

Updated data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's 2022 Post-Enumeration Survey shows that Florida was one of the most undercounted states during the 2020 Decennial Census. Florida's population in 2020 was undercounted by nearly 3.5% [according to PES data](#). Additionally, Florida has gained nearly 2 million new residents since 2019, many of whom are not accounted for by the Census Bureau's initial 2020 reports. All of these factors display how Florida is vastly underrepresented in Congress under the Census Bureau's current apportionment.

CEP CHAMBER NEWS
Beyond Networking



By Tom James
'A Bit Of A Dream'

Marjorie McGee
Director of
Student Life,
College of Central
Florida

Back in 2018, Marjorie McGee peeled back the coconut (if you will) on her fun times as part of the Jimmy Buffett-inspired Parrot Head lifestyle. True statement: No one group typifies the tropical headspace quite like Parrot Heads do! But we also learned about all the ways these colorful customers give back locally.

“We are community servants and protectors of the environment who like to party with a purpose,” Marjorie told us at the time, while highlighting a number of community cleanup projects and blood drives the Parrot Heads would spearhead. And that ethos still holds true today, as Marjorie shared.

“When we say 'party with a purpose', we mean it,” she says. “We have become very involved with the Walk to End Alzheimers in the past few years, raising funds as well as participating in typical Parrot Head fashion in the walk itself. Lots of crazy hats!”

In addition, the PH crew has participated in the 5K Run for the Springs and the club continues to do a road clean-ups on Southwest 60th Avenue (Airport Road) four times a year.

“We've also begun doing quarterly donations to local organizations,” Marjorie explains. “Back in September, we presented a check for \$1,000 to the FIDO program run through Marion County Animal Services. This is near and dear to my heart, as my husband Mike and I are the proud owners of Josey Wales, a FIDO-trained dog that we adopted in 2022.”

Lastly, the group has partnered with the Hawk's Nest, a local venue for house concerts. Parrot Heads from all over enjoy these concerts, which are hosted by the club's current president and his wife. This year, the club turns 29!

Apart from her Parrot Head fun, Marjorie also received a very prestigious honor this year. She was inducted into the FCSAA (Florida College System Activities Association) Hall of Fame, which is comprised of administrators, coaches, advisors, officials, students, and other nominees that have contributed a minimum of ten years to FCSAA or one of its member institutions. Marjorie made a positive impact upon the students of CF as an educator, mentor, and maternal figure in their lives.

“What is most significant about winning this is being nominated by my peers across the state,” says Marjorie, who was one of a very small group nominated out of the 28 state colleges in the system. “It was amazing that I was also presented this award in Ocala, allowing for Mike, several of my former students, and my college administration to be present for the induction. It still feels like a bit of a dream, that I am in a 'Hall of Fame' for doing something that I love so much.”

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Taste of Town

Continued from page 1

Health Center
819 NW 7th Street
Ocala, FL 34475

The Estella Byrd Whitman Community Health Center (EBWCHC) was founded in November 2009 by Carolyn Adams, Dr. Pamela Lewin, and the late Arthur Adams. The center was named in honor of Carolyn Adams' grandmother, Estella Byrd Whitman, and was established to fulfill a promise to create a medical home for the underserved community of Tucker Hill. It opened its doors at its current location in 2018.

Cracker Barrel Change

By TomL

I'm not against change, but why change something that's not broken? I like Cracker Barrel the way it is and I am going to experience the change and will report back if the changes are good for me! They have a good shrimp dinner / lunch not to expensive good to my taste buds and they are usually full at lunch time. I have shopped in the country store and bought Christmas gifts I could not find any where else. For instance one year I bought small hurricane oil lamps. When we have outages I have a number of oil lamp light. So we can walk about the house without falling. Always be ready. There were some great toys for the children. Clothes available also, mostly tourist stuff.

GOOD OR EVIL?

By TomL

What category you think you are?

In my opinion evil is those who create unrest by using the un-informed. There are some people out there who you can be told anything that is not true and they will believe it is! They will get fired up and do things they would not normally do. We need to inform the ill-informed people the truth. Not sure how to do that when they are living on the streets, or receiving a check for groceries but they must contribute. They actually take pictures of themselves rioting so they can prove they were there and can receive a check.

