



Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

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July/August 2023

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Membership Meeting

Monday, August 28, 2023 at 12pm

Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.

Snacks Available

Guest Speaker:

Renee Flowers

Pinellas County Commissioner for District 7



Rene Flowers is the Pinellas County Commissioner for District 7. She is a native of St Pete and a lifelong Democrat. She has spoken to our group many times, as she is one of the most knowledgeable and capable elected officials in Pinellas County.

Prior to her service on the County Commission, Rene served on the Pinellas County School Board from 2012-20. Other positions she's held include St Pete City Council, TBARTA Board of Directors, FL League of Cities officer, and FL

Association of Counties officer. Active also in many club civic associations, Rene is a Steward of the Greater Zion AME Church.

Her education includes a Master's degree in Public Administration. She is currently a doctoral candidate. Rene is the mother of three and grandmother of even more!

We are always thrilled to welcome this amazing woman to our club!



Annual Fun Day

Monday, July 24, 2023

Start at 10am

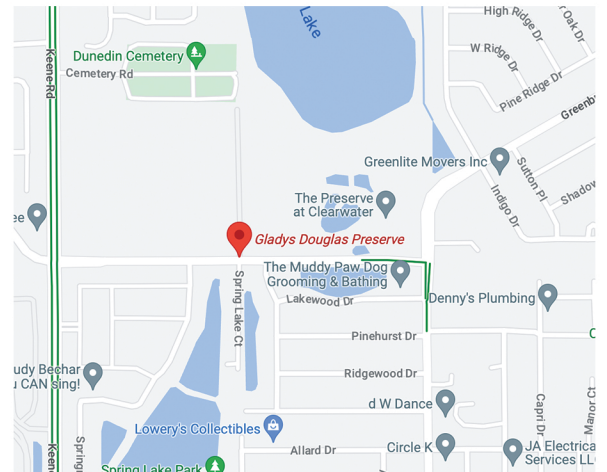
Gladys E. Douglas Preserve
1900 Virginia Avenue
Dunedin, FL 34698
(Click Here to Visit Site)

Walk Around the Preserve

Dunedin council member, Jeff Gow, will lead the group on a tour.

Parking

A temporary parking lot has been established and is located on the left-hand side as you enter the preserve at the main entrance.



Meet for a Delightful Luncheon at the
Lucky Lobster
941 Huntley Ave in Dunedin

Parking

Is free in the lot on the west edge of the restaurant or in the parking structure off Main Street. Each participant is responsible for her/his own lunch cost and tip.

Sign Up!

To sign up for the tour, luncheon or both, contact Ruthann Richwine:
ruthannrichwine@gmail.com, 727-734-7591

July/August 2023



It's the hottest July ever, so I'm concerned that you're all able to keep yourselves comfortable. I know the entire southern US needs a break from the heat dome. To any who routinely work outdoors, I send my regards and a dash through the sprinkler.

Yes, the Fun Day exploration of the Gladys Douglas Preserve in Dunedin is going forward on Monday, July 24th. Please see the flier above included in the newsletter and let Ruthann know if you can make it. There is no cost at the preserve. Remember that the second half of the "Fun" is lunch at the Lucky Lobster. The restaurant opens at 11, so if you need to shorten your stay at the preserve and head to the restaurant, that's fine. They have plenty of room and it's a comfortable setting. Enjoy chatting with each other over a lovely lunch!

As for Presidential politics, they make my head hurt already. I'm not surprised that DeSantis is seeing a decline in his polling numbers: There's nothing likable or even tolerable about him. Even Rs are getting sick of the anti-gay, racist, anti-Woke rhetoric. Voters want to talk about the economy, world safety, health care and environmental protection. We are all experiencing environmental extremes that are truly frightening, from the heat to flooding to poor air quality, tornadoes, etc.

Soon we'll be talking about the next postcard project. Take a break from the heat and stay healthy, as we know our work will intensify when the weather breaks. And I'm already praying that no hurricanes come to our shores this season.

