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**LEGISLATIVE ALERT 5.0.2026**

2 messages

**Democratic Women's Club of Florida** <info-dwcf.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

Fri, Feb 13, 2026 at 12:21 PM

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## 2026 Legislative Alerts

### from your DWCF Legislative Bill-Tracking Committee

#### The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act or SAVE Act (FEDERAL- OPPOSE)

Initially, the **SAVE America Act** proposed that voters would have to present documents like a passport or birth certificate at every election. However, after being amended in the House, this provision was changed. Now, the bill requires states to regularly send their voter rolls to the Department of Homeland Security and enforces a stricter photo ID requirement for voting.

- The bill not only requires proof of citizenship, but also proof of residence in order to register. This could block even more Americans from voting. Roughly nine percent of the population has moved within a state in the past year, but many will not update their driver's licenses until they expire.
- The bill would require photo ID to vote, providing a narrow list of acceptable IDs more restrictive than the voter ID laws in every state but Ohio. For example, the bill prohibits the use of student IDs (even those issued by state universities), and accepts tribal IDs only with an expiration date, even though many tribal IDs do not contain them.
- The legislation would mandate voter roll purges every 30 days, placing enormous burdens on election officials and ending the 90-day quiet period

that protects voters from being mistakenly thrown off the rolls right before Election Day.

- The bill would prohibit universal mail voting, requiring all mail voters to submit an application in order to receive a mail ballot. This would end the long standing principal method of voting in eight states and Washington, DC.

*EXTRA CREDIT: Kansas offers a case study of how a documentary proof requirement would likely play out in practice. Before the law took effect, non-citizen registration in Kansas was exceedingly rare, accounting for about 0.002% of registered voters. After adoption, the documentary proof of citizenship requirement prevented roughly 31,000 eligible citizens, or 12% of all applicants, from registering to vote. In short, the law prevented far more citizens from registering to vote than noncitizens.*

### **SB 1134 / HB1001 (OPPOSE)** **Official Actions of Local Governments**

This bill blocks local control by prohibiting cities from any actions related to diversity, equity or inclusion. The “Anti-Diversity in Local Government” bill is a state sledgehammer to stop cities and counties from any action that recognizes and responds to differences based on race, sex, ethnicity, gender identity, or sexual orientation, with limited exceptions.

It would repeal any such existing programs, ban funding such programs, and threaten city and county officials with removal from office for anything vaguely labeled “diversity, equity, or inclusion.” It would effectively ban local governments from a range of actions like hosting or supporting Prides, offering LGBTQ+ cultural competency training, or recognizing Black History Month.

Bill sponsors are Rep. Black and Sen. Yarborough. SB 1134 passed FAV the Senate Judiciary Committee February 10 Y, 8 N 3 and is headed to its final committee, Rules. The companion bill HB1001 passed its final committee, Civil Justice & Claims Subcommittee Feb 11.

### **HB 1471 & SB 1632 (OPPOSE)** **Threat to Free Speech, Due Process, and Government Transparency**

Florida lawmakers are advancing HB 1471 and SB 1632, a dangerous pair of bills that would dramatically expand state power while reducing public oversight and constitutional protections. SB 1632 passed Judiciary; YEAS 8 NAYS 3 and now in Appropriation Criminal and Civil Justice. HB 1471 passed Education & Employment Committee Feb 11, 2026; Now in Judiciary Committee.

Please call today and OPPOSE these dangerous bills.

Editor Notes: From the ACLU of Florida: Today, SB 1632/SB 1634, sponsored by Sen. Grall, advanced in the Florida Legislature. Florida already has laws to prosecute violence and genuine threats. These bills would instead expand state power in such a manner that risks being us to intimidate and suppress protected speech, protest, and political dissent. Kara Gross, Interim Political Director, shared the following statement: “Time and again, vague ‘public safety’ legislation has been used to justify discretionary enforcement and investigations that undermine civil liberties, especially against communities of color, immigrants, and movements demanding accountability from the government. Florida already has more than enough tools to prosecute violence. What these bills do is allow for a select few in the government to claim unilateral authority to label people and organizations they disagree with as ‘domestic terrorists’ without basic due process, impose more aggressive punishments, and expand surveillance under the banner of “public safety.”

That should alarm every Floridian, no matter your political views.

These bills create a system where the state claims more authority and control over who is allowed to dissent and hold leaders accountable. Make no mistake:vaguely worded bills that empower the Executive Branch at the expense of civil liberties and checks and balances do not make us safer. By heightening government secrecy and creating an environment that suppresses speech and protest, they instead only make the government more dangerous and less transparent.

## **SB 896 / HB 757 School Safety (OPPOSE)**

### **Summary SB 896**

This bill authorizes public post-secondary educational institutions to participate in the school guardian program AND authorizes certain college or university employees, faculty members, and students to openly carry a handgun or carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm into a college or university facility.

### **Update on HB 757:**

The bill received favorable unanimous votes in both the House Judiciary and Education & Employment Committees where the “carry... on college or university facility” text was NOT part of this original bill. Then it was heard in the House Budget Committee where a Committee Substitute bill added “... authorizes certain college or university employees, faculty members, and students to openly carry a handgun or carry a concealed weapon or concealed firearm into a college or university facility.” The Budget Committee voted favorably however with Democrats voting 5:23 against the bill.SB 896 passed favorably in the Criminal Justice Committee. The next stop is the Senate Appropriations Committee on Higher Education though it has not been agendized as of February 12, 2026.

We oppose firearms on campus. Campus life is rife with risk factors that make the presence of guns potentially dangerous. In a 2019 national survey,

62% of US college students reported drinking alcohol in the past month, 35% reported getting drunk, and 30% reported using illicit drugs. Students who carried guns were also more likely to report drinking heavily and more frequently, drinking and driving, and vandalizing property. Alcohol use is associated with increased aggression, impaired judgment about whether to shoot a gun, and worsened aim when firing. Under extreme duress, an armed college student or university professor cannot be expected to transform into a specially trained tactical police officer.

Take action and contact your State Senator today and urge them NOT to take action on this legislation.

**Editors Note: from *Everytown for Gun Safety*:**

James Madison, the author of the Second Amendment, and Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, believed guns had no place on college campuses. In 1824, at a University of Virginia Board of Visitors meeting, both Madison and Jefferson supported a rule prohibiting firearm possession and use by students at the university. Over the last decade, the gun lobby and its allies have introduced legislation that would force colleges and universities to allow guns on campus. This legislation, which would create new dangers for students and staff and burden schools with significant financial costs, is widely opposed by university stakeholders from students to college presidents.

**TAKE ACTION NOW**

 Call or email your Florida House Representative and State Senator and urge them to **OPPOSE THESE BILLS**.

 Find your representative:

<https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/FindYourRepresentative>

<https://www.flsenate.gov>

**Remember: Timing Matters**

For more information on these bills and other legislative proposals and issues, contact the DWCF Legislative Bill-Tracking Committee or your local Legislative Liaison.  
Your voice matters, so make sure it's heard.

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