

IMPACT REPORT 2019



FLORIDA CONSERVATION VOTERS EDUCATION FUND

A LETTER FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALIKI MONCRIEF

Thank you for another inspiring year of engaging in our democracy to protect our environment and healthy communities for everyone! I urge you to take a moment to review the following pages in this report and learn more about the good work FCV Education Fund has been able to accomplish this year.

From securing funding for clean, electric school buses, to protecting our public lands, to engaging citizens to demand climate action, our movement is producing results for Florida's families. And every day the momentum grows to even greater gains in 2020.

I firmly believe that when we work together and focus on our shared values, anything is possible. Together, with our members, supporters, donors, and allies like you, FCV Education Fund is helping foster a more engaged citizenry and more responsive elected officials. A better Florida is possible and we are determined to succeed. We look forward to continuing this journey with you!

Sincerely,



Executive Director
Florida Conservation Voters Education Fund



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Erin Deady
Pegeen Hanrahan
Pam Harting
Georgiana Holmes

ADVOCACY BY THE NUMBERS

10,500

PEOPLE WHO
TOOK ACTION
to urge our elected
officials to act

98,000

CONNECTIONS
made to legislators by email,
phone, and Twitter

26

COMMUNITY EVENTS
centered around clean energy
and civic engagement



FCVEF UNVEILS FLORIDA FOREVER GEMS REPORT

Five years ago, thanks to supporters and advocates like you, voters from across Florida came together to pass the landmark Water and Land Conservation Amendment. In many ways, this vote simply affirmed something we all knew: Floridians fundamentally understand the value of protecting our environment.

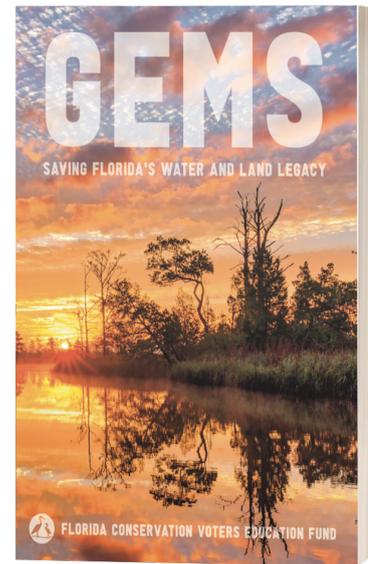
As you know, it has been an uphill battle holding the Florida Legislature accountable to the will of the nearly 75% of voters who supported the Amendment. But the impact it has made on conservation in Florida is undeniable. Nearly \$1 Billion of the Amendment funds have been dedicated to restoring the Everglades. And investments in the essential work of managing our conservation lands through prescribed fire and invasive species control have dramatically increased. Millions in funding to protect our world-class springs have been allocated annually. None of this would have been

possible without people like you pushing our elected officials to act.

Our continued challenge has been restoring funding to Florida's premier land-buying conservation program, Florida Forever. There are many crucial projects that remain on the Florida Forever list, and they need to be protected soon... before they are lost forever. Unfortunately, due to term limits and the ever-revolving door at the Capitol, many of our elected officials have yet to embrace this science-based land conservation program, in part because they don't know the wonderful places it has protected in recent decades.

To educate our lawmakers on the importance of conserving land and the urgent need for full and consistent funding, FCV Education Fund produced a new 50-page, full-color booklet to showcase our historic conservation successes, such as Florida's award-winning state parks, and our remaining gems, such as ranchlands that

provide habitat for wildlife like the Florida panther. We distributed the aptly named "Gems Report" to all 160 state legislators and the Florida Cabinet this month. Our staff and advocates will continue to meet with legislators through the 2020 Legislative Session to ensure that this is the year we restore funding to Florida Forever. For more information on our Gems Report, please visit: fcvedfund.org/gems-report



BIG VICTORY FOR HEALTHY NIÑOS CAMPAIGN

Everyone has a right to breathe clean air, especially our kids. That's why when Volkswagen settled with the EPA after being caught cheating on their emissions standards, we thought it made perfect sense that the new funds should go to upgrading dirty diesel school buses to clean, electric power.

For more than two years, FCV Education Fund has worked with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to ensure the public had a say in how to spend the VW settlement funds. We've worked with program administrators, held public events, hosted webinars, informed media, and solicited input from our

members and the general public.