Evil is also the rich that take advantage of a tragedy. The Texas flood was a un-natural disaster and there are people trying to blame Trump for cutting down on weather employees.. Or blaming the weather bureau for not advising the public about the possibility of flood. They did tell the people but the ones that heard it did not understand the possibilities.

We have alerts come in on our cell phones, but most of what goes out is miles away so people have a tendency to turn the alert system off. One of those alerts going off could have saved many lives. We need to study that alert and make it more efficient, more important the cell phone owner

That is what is going on now. The current administration says you must work twenty hours a week to receive financial help. Once a person goes back to work or volunteers it is some much easier to get a regular job and work full time.

Back to difference between Good and Evil. Good is those who died trying to save a

child or those who are volunteers who have good intent in their heart trying to rescue or recovery.

I ask WHY DID THIS HAPPEN? These children had not sinned or understand what sin is but they were there to learn about God and he reached out and took them. Maybe it was so they would not be exposed the terrible things that are happening today. That part I don't understand the WHY. It only could have been evil that took the children. They went together. I am so sorry for those who died, but now God has them as his angels. Maybe they can help stop the killing in this world!

Please God! Stop the blaming of who did what? Stop the millionaires who are paying radicals to strike at our children and leaders. Stop the Wars around the world. Now the radicals are saying to the troubled and uninformed get shot to cause unrest. That is not an America I know. If you don't like or love our country GET OUT!

We will see them die and it could be one of those who were paid to push the boundaries. **BE A BELIEVER! FIGHT FOR GOOD OVER EVIL!**

Make your voice known!
tloury@att.net



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Tom Loury *Tom Loury Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders and current member, Co-Founder and past President of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber and current member. If you want to make contact with the newspaper / Tom Loury email toury@att.net*

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



I love the terms "Forward Momentum" "What's Next?" "Moving Forward" "Fast Forward" it is a mind set for all businesses and Social media. I think we need to keep in mind to help others

in our daily lives and they will help you back. I can't do every request but I will try to do as many as I can.

Putin won't be happy until he owns Ukraine. The countries around him are going to fight! Maybe he will get the idea, maybe he won't mean while more of his people and Ukraines people will die. They can win against Putin if they stick together unless China gets involved. Then I think we will get involved and the escalation is very dangerous. Remember China want's Russia's land so Russia better be careful.

Where is all this going to stop. The fighting by position's is making our country look like fools. Some of the things the Dem's in. My opinion they want to side with the criminals then let into this country. Dems grow up! Do what is good for your voter. The Democratic voters don't want to vote for a communist or a fool that let his state burn. The coast line is just a burnt mess and he is not helping the people who pay him. He is not a good Governor! The Dem's are trying to make illegals voters by Hook or by Crook! We will have to make sure people who are here illegally cannot vote. They do NOT have RIGHTS as per our constitution! They are criminals by invading our country.

The earthquake that created the tsunami that everyone was concerned about was not as bad as they it could have been for versus reasons. When the tsunami alert came out the military scrambled to secure their weapons systems. They also discussed

whether or not the pentagon should be more prepared for those kind of emergency?

Hurricane pounded the east coast. Beaches along the east coast have flooding.

To make a point about college degrees and no jobs available during Obama's term. Sound people graduated and had no career to apply for. When I worked at the Chronicle in Inverness Florida in the early days I had a man come in and he said he needed a job and he was over qualified for anything in the town of Inverness that was available. He was a computer programer, very smart. Hw said he needed to eat and pay rent. I gave him a job at a much less rate than he was use to but that was all I had. Later he would fill an I'm portent spot in the company.

Another example was on a very hot day there were roofers on the roof fixing a leak. A young man said in the back parking lot...I am a photographer and I need to get off this roof. I went into the editor and told him what happened and I had a good feeling about this young man. He was our photographer for many years.

They both did alright but they had to take a lesser job and apply themselves. So education is important. You can be

successful in a small town because they grow as you grow!

Education verses very little education! I think it depends on the person.

Example I recently heard a story about a young man that admiring a red Porsha and the owner told him if he worked hard he could own one also.

The young man worked for his dad and they were mobile butcher shop. When butchering swine many people did not want the belly portion, so he ask for it and started making Pork Rhine and sold it. He now has a multi million dollar business and owns several red Porsches.