Onward and Upward!
-donna dennis

Legislative Liaison Report
Jean Greenawalt
6/26/2023

Legislative session ended May 5. These links can be used to review all bills and analyses:

[flsenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov)

[myfloridahouse.gov](https://www.myfloridahouse.gov)

Line-item vetoes have been made by Desantis to the 2023 appropriations bill. SB 2500 is the appropriations bill that can be accessed on the [flsenate.gov](https://www.flsenate.gov) site. It is a record-breaking budget of \$117,026,747,547 (\$117 Billion).

The link for the governor veto list is:

<https://www.flgov.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Final-Veto-List-2023.pdf>.

Line-item vetoes amounted to \$510,865,232. (Half a billion dollars) Specific Local Funding Initiative Requests can be looked up at <https://flsenate.gov/Session/Appropriations/2023/>

A House Democratic Caucus analysis showed that about 40% of the 188 projects sought by House Democrats in the budget were vetoed by DeSantis. That compared to 16% of the 1,301 projects members of the House's Republican majority had eliminated by the governor. ¹

Many feel that the vetoes are both punitive and petty. Homeless shelters, school readiness, mental health programs to help LGBTQ+ people affected by Pulse nightclub shooting, are just a few examples. In addition, Senator Joe Gruters, R Sarasota, who has endorsed Donald Trump, states the following: "The governor is clearly upset I endorsed Donald Trump for president, and so he took it out on the people of Sarasota County," Gruters said. "Simply because I support his political opponent, the governor chose to punish ordinary Floridians who want better water quality, less traffic congestion and increased resources for disabled children to find gainful employment. It's mean-spirited acts like this that are defining him here and across the country." ²

1st "Desantis signs \$116.5 billion state budget, vetoes \$511 million while ripping Washington" John Kennedy, USA Today Network - Florida, 6/15/2023

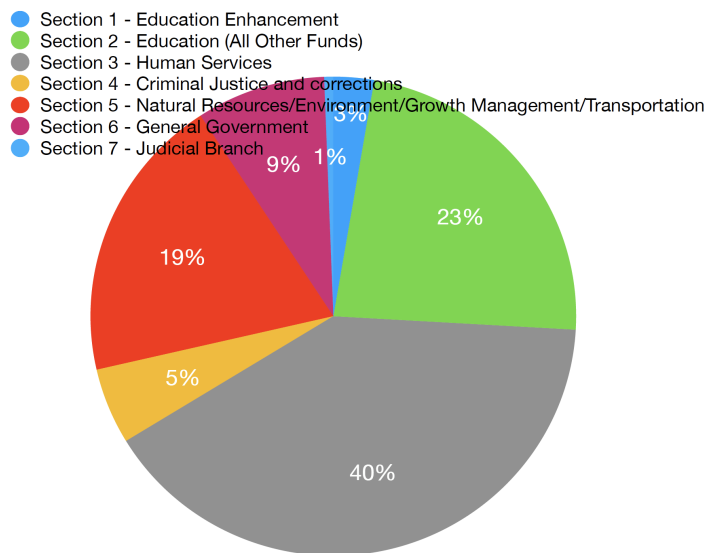
<https://www.tallahassee.com/story/news/politics/2023/06/15/desantis-signs-florida-budget-detailshazy-amid-presidential-politics/70295572007/>

2nd "DeSantis budget vetoes look punitive and petty", Steve Bousquet, Orlando Sentinel 6/18/2023

<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/06/18/desantis-budget-vetoes-look-punitive-and-petty-stevebousquet/>

The budget is divided into seven sections. The following chart is based on the original \$117 billion dollar budget. Since the vetoes are only half a billion dollars, the distribution after accounting for the the vetoes looks essentially the same. Note that the Human Services category has the largest share at 40%.

