



#YourVoteYourVoice

Our slogan for election year 2020, #YourVoteYourVoice, is meant to inspire voting as a way to personally influence the outcome of elections and your choice of leadership. While I wholeheartedly endorse the phrase, "If you don't vote, you can't complain," civic duty is more than that. Election Day is not the only time you can express yourself and influence outcomes. The beginning of legislation for the upcoming 2020 session has already begun as committees in both the Florida Senate and the Florida House of Representatives are meeting to lay the groundwork for the upcoming session. Your opportunity to get involved in the process is possible by reviewing the proposed legislation and contacting your elected officials with your personal opinions about not only the new laws, but ideas you have as well!

The role of committees is at the heart of the legislative process, and already there are over 230 bills in the Senate being considered with many more to come. Committees do the fact-finding and evaluating of proposed legislation and determine how issues will impact Floridians. The work of committees influences the preliminary drafting of legislation and helps determine which bills are heard by the entire body in the Senate and House. You can read a review of the upcoming bills in the Florida Senate <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bills/2020> & <https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/Sections/Bills/bills> for bills under consideration in the Florida House of Representatives. If there is something that directly impacts you and you feel passionate about it, I encourage you to become part of the process by contacting your legislators. E-mail addresses, office locations and phone numbers are available in our Guide to Government Officials at <https://www.pascovotes.com/Voters/Government-Officials>.

Making your voice heard is a fundamental right as established through the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Imagine the impact on our county, state and country if ALL voters took an active role in exercising this aspect of their civil right. In the words of Thomas Jefferson, the power of the government was intended to be derived from the consent of the governed. These months leading up to the 2020 legislative session which begins January 14, 2020, are your opportunity to let your voice be heard and to give your consent on how you want to be governed. Your input is not only personally empowering, it's the way it's intended to be!