Another example of young people making good without college degrees. This young man was watching a farmer disc under a pasture to plant crops. He ask the farmer if he could take some of the grass if he did not get in the way? Yes said the farmer, today he young man. Has a large sod business with stat contracts for coding along the roads.

The answer to them is never quit! Keep trying and some times the term "Go big or go home" works!

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for October

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, September 24th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, September 29th

Seniors Voice of Ocala/Ocala Downtown Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury

Phone: 352-804-1223 | Fax: 352-489-7208

Email: tloury@att.net

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FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Cammack, Pallone Introduce Bipartisan Bill Supporting Aquaculture and Seafood Producers

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and Congressman Frank Pallone (D-NJ-

06) introduced the *Supporting Equity for Aquaculture and Seafood (SEAS) Act*—bipartisan legislation which ensures aquaculture and seafood producers are eligible for USDA grants, scientific research opportunities, and agricultural development initiatives.

“America’s national security is closely tied to our food security. As aquaculture continues to advance with new technologies and techniques, it offers the promise of more affordable, sustainable, and safe seafood for American families. Florida’s aquaculture industry generates over \$165 million in annual sales, ranking among the top states nationwide,” said Congresswoman Cammack. “I’m proud to work alongside Rep. Pallone in strengthening and supporting USDA’s aquaculture initiatives.”

“Aquaculture has enormous potential to strengthen our food system, reduce our seafood trade deficit, and expand access to safe, sustainable American seafood,” said Congressman Pallone. “But for too long, USDA programs have overlooked coastal producers. The SEAS Act fixes that by putting seafood on equal footing with traditional agriculture and making smart investments to help this industry grow.”

Background:

Despite the growing importance of aquaculture in the U.S. food supply, many seafood producers have historically been excluded from USDA resources and programs that benefit traditional agriculture. The *SEAS Act* addresses this gap by:

- Ensuring aquaculture and seafood producers are eligible for key USDA programs, including conservation, research, and technical assistance initiatives.

- Directing the USDA to develop a strategy to integrate aquaculture more fully into its mission, including coordination across agencies.

- Promoting equity for coastal and inland aquaculture producers, including those producing fish, shellfish, and other aquatic organisms.

- Supporting research and development for innovative, sustainable practices in seafood production.

By aligning federal support for aquaculture with that of traditional agriculture, the *SEAS Act* helps meet rising demand for U.S.-grown seafood, bolsters food security, and strengthens coastal economies across the country.

Cammack Introduces Truth in Women’s Healthcare Act

Washington, D.C.—Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) introduced a House Resolution reaffirming the importance of accurate medical information and guidance for the public, lawmakers and emergency department professionals, treating pregnant women and their unborn children, particularly in the cases involving miscarriage and ectopic pregnancy.

“No woman facing a medical emergency like a miscarriage or ectopic pregnancy should be left in danger because of confusion or misinformation,” said Congresswoman Cammack. “This resolution is about reinforcing the importance of long established and clear guidance for doctors so that patients receive quality care and that the public is properly informed on what current law does—and does not—allow.”

Background:

Last May, Congresswoman Cammack experienced a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy—a medical emergency in which the embryo implants outside the uterus and cannot survive. Her case, like thousands of others faced by women across the country, required immediate intervention to save her life.

After courageously sharing her experience in the Wall Street Journal, the

Congresswoman became the target of vicious backlash. She, her unborn child, her family, and even her staff received an onslaught of death threats and harassment. This deeply personal and painful moment laid bare the consequences of today’s toxic political environment surrounding women’s healthcare.

More alarmingly, it revealed how reckless and dangerous the abortion lobby’s disinformation campaign has become—conflating emergency medical care for miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies with elective abortion in order to push a broader narrative. By weaponizing fear and misrepresenting facts, they are not only endangering the lives of patients but also silencing those who speak the truth. Not a single professional medical, health organization or state law regards treatment for miscarriages or ectopic pregnancies as abortion. Cammack’s experience underscores the urgent need for educating the general public, ensuring clarity in policy and civil discourse.

The Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, numerous pro-life and women’s advocacy organizations have also voiced their strong condemnation of the threats and harassment against the Congresswoman.