At every step of the public engagement process, FCV Education Fund members elevated the importance of electric school buses for our kids' health and demanded that DEP allocate the majority of the funds to electric buses. Thousands of you spoke up, and we are delighted to report that our voices, united, could not be denied. DEP released the Volkswagen Mitigation Plan in October 2019, which dedicates 70% of the \$166 million settlement towards funding school bus upgrades. Florida's mitigation plan got more comments than any other state, and we are happy to report that more than 80% of those

comments were because of your efforts. Thank you for taking action!

But our work isn't over yet. We are working directly with school boards and electric bus experts to support a transition to clean, electric power. In order to realize Florida's clean energy potential and improve the health and lives of students, we are urging school districts to apply for funds to electrify their fleets. Look for more information in 2020 on how you can help your local school district apply for funding.





#LOVEFLORIDA

FCV Education Fund's #LoveFlorida campaign celebrates our beloved parks and preserves throughout the state. With a goal of building bipartisan support for critical land and water conservation programs like Florida Forever and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we highlight iconic Florida parks and preserves that have been protected through these programs and encourage citizens to advocate for their favorite parks and public lands. Through organizing, videos with elected officials, social media, and advocacy, FCV Education Fund's campaign immediately caught fire.

We invited people to share their love of Florida and snap a selfie using the hashtag #LoveFlorida while enjoying their neighborhood parks or exploring Florida's vast and diverse conservation lands.

Thousands of people engaged with our work and more than 50 people sent in personal letters, photos, and videos of their favorite natural areas across Florida, which we used to build support for this vital program.

We are proud to report that the federal government unanimously reauthorized the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The next step will be to work with our national partner, the League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, and others to secure permanent and full funding for this program in 2020.

We're also continuing to celebrate Florida's natural lands by gathering #LoveFlorida testimonials and photos. Send your story to contact@fcvoters.org

"IT IS THESE QUIET, TRANQUIL PLACES THAT ARE A BOON TO THE SOUL. SUCH PLACES CONNECT US TO SOMETHING OUTSIDE OURSELVES. THEY HELP US TO VALUE THE WORLD AROUND US, THE WORLD BENEATH OUR FEET. THESE PLACES INSPIRE US TO STRETCH OUR MINDS, TO GO BEYOND, AND REMIND US TO BE HUMBLE AND GRATEFUL FOR THIS EXCITING, WONDROUS PLANET EARTH."

—GINNY ROTOLANTE, MIAMI

NO ROADS TO RUIN

The 2019 Florida Legislative Session could be remembered as one of the most devastating for Florida's environment since Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward successfully lobbied to fund the draining and destruction of the Everglades one hundred years ago.

In May, Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law a bill that would build three new massive toll road highways through large swaths of Florida's last remaining rural lands. If completed, 330 miles of toll roads could be constructed by 2030. Road building alone will immediately destroy more than 52,800 acres of undeveloped areas and promote unsustainable sprawl, destroying hundreds of thousands of additional acres.

FCV Education Fund has opposed this plan from its inception at the Capitol and is now a leader of a growing coalition to stop these "roads to ruin." A core part of the toll roads bill created three task forces to decide on the ultimate location of each of the three roads. Each meeting includes a public comment period, and so, FCV Education Fund has invested

heavily in rallying local residents from all walks of life to attend these meetings. We continue to ensure that the voice of conservation is represented in the media with several invited op-eds and quotes in respected media publications.

