

Local or State Control?

On the Ballot November 3rd!

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The question of State or Local Control is central for two current issues:

1. Efforts to Reduce Local Property Taxes, on the Ballot November 3rd
Amendment 3 proposes two levels of Homestead Exemptions:
 - Maintain the \$25,000 exemptions for property taxes to pay for schools (no change from current policy)
 - Increase the exemptions to \$150,000 in 2027 and to \$250,000 in 2028 for non-school property taxes, which pay for other local services, including police and fire protection, road upkeep, after-school services, the arts, libraries, parks, pools, and cultural programs.

New residents do not benefit from exemptions for 5 years

For those who own property: newcomers would pay more, ongoing residents would pay less

Arguments in Favor	Arguments Against
Reduces taxes (for ongoing residents) Reduces wasteful government spending Brings residents one-step closer to owning their homes outright	Cost Shift: governments would need to find other ways to pay for services or cut them Deficits; (according to Ballotpedia), approval of the Amendment would reduce local government revenue by: \$4B+ in 2027 / \$8B+ in 2028

2. Efforts to Manage Local Development Decisions, a number of bills in the state legislature:
- SB 180 (Senate Bill 180), called “Emergencies,” originally passed for “hurricane relief”
 - Its provisions for state control over choices about development produced a backlash
 - SB 180 was one of many bills. SB 180 and its siblings (including House Bill 105/SB 588, HB 299/SB 354, HB 399/SB 208, SB 784, and SB 1080) had these goals:
 - To invalidate restrictions on growth by local officials and citizen votes
 - To enable developers to sue the local government if they felt their plans were unreasonably denied.

Arguments in Favor	Arguments Against
Lower cost of housing by increasing supply	Less local control
Reduce red tape	Reduce checks on sprawl
Promote economic growth	Damage to environmental health, especially water supplies

Our Candidates:

These fellow citizens don’t just read the news; they take the time to run for office. They lend their knowledge and skills for public service. Candidates for Volusia County Council, District 1:

Don Dempsey
Wendy Anderson
Melissa Thorne

How to Vote:

- Volusia County Supervisor of Elections,
www.volusiaelections.gov/elections/election-results/2026-election-results/august-18-2026-primary-election.shtml
- Deadline to Register to Vote has, unfortunately, passed (July 20, 2026)
- Primary Election Day is Tuesday, August 18, 2026, with Polls open 7am to 7pm
- To find your Election Day polling location for In-Person Voting, visit the Precinct Finder page, <https://www.voterfocus.com/PrecinctFinder/addressSearch?county=VOL>
- Deadline to Request a Vote-by-Mail Ballot: Thursday, August 6, 2026, 5pm
- To Request a vote-by-mail Ballot, visit Online Vote-by-Mail Request Site, <https://volusia.electionsfl.org/vrservices/mbrs#>
- Early In-Person Voting: August 8-15, 2026. Sites are open 8am to 6pm
- For a complete list of Early Voting sites, go to <https://www.volusiaelections.gov/elections/early-voting.shtml> to see 9 locations with maps