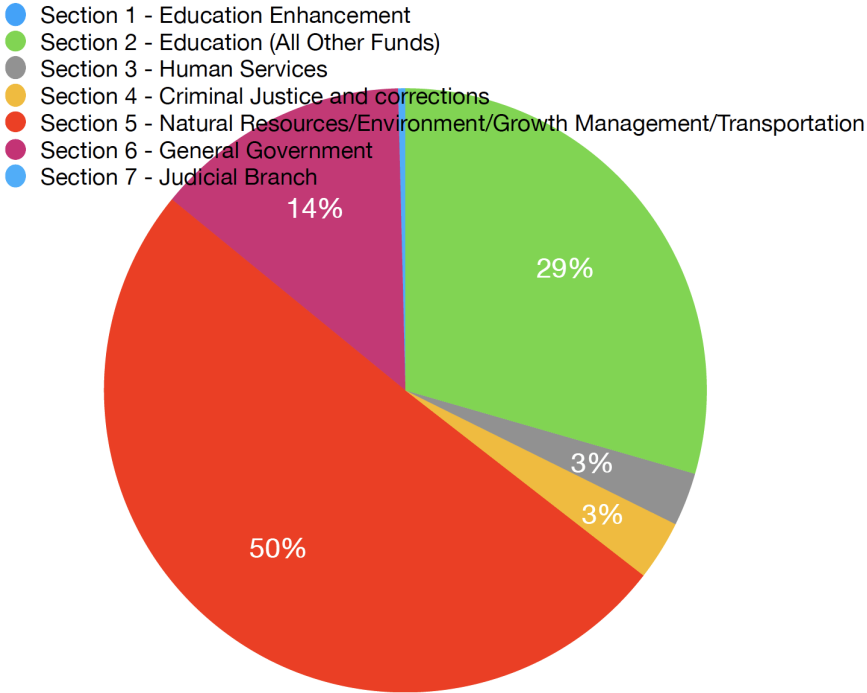
2023 Appropriation Distribution



The following chart shows the distribution of the vetoes among the seven categories. No vetoes are in Section 1, Education Enhancement. Note that the majority of the cuts are in Section 5. Although the total amount of cuts is half a billion dollars, 20% of that is due to one line item veto: Conservation And Rural Land

Protection Easements And Agreements - a program that pays landowners to continue farming in exchange for not developing the property. Another big veto was \$30.8 million for the the acquisition of Kirkland Ranch in Pasco County, sponsored by our very own area senator, Senator Hooper (R), for land and water conservation purposes. The second-largest cuts are in Section 2. Much of the funds cut from this category are related to many big-ticket construction projects at colleges and universities. Interestingly, about \$6 million was cut from Public Broadcasting Projects. Section 3 cuts included many projects - locally Treasure Island Safety Complex, Italian Club of Tampa, Penny Lane Beatles Museum in Dunedin, and Ruth Eckerd Hall.

2023 Line Item Veto Distribution



Words of Inspiration

Our own club, the Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas, is embarking upon our 83rd year.

We are vintage, we are dedicated, we are strong as we resist and persist.

We are allies, we are companions in our struggles, we are friends.

We've made it to 83 and we are so ready to work to advance the causes and deeply held values so dear to Florida Democratic women!

Diane Lebedeff
DWCUP Recording Secretary



DWC of Upper Pinellas Honors the Ladies in their 80's

A luncheon was held at Sea Sea Riders in Dunedin, FL on Thursday, June 22nd, honoring past and present officers of the DWCUP who have recently turned 80.



Honorees Diane Lebedeff, Karen Miracle, Cora Kostka, Mary Freeman and Mary Lou Ambrose.

MEMBERSHIP HAS ITS PERKS!

All members of the DWCUP are also members of the DWCF (Democratic Women's Club of Florida). Please go to the website, www.dwcf.org, and get registered, create a password and take a look at all the features of the organization. There is a special members section as well. Get an idea of what's going on with other clubs in the state, the Florida Democratic Party, and so much more!

**DWCUP Annual Membership Dues:
\$25.00**

Get the best deals here:

TIERED MEMBERSHIPS:

- PLATINUM Member:**
3 years for \$70.00 ✓
- SILVER Member:**
5 years for \$100.00 ✓
- GOLD Member:**
**Member for Life
\$250.00 ✓**

Make your dues payment here:

<https://dwcup.com/donate>

**Your new or updated membership will be valid through
January 31, 2024.**



Next Meeting

August 28, 2023, 12pm

Location: Clearwater East Library, 2465 Drew St.