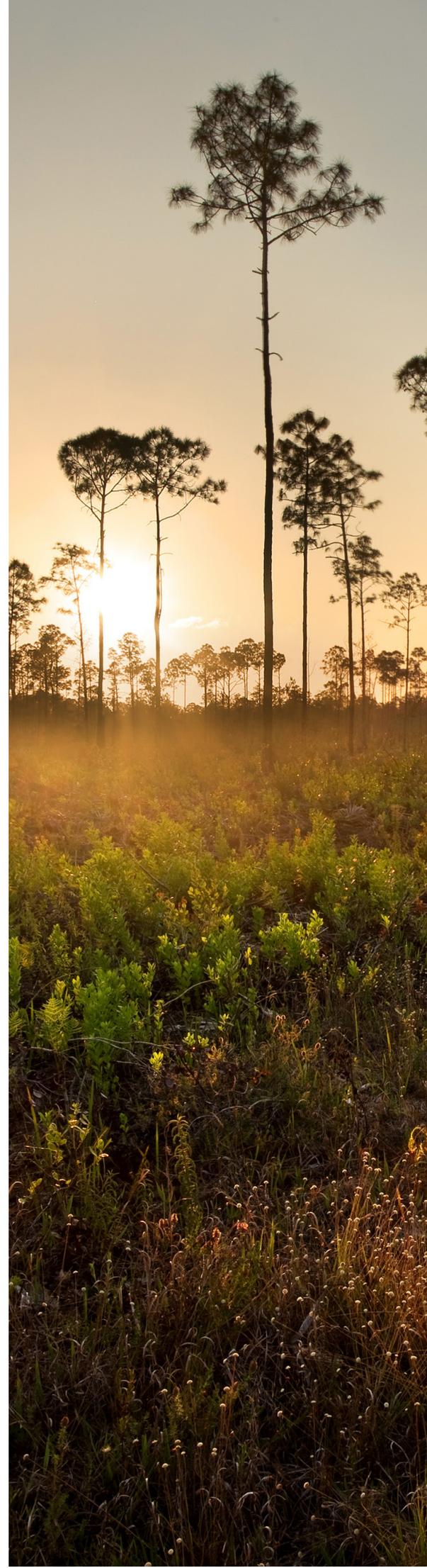
In addition, to empower the voices of Conservation Voters who do not live near the task force meeting locations, we have built an easy one-click form that allows Floridians to easily send public comments. To date, we have collected nearly 3,000 comments, and our outreach continues on social media, by email, and on our website. Send your comment by visiting fcv.rocks/noroadstoruin

The final recommendations from the task forces are due in October 2020. Stay engaged with this process as we fight to stop this impending disaster.



“IF BUILT, THE THREE ‘ROADS TO RUIN’ WILL GO THROUGH SOME OF FLORIDA’S MOST PRISTINE FRESH WATER SPRINGS AND WETLANDS. THE UNENDING SPRAWL THAT WILL COME WITH THESE NEW ROADS WILL FURTHER THREATEN OUR NATURAL RESOURCES. WE URGE THE LEGISLATURE TO DEFUND THIS ILL-CONCEIVED PLAN AND STOP THESE ROADS IN THEIR TRACKS.”

—LINDSAY CROSS
FCVEF GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR



CONNECTING NEIGHBORS TO FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE

Underwater FLA harnesses the power of art to create awareness about rising sea levels and engages neighbors to take action to solve the most urgent crisis of our time: climate change.

Underwater FLA was inspired by and born from a participatory public art project called Underwater HOA, which was started in partnership with artist Xavier Cortada in 2018. The Village of Pinecrest hosted the very first Underwater HOA meeting in January 2019. Since then, we've hosted more than two dozen community events centered around climate change and increased resilience to catastrophic events.

This summer we marched in Miami as part of the Underwater Climate Rally. This event, organized by a coalition of more than 20 local, state and national organizations, came together to advocate for action on climate change on the same day as the first presidential debate. Underwater FLA hosted

sign-making ahead of the march and educated its more than 200 participants on how they can join the fight.

FCV Education Fund also participated in the Zero-Hour Youth Climate Summit where youth participants learned how to organize in their community through art activism. They learned about sea level rise, climate resilience, and civic engagement, and concluded the workshop by

painting elevation markers to display to the public.

In the coming year, FCV Education Fund will continue to bring Floridians together to learn about how climate change affects where they live, work, and play and inspire action to address the impacts of sea level rise. We will also support our community-based allies as they advocate for clean energy and resilience solutions from our lawmakers.



“CLIMATE CHANGE IS THE MOST SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR ECONOMY, AND OUR LIVES. WE NEED BOLD LEADERSHIP AT THE LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LEVEL TO NOT ONLY CUT CARBON EMISSIONS BUT DO IT IN A WAY THAT BUILDS A JUST AND EQUITABLE CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE FOR FLORIDA.”

—ALIKI MONCRIEF
FCVEF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR