



THE REPUBLICAN LIBERTY CAUCUS OF FLORIDA

2023 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The Republican Liberty Caucus is a national grassroots organization working to advance the principles of individual rights, limited government, and free markets.

For thirty years the Republican Liberty Caucus has been the strongest, most consistent voice for these principles within the Republican Party. Many Republicans talk about these principles, but the RLC has taken the lead in promoting Liberty candidates and advocating for Liberty legislation. We believe that less government means more liberty and we work through state and local chapters, and with our member activists all over the country to oppose government excess and demand accountability to the American people and the Constitution.

These principles have been the determining factor in the preparation of this legislative package. We call upon the members of the Florida Legislature to abide by these same principles as they decide the future of the great State of Florida and impact the lives of millions of Floridians.

If you have any questions or there is additional information we can provide, we hope you won't hesitate to contact us.

In Liberty!

Bob White

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2023 Legislative Agenda

For additional information and resources please visit our legislative action center at www.rlcfl.org.

Firearms

HB 543 by Rep. Brannan / **SB 150** by Sen. Collins. **Concealed Carry of Weapons and Firearms Without a License.** This bill would eliminate the requirement to have a concealed weapons permit to carry a concealed firearm. Legislators are calling this bill “Constitutional Carry”. This is a permit less concealed carry bill. That’s all it is. It is NOT a Constitutional Carry bill. It does not allow open carry and it does not address the long-standing prohibition against carrying on a college or university campus. It does not address the Unconstitutional Red Flag statute passed as part of the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas bill. Nor does it reinstate the Constitutional right of 18-, 19- and 20-year-old adult Floridians to be able to purchase a firearm from a licensed dealer, which was also abridged by the passage of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas bill in 2018.

This bill falls far short of a true “Constitutional Carry” bill which is very disappointing, especially with a supermajority of Republicans in both chambers as well as a popular Republican Governor. If we accept this watered-down bill now, we will likely never see a true “Constitutional Carry” law.

RLCFL OPPOSES

HB 1543 by Rep. Payne and Rep. Sirois. **Minimum Age for Firearm Purchase or Transfer.**

This bill will lower the minimum age from 21 to 18 to buy rifles and other “long” guns, which would scrap a law passed after the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HB 221 by Rep. Snyder / **SB 214** by Sen. Burgess. **Sales of Firearms and Ammunition.**

These bills would stop the collection of financial data on firearm and ammo purchases and impose fines on credit card companies that collect data on those purchases. Credit card companies like Visa, Mastercard, and American Express say they plan on categorizing gun shop sales, which were considered general merchandise. Individual codes used to identify firearm purchases opens a backdoor to an unofficial gun registry.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

FIRST AMENDMENT

SB 1316 by Sen. Brodeur **Information Dissemination**. This bill would require bloggers that write about the Governor, Cabinet members and the legislature to register with the state. Bloggers must file monthly reports that list what posts mention those officials, along with disclosing any individual who paid for the posts and the amount paid. This bill is a clear violation of the 1st Amendment. The idea that bloggers criticizing a politician should register with the government sounds more like something you would see in China.

RLCFL OPPOSES

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HB 1187 by Rep. Beltran / **SB 1216** by Sen. Ingoglia. **Campaign Finance Reform**. These bills would prohibit transfers of money between Political Committees (PC) and would bring a measure of transparency to campaign financing. Election law in Florida allows candidates and elected officials to open and operate a “political committee”. These political committees can accept unlimited contributions and spend unlimited amounts of money. This has made the traditional candidate campaign account with limits on contributions meaningless. Political Committees can make contributions to each other without having to divulge where the money came from originally. This amounts to the “legal laundering of campaign cash in Florida politics.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

ELECTIONS

HJR 31 by Rep. Roach / **SJR 94** by Sen. Gruters. **Partisan Elections for Members of District School Boards**. These bills would require that elections for school board members be partisan, currently, the Florida constitution requires school board elections to be non-partisan. If passed by the Florida Legislature, it would be placed on the next general election ballot as a proposed state constitutional amendment and would require sixty percent of voters to pass.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HB 477 by Rep. Rizo. **Term Limits for District School Board Members**. Lawmakers last year passed a measure that included 12-year term limits for school board members. The RLCFL supports 8-year term limits for all elected offices in Florida and we opposed the 12-year Term Limits language last session. HB 477 corrects the legislature’s mistake last session and would change it to 8-year term limits for members of School Boards.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

SB 1110 by Sen. Ingoglia. **Term Limits.** Part of this bill mirrors HB 477 by revising school board term limits from 12 years to 8 years. SB 1110 also creates 8-year term limits for all county commissioners in Florida.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HJR 131 by Rep. Rudman / **SJR 1066** by Sen. Collins. **Recall of County Officers and Commissioners.** These bills propose an amendment to Florida's Constitution which would provide that any member of a governing body of a non-charter county may be removed from office by the voters of the non-charter county. Currently, only twenty charter counties in Florida have the ability to recall an elected county official. If passed by the Florida Legislature, it would be placed on the next general election ballot as a proposed state constitutional amendment and would require sixty percent of voters to pass.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

