



LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD 2023



The 2023 legislative session will have serious consequences for Florida's economy, freedom, and environment for years to come. That's why, this year, we give the legislature a failing grade. However, it's undeniable that this session was dominated by one man: **Ron DeSantis**. As a result, the legislature's failure is also the Governor's failure. **Here's what happened.**



Inaction on the environmental crises we face is costly to our people, our economy, and our planet. Limiting the freedoms and financial stability of taxpayers to take action on the environment worsens that cost. Attacks on our freedom like SB 170, a bill designed to stifle local freedom to address local problems, and HB 3, an attack on the freedom to make responsible investing decisions, will promote irresponsible business practices and punish the small businesses that play fair. These efforts contradict the Governor's own "resiliency" plan, lock local governments out of a multi-trillion dollar market that could be used for resiliency projects, and cost taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The Governor's preemptions will limit the types of projects that your community could enact.

On top of this, every single one of these attacks is a blow to Florida's economy. By discouraging responsible investment practices, Ron DeSantis is injecting a great deal of uncertainty into Florida's financial sector and into the retirement funds of firefighters, law enforcement, and teachers. With these attacks on the freedom of local governments, Ron DeSantis is leaving our communities less safe and less clean in a state dependent on tourism, jeopardizing a \$102 billion industry that creates over one and a half million jobs. Without robust action to prevent the backroom fertilizer deal, our coasts will continue to be vulnerable to toxic algae blooms, threatening our health and the millions of jobs reliant on a healthy coastline.

Governor DeSantis has failed to keep Florida free, healthy, and thriving. This legislative session only furthers that failure. He has chosen to serve his own ambitions with political stunts rather than actually governing, and is quickly finding out that his political theater fails on the national stage. Prioritizing special interests and political ambitions over the wellbeing of Floridians only hurts us. America is watching.



THE SUPERMAJORITY

We pride ourselves on being a non-partisan organization; however, we'd be remiss if we didn't acknowledge that the supermajority in the legislature this year actively worked against the wellbeing of our people and environment. Among that supermajority, we have freshmen like Sen. Corey Simon and Rep. Fabián Basabe, who helped attack the liberty to invest responsibly and backed backroom fertilizer deals that threaten our way of life.

SENATE PRESIDENT KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO



After portraying herself as a leader and champion for environmental causes, it seems that Sen. Passidomo has let that all go for professional and personal ambitions. This is especially apparent in her approval of a budget line that would help facilitate a preemption to local fertilizer ordinances shown to lead to algal blooms and Red Tide, which has affected most of her district in the past.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE PAUL RENNER



Of course, we can't speak of the ills of the supermajority without mentioning one of the chief architects: The speaker of the House. Under his direction we saw some of the worst betrayals of Florida's freedom, economy, and environment. Both HB 3 and the backroom fertilizer deal came from the House, under his watch.



HEROES SCORECARD 2023



SIERRA CLUB
FLORIDA CHAPTER

REPRESENTATIVE ANNA ESKAMANI

Representative Eskamani not only shares our vision for what Florida needs, she has also managed to deliver for Florida in the face of tough opposition. She has worked tirelessly to promote solutions that would ensure a more free, fair, and sustainable Florida, from introducing bills to transition the state to 100% clean and renewable energy, to holding other representatives accountable.

Grade:

A+

REPRESENTATIVE YVONNE HINSON

Representative Hinson was a powerful champion for local freedom and a leader in the fight against DeSantis' takeover of the Gainesville Regional Utility (GRU). "Rep. Hinson steadfastly remains a champion for the people of Gainesville. She stood up to members of the Florida Legislature who were intent on seizing control of GRU against the will of the voters."
-Sarah Younger, Chair, Sierra Club Suwannee-St. John's Group.

Grade:

A+

SENATE MINORITY LEADER LAUREN BOOK

Leader Book continues to effectively lead her caucus through difficult circumstances. She demonstrated her commitment to ensuring a sustainable and prosperous future for Florida's children and families by delivering one of the best environmental performances of her caucus in recent memory. We look forward to her continued leadership in the coming session, and Florida will be all the better for it.

Grade:

A

HOUSE MINORITY LEADER FENTRICE DRISKELL

This was Representative Driskell's first legislative session as House Minority Leader, and she excelled in every way. She has proven to be a skilled and effective leader for her caucus and oversaw one of its best environmental records in recent memory, with 31 members scoring an "A" or higher. We look forward to her continued leadership in the coming session, and Florida will continue to benefit from her service.

Grade:

A