session
SB 112 (Brandes): Flood Hazard Mitigation

• Authorizes up to $50 million from the Land Acquisition Trust Fund (formerly Amendment 1) annually to local governments to implement flood hazard risk reduction policies and projects:
  • Acquiring flood-prone properties for flood control, development of natural or green infrastructure, enhancing public beach access and creating public parks.
  • Providing technical and financial assistance to local gov. to implement projects consistent with the coastal element of comp. plan.
 Allows coastal communities with populations below 100,000 to create temporary pilot programs regulating or banning disposable plastic bags
• Program sunsets on June 30, 2020
• Regulation cannot include new taxes or fees
• Repeals Mark Wandall Traffic Safety Program, state law grant of authority for traffic enforcement by camera

• Related bill: SB 180, sponsored by Jose Javier Rodriguez
• Requires Governor to appoint new members to the ERC within 90 days of a vacancy.

• Requires a supermajority of 5 votes for rules pertaining to:
  • Air pollution & air quality standards
  • Water quality standards (surface, ground, drinking)
  • Consumptive Usage of Water
  • Hazardous substance release notification
  • Emission standards
SB 230 (Artiles): Nonnative Animals

• Pilot program to mitigate impact of nonnative animals
• Directs FWC to contract with hunting teams for the capture or destruction of nonnative species, especially tegu lizards in and around the Everglades
• FWC to submit report by 1/1/2020 on effectiveness
• Appropriates $300,000 from LATF (formerly Amendment 1)
• Earmarks LATF (previously Amendment 1) funds for restoration of St. Johns River and tributaries or Keystone Heights Lake Region
• Amends last year’s “Legacy Act” to include a $35 million annual appropriation to the St. Johns River Water Management District for projects to restore St. Johns River
• Current minimum allocations includes, annually, $200 million for Everglades, $50 million for springs, and $5 million for Lake Apopka
• Prohibits Department of Transportation from establishing tolled express lanes
• Requires existing tolls on existing tolled express lanes to be removed after debt secured by revenue is retired
• Does not apply to Florida Turnpike Enterprise or agencies created under Florida Expressway Authority Act
SB 308 (Artiles): Expressway Authorities

• Repeals Florida Expressway Authority Act which allows one or more counties to create an expressway authority
• Transfers assets and liability of existing expressway authorities formed under the act to the Florida Turnpike Enterprise
• Does not affect regional transportation authorities or expressway authorities created by statute including Tampa-Hillsborough County Expressway Authority, Central Florida Expressway Authority, Santa Rosa Bay Bridge Authority or Osceola County County Expressway Authority
Issues to Watch

Ryan Smart and Thomas Hawkins
• Senate President Joe Negron proposes purchasing 60,000 acres in the Everglades Agricultural Area, south of Lake Okeechobee, for the construction of a reservoir to hold water in order to reduce discharges into the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries
• Cost of $2.4 billion would be split between the state and federal gov.
• State portion proposed to come from bonding $100 million annually from LATF (Amendment 1) until it expires
• Supported by the Everglades Foundation
• Plan has met with significant resistance from EAA farmers and SFWMD
• No commitment to support from House of Rep. which is focused on budget cuts or Gov. Scott
• Concerns over disproportionate allocations of LATF funds between Everglades and other Florida environmental priorities
• No legislation filed as of 01/17/2017
• Proposal to be addressed in Senate Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee Meeting on 01/25/2017
• Expect legislation to be filed subsequently
2017 Water Legislation?

• Discussion of possible legislation to amend last year’s “water bill” which was signed into law by Governor Scott.

• 1000 Friends and partner conservation organizations working on draft language to address shortcomings of 2016 legislation

• Examples:
  • Monitoring usage of major consumptive permit holders
  • Advanced Best Management Practices
  • Prohibited activities within priority focus area of OFS
• Litigation ongoing between conservation groups and Legislature over use of LATF funds
• LATF estimated to receive $814 million in 2017-2018 fiscal year
  • $168 million for debt service on existing bonds
  • Approximately $646 million remaining
    • Currently, a minimum of $208 is pledged to Everglades, springs and Lake Apopka, cumulatively
    • An additional $85 million could be pledged for other uses based on filed bills
  • For past two years, “agency operations” and land management have received approximately $333 million per year combined
• If agency operations and land management are funded at the same levels as previous years from the LATF, there will be a shortfall of funding for other conservation priorities.
The whole purpose of (Amendment 1) was to reverse the drastic cuts in the Florida Forever program” – Governor Bob Graham

2017 – 2018 Land Acquisition Budget Requests:
- FDACS - $50 million for Rural and Family Lands
- DEP - $15 million for Florida Forever

1000 Friends supports full funding of Florida Forever

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>2015-2017 $ Million</th>
<th>% of Total LATF</th>
<th>% of Total LATF minus Debt Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Debt Service</td>
<td>366.8</td>
<td>22.3%</td>
<td>N/A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Existing Agency Ops.</td>
<td>384.5</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td>30.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Everglades</td>
<td>294.4</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Management</td>
<td>281.8</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Springs</td>
<td>88.6</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regulatory</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural and Family Lands</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beach Management</td>
<td>46.2</td>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Forever</td>
<td>30.4</td>
<td>1.8%</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Comm. Trust</td>
<td>10.4</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Historic Preservation</td>
<td>7.7</td>
<td>0.5%</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1645.6</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1000 Friends will advocate for:

• Increased state oversight of local government comprehensive planning
• Improved intergovernmental cooperation
• More equitable standing requirement and standard of review for challenges to local government comprehensive plans
• Oppose reorganization within DEO to further diminish community planning
Transportation Sales Surtax

- 1000 Friends of Florida supports making Charter County and Regional Transportation System Sales Surtax available to certain municipalities.
- Of Florida’s sixty-seven counties, thirty-one are eligible to levy the surtax.
- The surtax can fund transportation operations, as well as capital.
- Well suited to funding transit services.
- Counties with urban transportation needs but substantial suburban or rural populations face difficulty gaining voter approval for surtax.
- Allowing municipal levy would tailor tax levy to population served.
Citizen Advocacy

Ryan Smart, President
Thomas Hawkins, Policy & Planning Director
1000 Friends of Florida
Citizen Advocacy

• Outcome of the 2017 Legislative Session determined by citizen advocates.

• Currently more than 230 lobbyists registered on environmental issues in the House of Representatives.
  • 95% are lobbying for business interests or government agencies.
  • 5% lobbying on behalf of conservation organizations

• Letters, phone calls and meeting with your elected Representatives makes a difference!
Citizen Advocacy

• Become a more effective citizen advocate:
  • Advocacy is not a spectator sport
  • Contact your Senator and Rep. NOW to discuss important issues
  • Build relationships
  • Do your homework – Always Be Credible
  • Respect and utilize professional staff
  • All politics is local
Citizen Advocacy

• Helpful Resources:
  • 1000fof.org
  • Myfloridahouse.gov
  • Flsenate.gov
  • Florida Conservation Coalition Citizen Advocacy Program
    • Wearefcc.org
    • Contact Jane Atkinson: fccadvocacy@gmail.com
• Pick up latest edition of *America: The Owner’s Manual* by Senator Bob Graham and Chris Hand
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