Congressional Pro-Life Caucus and Advocacy Groups Condemn Threats Against Rep. Cammack

Washington, D.C.— Washington, D.C.—The Co-Chairs of the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus—Representatives Kat Cammack (R-FL), Michelle Fischbach (R-MN), Andy Harris (R-MD), Bob Onder (R-MO), and Chris Smith (R-NJ)—released the following statement:

“The death threats directed at Congresswoman Kat Cammack, her unborn child, her family, and her staff are unacceptable. These threats followed the Wall Street Journal profile which detailed her personal experience with a life-threatening ectopic pregnancy—an experience that should spark compassion, not hatred. This response exposed just how reckless and dangerous the abortion lobby’s disinformation campaign has become. Let’s be clear: not a single major medical organization—including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

(ACOG), the Mayo Clinic, and the Cleveland Clinic—considers treatment for ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage to be elective abortion. These are life-threatening emergencies that require medical intervention.

It is intentionally deceptive to refuse to distinguish between elective procedures that terminate an unborn life and lifesaving care. Miscarriage is not elective. Treating a rupturing ectopic pregnancy is not a choice—it is a medical necessity. No woman should be denied life-saving care because a doctor or hospital fears legal or political consequences.

The Pro-Life Caucus is working alongside women’s health advocates, medical professionals, and bipartisan lawmakers to deliver clear, compassionate policy. Our goal is simple: protect life, defend truth, and ensure every woman gets the care she deserves.”

We are inspired and grateful that numerous pro-life and women’s advocacy organizations have also voiced their strong condemnation of these threats and stand in support of Congresswoman Cammack and the Pro-Life Caucus’ efforts to advance legislation that protects women’s healthcare, safeguards unborn lives, and upholds the truth.

“SBA Pro-Life America stands with Representative Kat Cammack and the House Pro-Life Caucus against anyone who intentionally confuses doctors about whether treatment for ectopic pregnancy or miscarriage is allowed under pro-life laws. Make no mistake -- every state protects women in a medical emergency such as ectopic pregnancy, and the federal Emergency Medical Treatment And Labor Act (EMTALA) ensures that pregnant women and their unborn children receive appropriate care in the emergency room,” said Marjorie Dannenfelser, President of SBA Pro-Life America. “We rejoice with Rep. Cammack as she anticipates the birth of her child, and we condemn all threats against her and her family. We are grateful to Representative Cammack for sharing her story and turning her bad experience into an opportunity to educate medical professionals and the public so that women and the babies get the best possible healthcare.”

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Early Dismissal Times:

Primary / Elementary Schools

Middle / High Schools

Half Days Dismissal Times:

Primary / Elementary Schools

Middle / High Schools

12:00 PM
1:00 PM

11:30 AM
12:30 PM

School Days	In-Service Days	Early Dismissal/Prof Dev	Half Days	Interim Reports/Conf.
Holidays-No School	Students Return	End of Grading Period	Testing Days	

Make-up Days Due to Emergency/Inclement Weather: October 3, October 6, January 5, May 29

****Note:220/240/245 Employees work Intersession Days**

FAIRTax



Many people lay claim to the belief that taxes need to be progressive, not regressive, since those who make less are generally considered less able to pay taxes. So is the FAIRtax actually a more progressive tax system than the current income tax system?

Let's take the example of a family of four who earns and spends \$58,000 a year with no savings and no purchases of any used items. After their \$9,729 prebate, they will pay a net \$3,611 in FAIRtax. That's a rate of 6.2%. That's less than they would pay in payroll taxes alone under the current system. The current payroll tax is 7.65% and is applied to every dollar earned. In addition, part of this family's income would be taxed

at 12% with the remainder falling into the 22% bracket.

The FAIRtax un-taxes basic necessities through the prebate and removes the payroll tax which is the most regressive element of our current system. This allows workers to keep their paycheck without any federal income tax while causing real wages to rise. When purchasing new items under the FAIRtax, workers will be using pre-taxed (not post-taxed) dollars.

Payroll and income taxes imposed on businesses are just another cost of doing business and they are passed along to the consumer in the price of their products and services. The FAIRtax removes these hidden taxes. In addition, employers won't need to "match" the 7.65% payroll tax of each employee reducing the cost of business all through the supply chain. Studies

indicate that, depending on the industry, costs of retail goods will drop from 10% to 25% with the FAIRtax.

