

ACTION ALERT



Your Action is Needed Now:

Two high priority bills the League opposes are headed to the Senate floor on Wednesday (4/14/21) at 3:00 p.m. (ET)

Take Action Now!

Protect Dissent & Protest -- Oppose HB 1

HB 1 is the proposed legislation by Governor DeSantis that we've written to you about throughout this legislative session. The bill, which has already passed in the House, is now slated to be heard on the Senate floor. **This is the last chance to stop the bill before it reaches the Governor's desk.** The bill will:

- Create new, heightened criminal charges for individuals who attend protests that turn violent, even if the individuals themselves were not engaged in violence;
- Embolden individuals who would violently harm peaceful protestors by protecting them from civil liability even if they injure or kill someone;
- Overrule nonpartisan local budgets and community budgeting efforts that reduce law enforcement budgets to invest public dollars in other public safety programs;
- Waive sovereign immunity for municipalities that place limits on the types of tactics law enforcement may use against protestors; and
- Make it a felony to damage or destroy Confederate monuments.

The League of Women Voters of Florida strongly believes that this piece of legislation politicizes the right to protest and disregards the protections provided by the First Amendment. Defeating this piece of legislation is one of the League's highest priorities this legislative session.

Protect Direct Democracy -- Oppose SB 1890

SB 1890 is a direct attack on direct democracy. The legislature constantly moves the goal posts for citizen led ballot initiatives. The legislature has made this process extraordinarily expensive and now, they want to cap contributions only to amendments proposed by initiative.

SB 1890 could impose a \$3,000 cap on campaign contributions to political committees sponsoring proposed constitutional amendments. The cap would be lifted after the secretary of state certifies that the committees have received a requisite number of petition signatures to put proposed amendments on the ballot. Unfortunately, the petition-gathering process is expensive, and the proposal comes

after wealthy people spent millions of dollars in recent years to support proposed constitutional amendments that passed despite opposition from state leaders and influential groups such as the Florida Chamber of Commerce.

The League of Women Voters of Florida believes there's simply no way that anybody can raise the types of funds necessary to mount a multimillion-dollar signature-gathering campaign so this would essentially kill citizen initiatives.