EDUCATION

HB 1 by Rep. Tuck / **SB 202** by Sen. Simon. **School Choice.** This bill would expand the Florida Family Empowerment Scholarship so that any student eligible to enroll in a public school could be in line for a voucher to attend a private school.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HB 1463 by Rep. Beltran/**SB 1620** by Sen. Grall. **Childhood Mental Health, Safety, and Welfare.** This bill creates age verification measures for commercial entities with more than 33.3% of content meeting the definition of harmful to minors and outlines enforcement measures for those who do not follow proper age verification measures. Additionally, it expands the definition of harmful to minors and removes the Miller Test requirements (s. 847.012). This bill aims to include technology addiction and pornography addiction to child and adolescent mental health assessment services and as required instructions for those seeking certification in the mental health field. Additionally, these bills require a warning label on all digital devices sold in Florida to warn of potential harms, such as addiction and brain damage.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

TAXES AND BUDGET

HB 5 by Rep. Esposito. Economic Programs. This bill eliminates Enterprise Florida, the public-private partnership with the state supposedly for economic development. The taxpayer funded organization has a poor record for economic development, instead is a pay-to-play scheme for winning favorable treatment and its repeated practice of picking winners and losers in the marketplace.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HJR 469 by Rep. Fernandez-Barquin/SJR 122 by Sen. Avila. Revised Limitation on Increases of Homestead Property Tax Assessments. These bills would reduce the limitation on annual increases of homestead property tax assessments from 3% to 2%. In 1994, the State of Florida established a 3% Save Our Homes (SOH) Cap assessment limit on all residential properties that receive a homestead exemption. The 3% SOH Cap limits any increase to the assessed value of a homestead exempt property for tax purposes to a maximum of 3% each year. SB 120 would reduce the assessment limit to a maximum of 2% each year. SJR 122 and HJR 469 are constitutional amendments and would require the approval of the Florida Legislature and the voters of Florida.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HB 251 by Rep. Trabulsy / SB 476 by Sen. Gruters. Florida First Production Partnership Program. This bill would create the Film, Television, and Digital Media Targeted Rebate Program and would offer film, TV, and digital media productions a tax rebate by requiring that certain benchmarks are met before tax rebates are awarded. The problem is this is still a form of corporate welfare, with the government picking winners and losers, where certain industries get to pay less in taxes while other industries are forced to carry a higher tax burden.

RLCFL OPPOSES

GOVERNMENT REGULATION

HB 3 by Rep. Rommel/ SB 302 by Sen. Grall. Government and Corporate Activism. This bill is comprehensive legislation to protect Floridians from the woke environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) movement that continues to proliferate throughout the financial sector. ESG is a direct threat to the American economy and individual economic freedom. This attempt by the corporate elite to discriminate against those who do not follow a particular ideological agenda will be outlawed in Florida with the passage of this bill.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HB 1423 by Rep. Fine/ **SB 1438** by Sen. Yarborough. **Protection of Children.** These bills direct the Department of Business and Professional Regulation to fine, suspend, or revoke the license of any public lodging establishment or public food service establishment that admits children to adult live performance, including drag shows.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

HB 1445 by Rep. Black/ **SB 256** by Sen. Ingoglia. **Employee Organizations Representing Public Employees.** These bills would prevent public-employee union members from having dues deducted from their paychecks. Members would have to separately pay dues. Under these bills membership in a labor union will not be required as a condition of employment, and union membership and payment of union dues and assessments are voluntary.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

IMMIGRATION

HB 1617 by Rep. Michael/ **SB 1718** by Sen. Ingoglia. **Unlawful Immigration.** These bills require private employers to use the E-Verify system and removes provision authorizing unauthorized immigrants to obtain a license to practice law.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

ABORTION

HB 7 by Rep. Persons-Mulicka/**SB 300** by Sen. Grall. **Pregnancy and Parenting Support.** These bills would prohibit abortions after six weeks of pregnancy and includes exceptions for rape or incest up to 15 weeks of pregnancy. To qualify, a person must have a copy of a restraining order, police report, medical record, or other court order or documentation proving the pregnancy was a result of rape or incest. The legislation would also bar the use of state funds to help a pregnant person leave the state to obtain an abortion.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

HB 1487 by Rep. Rudman/**SB 1618** by Sen. Yarborough. **Public Health Emergency Actions.** Current Florida law allows the state Health Officer to order an individual to be examined, tested, vaccinated, treated, isolated, or quarantined during public health emergencies. HB 1487 prohibits mandated vaccinations and allows an individual to contest being examined, tested, vaccinated, treated, isolated, or quarantined during public health emergencies. SB 1618 is similar, but still allows for an individual to be placed in isolation or quarantine.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

TORT REFORM

HB 837 by Rep. Gregory **SB 236** by Sen. Hutson. **Civil Remedies.** This bill would make major changes to Florida's litigation environment, such as repealing Florida's one-way attorney fee provisions for insurance cases, prohibiting contingency fee multipliers for an attorney fee award in most circumstances, providing standard guidelines to help juries accurately calculate medical damages, and modifying the state's "bad faith" framework.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HB 593 by Rep. Roach / **SB 376** by Sen. Burgess. **Automatic Sealing of Criminal History Records.** These bills would amend the existing law to align state and local policy by ensuring that records sealed at the state are sealed at the county. Law enforcement, however, will still be able to access those records. An individual can be charged with a crime, but either the charges are dropped, or the individual is found not guilty. According to Fla.Stat.943.0595(a) "The department shall automatically seal a criminal history record that does not result from an indictment, information, or other charging document for a forcible felony. These bills would require local courts to also seal criminal history records for certain circumstances in Fla.Stat.943.0595(a). Old records can be an obstacle to employment and housing for those who were never convicted of a crime, undermining the stability that accompanies economic security. Record sealing would allow people to keep stable jobs, maintain economic security, and to continue contributing to the local economy.

RLCFL SUPPORTS

Questions or concerns can be directed to RLC Florida Chairman Bob White at

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