The current tax system is a disaster for American companies producing goods for export and is a primary reason so many manufacturing jobs have gone overseas. Most of our foreign competitors operate in countries with a value added tax (VAT) which is added at every stage of a products assembly. When those competitors produce for export, their governments refund all the VAT that has accumulated along the

production chain. The result is that these products can be offered at a much lower price than US based products as our items still contain all the embedded costs of our income/payroll tax system. By removing those embedded costs, the FAIRtax puts American manufacturing back on an even playing field with our foreign competitors and helps our blue-collar factory workers.

For more information, please go to FAIRtax.org.

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OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

Join us at the Ocala Downtown Market (ODM) to purchase a diverse array of products from farmers, artisans, craftspeople, food trucks! A true destination location, ODM is set just blocks off the Ocala Downtown square, in a beautiful open-air Market Pavilion. Besides permanent roof cover the facility it also has large overhead fans, restrooms, a nearby ATM, and water fountains. The Market Pavilion is also available for rental.



Interested in becoming a vendor?
Visit www.ManageMyMarket.com

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VOLUNTEER WITH HABITAT**



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**HELP BUILD A HOME!
BUILD DAYS ARE EVERY TUES.
THURS. & SAT. FROM
7:30AM-12:30PM**

**TO VIEW OUR CURRENT
CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE, VISIT
HABITATOCALA.ORG**

**WE OFFER
COMMUNITY
SERVICE HOURS!**

RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY

**FOR MORE INFO, VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT HABITATOCALA.ORG**



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RETAIL TASKS
FLEXIBLE SHIFTS AVAILABLE
MON-SAT/8:30-4:30**



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THE YEAR INCLUDING THE
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL &
SOUTHEASTERN PRO RODEO**

**TYLER STARR
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
(352) 351-4663
TSTARR@HABITATOCALA.ORG**



Love is just a leash away!!

The HSMC is here for you and the animals who depend on us. We wanted to share that we will continue to be here to help unwanted pets during this pandemic while following all Marion County and Florida state guidelines.

As this situation is constantly changing, we ask that you continue to visit our Shelter using the safety guidelines in place.

How can you help?

Pet Food Bank: Help stock our Pet Food Bank with pet food and supplies for people who cannot afford them due to job loss or other reasons. You can also bring donations to our Shelter daily from 10-6. Masks required please! If you need help keeping your pet with you during this time, our Happy Paws food program is here for you.

Volunteer: A small number of volunteers have returned to help in various departments. We are accepting volunteer applications but do not yet know when we will schedule orientations for new volunteers. Please contact us for more information about volunteering. We are currently working on a digital orientation.

Opt to adopt: According to the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, there is no evidence that companion animals such as cats and dogs can spread the virus that causes COVID-19.

Donate: We know there is a lot of uncertainty right now but homeless and unwanted animals still need us. Donate to help the Humane Society of Marion County so we continue our lifesaving work and make them feel safe and loved.



Bilbie

Bilbie is a 14 weeks old male brought to the HSMC with her brother Wombat! We believe they could be Xolaitzcuinli, or Xolo, which is Mexican hairless dog breed.

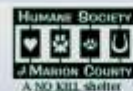


Fuchsia is a 15 week old paralyzed kitten full of love.



Ninja is paralyzed in his hind legs but enjoys runs with his wheels.

Your donations make it possible to provide medical care, food and shelter to animals in need. On behalf of all the animals, thank you for caring.



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FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL UTHMEIER



Attorney General James Uthmeier Joins Governor DeSantis to discuss the 2020 Census and Congressional Apportionment

LAKE WORTH, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier joined Governor DeSantis at Palm Beach State College to discuss the 2020 Census and Congressional Apportionment.

"Florida was robbed by the left's multi-year effort to rig the 2020 Census, and Floridians didn't get the representation they deserve in Congress," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "President Trump called for a new Census, and I'm ready to work with Governor DeSantis to bring the president solutions and get it done."

Attorney General James Uthmeier Sues Major Textbook Publishers for Overcharging Florida Schools

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier today announced that his office filed a lawsuit against McGraw Hill LLC and Savvas Learning Company LLC, accusing the companies of systematically overcharging Florida school districts for instructional materials in violation of state law and the Florida False Claims Act.

"Our lawsuit exposes a textbook case of corporate greed—companies charging Florida schools more than the law allows,

pocketing the difference, and sticking taxpayers with the bill," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "Florida will not be a playground for deceitful profiteers who think they can cheat our students and teachers. We will make sure they pay back every dime and face the full consequences under the law."

The complaint, filed in the Second Judicial Circuit Court, asserts that the defendants failed to comply with Florida's statutory pricing requirements for instructional materials adopted for statewide use. Under Florida law, publishers must give every Florida school district the best price offered anywhere in the nation, automatically extend any price cuts made available elsewhere, and provide free materials to Florida schools whenever they are provided free to others.

According to the State's claims, McGraw Hill and Savvas knowingly charged certain Florida school districts more than the lowest price they offered to other districts, and withheld cost reductions required by statute. The lawsuit contends that these violations resulted in substantial overpayments from Florida's school districts and, ultimately, from Florida taxpayers.

The State of Florida intervened in the lawsuit after an investigation initiated under the Florida False Claims Act, which allows whistleblowers, known as relators, to bring actions on behalf of the State against entities that knowingly submit false or fraudulent claims for payment. The complaint seeks treble damages and civil penalties to prevent

future violations.

Attorney General James Uthmeier Announces Arrest in Constitutional Amendment Petition Fraud Investigation

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General James Uthmeier today announced the arrest of Alexandria Mary Beatrice Tatem for Perjury by False Written Declaration, a third-degree felony under Florida law. The arrest follows a joint investigation led by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement's Office of Executive Investigations and the Elections Crime Unit.

"We will not tolerate fraud, let alone fraud that undermines the integrity of Florida's nation-leading election system or uses the names of deceased voters to change our state's constitution," said Attorney General James Uthmeier. "This arrest shows our commitment to upholding the law and protecting the sanctity of Florida's elections. My office will continue to lead the charge against any form of voter fraud in Florida."

According to the investigation, Tatem, a registered Paid Petition Circulator (PPC), submitted a petition in support of a constitutional amendment initiative titled Adult Personal Use of Marijuana (Amendment 25-01), sponsored by Smart & Safe Florida. The petition falsely claimed to have been signed by Amy Akins, a Florida voter who passed away on January 10, 2024—more than a year before the date the petition was allegedly signed. The petition was submitted to the Hillsborough County Supervisor of Elections.

Per State law, PPCs must swear under

penalty of perjury that each petition they submit was signed in their presence by the named voter. Tatem signed the affidavit on the petition affirming it was completed in her presence. During a sworn interview conducted by FDLE on July 1, 2025, in Killeen, Texas, Tatem confirmed that she signed the affidavit and submitted the petition, even after being shown that the voter listed had died more than a year prior.

The investigation revealed that Tatem had been registered as a PPC with the Florida Department of State's Division of Elections since 2019. Tatem collected and submitted petitions in the Tampa Bay and Sarasota regions. Election officials identified the forged petition due to the voter's death before the date of the alleged signature.

The Office of Statewide Prosecution is charging Tatem with one count of Perjury by False Written Declaration, a third-degree felony, punishable by up to five years in prison.

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GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Results Of First-Of-Its-Kind Immigration Enforcement Operation

PANAMA CITY, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis announced the results of a first-of-its kind law enforcement operation targeting illegal immigration—Panhandle Immigration Enforcement Operation. This operation led by the Florida Highway Patrol in coordination with federal partners at ICE, Homeland Security Investigations, U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is part of a comprehensive, multi-agency immigration enforcement detail targeting illegal aliens with criminal records, fugitives, and repeat immigration violators.

“This week, a first-of-its-kind immigration enforcement operation started in Florida’s Panhandle, led by the Florida Highway Patrol in coordination with federal partners,” said Governor Ron DeSantis. “The Panhandle Immigration Enforcement Operation has apprehended hundreds of illegal aliens—including fugitives with criminal records and repeat unlawful border crossers. Florida continues to deliver on the mandate to secure our interior and protect our citizens from the threat of illegal immigration.”

Panhandle Immigration Enforcement Operation early highlights include:

- 45 FHP troopers and 20 federal personnel carrying out enforcement across Escambia, Santa Rosa, Walton, Okaloosa, Holmes, Bay, Washington, and Jackson counties.
- Nearly 200 illegal aliens apprehended.
- 37 illegal aliens arrested who

previously received final orders of removal and failed to appear in court.

• Eight illegal aliens apprehended who had been deported and illegally reentered the United States—one of which had been deported four times. These individuals will be federally charged.

“The FHP Immigration Enforcement Unit has demonstrated unprecedented success in apprehending illegal aliens,” said Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Executive Director Dave Kerner. “Working hand in hand with our federal partners, we are creating an enforcement model that can truly impact the illegal immigration crisis.”

Florida state troopers encountered illegal aliens who have fled, resisted arrest, and physically assaulted officers—underscoring the heightened danger posed by criminal illegal aliens. Florida continues to face escalating attempts by criminal illegal aliens to infiltrate our communities, posing a direct and growing threat to the safety of our citizens and visitors.

This operation sends a clear and uncompromising message: Florida will not tolerate lawlessness within its borders. We will continue to deploy every available resource to identify, apprehend, and remove those who seek to exploit our state and endanger our people.

Governor DeSantis also announced that Florida has launched weekly deportation flights out of Tallahassee, in partnership with ICE and the U.S. Coast Guard. Last week, the first deportation flight departed Tallahassee with 20 illegal aliens on board.

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Efforts To Correct Census Undercount

LAKE WORTH, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis announced his support for an update to the 2020 Decennial Census, which could potentially yield additional congressional seats for Florida. Governor DeSantis was joined by Attorney General Uthmeier, who has been a leading voice in

the fight for a corrected census and proper reapportionment to ensure that Floridians have the representation they deserve in Congress.

“Even the Biden administration acknowledged that Florida got shortchanged in the reapportionment stemming from the last census,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “My office is working with Attorney General Uthmeier in our mission to secure Floridians’ due representation in Congress and to fix mistakes that have been identified in the aftermath of the 2020 Census.

“Florida was robbed by the left’s multi-year effort to rig the 2020 Census, and Floridians didn’t get the representation they deserve in Congress,” said **Attorney General James Uthmeier**. “President Trump called for a new census, and I’m ready to work with Governor DeSantis to bring solutions to the president and get it done.”

Updated data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2022 Post-Enumeration Survey shows that Florida was one of the most undercounted states during the 2020 Decennial Census. Florida’s population in 2020 was undercounted by nearly 3.5% [according to PES data](#). Additionally, Florida has gained nearly 2 million new residents since 2019, many of whom are not accounted for by the Census Bureau’s initial 2020 reports. All of these factors display how Florida is vastly underrepresented in Congress under the Census Bureau’s current apportionment.

Florida Breaks Its Own Record Again: 34.4 Million Visitors In Second Quarter Of 2025

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida has achieved another historic milestone in tourism, welcoming a record-breaking 34.4 million travelers in the second quarter of 2025. This all-time high for second-quarter visitation further cements Florida’s reputation as the nation’s premier travel destination. These results are proof of Florida’s enduring draw and the state’s

commitment to delivering outstanding experiences for visitors from across the country and around the world.

“Florida continues to lead the way as the nation’s top travel destination,” said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. “People from all over the world come to the Free State of Florida to take advantage of our top-tier attractions, great weather, and our commitment to public safety. Today’s record numbers are a testament to the work we’ve done to make Florida the most appealing state to visit in the nation.”

Domestic travelers accounted for 91.5% of total visitation, with 31.5 million Americans visiting the state. Overseas visitation rose by 11.4% over the year to reach 2.3 million, with an additional 640,000 Canadian visitors visiting Florida.

“Florida’s tourism industry is strong thanks to strong state leadership under Governor DeSantis,” said **Bryan Griffin, President and CEO of VISIT FLORIDA**. “We are committed to keeping Florida the destination of choice for visitors from across the country and around the world as we promote our world-class amenities, unique natural and historical sites, and family-oriented opportunities.”

Key highlights from VISIT FLORIDA’s Quarter 2 visitation estimates include:

- An estimated 34.4 million travelers visited Florida in Q2 2025.
- Domestic visitors made up 91.5% of the total, overseas visitors 6.7%, and Canadian visitors 1.9%.
- Overseas visitation increased by 11.4% compared to Q2 2024.
- The domestic air/non-air ratio was 37.7% / 62.3%.
- Florida’s 19 commercial airports handled 28.6 million total enplanements. Punta Gorda (+22.5%) and St. Petersburg-Clearwater (+14.0%) saw the fastest growth.
- Room demand at Florida hotels rose by 1.2%.

Florida visitation’s steady growth shows that visitors from all over the world know that a safe and enjoyable experience can be found in the Free State of Florida.

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