



## Community Involvement/Civics

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# Course Objectives



- Be able to describe a few reasons why civic engagement is important to a community
- Obtain some general knowledge about how to advocate on your own behalf regarding issues impacting your neighborhood or community.
- Learn how to find out who your elected representatives are and how to contact them at the local, state and Federal Levels.
- Learn where to find reliable and accurate information on candidates when it is time to vote to make sure you are an educated voter.
- Learn the importance of voting and where and how to register to vote in your community.
- Learn about what makes up a property tax bill.

# Community Involvement:

Take a look at the following list for more ideas about how you can get your family more involved in the community after a move, as well as make your community a better place once you have settled in.

- Get your kids plugged into after-school activities
- Hold a canned food drive
- Volunteer at an animal shelter
- Hold a community trash pick-up day
- Hold a community home repair day
- Register to vote!
- Spend time with senior citizens in your area
- Bake cookies for police station / fire department
- Volunteer at your Church (greeter, musician, small group leader)
- Hold a community-wide garage sale, and use the funds to paint/repair homes or donate to a charity
- Work with local officials to create a community garden or playground



# Civic Engagement

Far too often, we forget that we each play a vital role in the various policies established throughout all levels of government. Because civic engagement is a privilege and not a requirement, many (if not MOST) people take it for granted that we can make our voices heard in regard to the laws and policies that impact ourselves and our loved ones. Thankfully, there are plenty of resources online to inform you and assist you as you make decisions! When you think about your political involvement, you might immediately imagine yourself voting for the next U.S. President... but maybe not your next county District Commissioner.

However, your vote for your local officials is equally important as your vote for the president!

First things First...

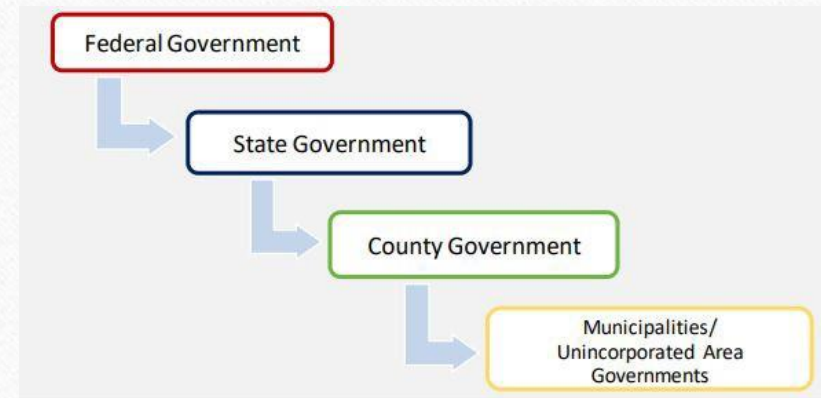
Have you registered to vote in Citrus County?

If not, you can quickly and easily register online with the following link:

<https://www.votecitrus.com/Register-to-Vote>

Use this link to...

- Find out where to vote on election day
- View sample ballots
- Get updated on upcoming elections
- Request a mail ballot, check the status of your mail ballot
- Review or update your voter registration information
- Review your voting activity for the past year



# Federal Government Representation:

- A) President of the United States:
  - a. Two 4 year term max. (8 year maximum.)
- B) Florida has 29 legislators overall, between the US House Representatives and the US Senate:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/members/FL#senators>

Florida's senators are:



Senior Senator

**Marco Rubio**

Republican  
Since Jan 5, 2011  
Next Election in 2022



Junior Senator

**Rick Scott**

Republican  
Since Jan 8, 2019  
Next Election in 2024

## State Government Representation:

Just as the U.S. Constitution controls the legislation passed by each and every state government, Florida's Constitution rules above all other legislation within the state of Florida

Government of the State of Florida:

**Florida House of Representatives**  
120 members  
2 year terms



**Florida Senate:**  
40 members  
4 year terms

Either party may propose a bill, but the bill will not become a law without the approval of both parties and the signature of Florida's Governor.

# Local Government - Citrus County



Mayor of Crystal River- Joe Meek

<https://www.crystalriverfl.org/>

123 NW HWY 19 Crystal River, FL 34428

Phone: (352) 795-4216

Mayor of Inverness - Bob Plaisted

<http://www.inverness-fl.gov/>

212 W. Main St. Inverness, FL 34450

Property Appraiser - Cregg E. Dalton

<https://www.citruspa.org/> [DNN/](#)

Crystal River Office: 1540 N. Meadowcrest Blvd., Suite 400

Crystal River, FL 34429 Phone: (352) 564-7130

Supervisor of Elections -Maureen "Mo" Baird

<https://www.votecitrus.gov/>

Physical Location- 1500 N. Meadowcrest Blvd Crystal River, FL 34429

Mailing Address - PO Box 1870 Lecanto, FL 34460-1870

Phone: (352) 564-7120

Clerk of Circuit Court and Controller - Angela Vick

<https://www.citrusclerk.org/603/Contact-Us>

Phone: 352-341-6424

Tax Collector - Janice A. Warren

<http://www.citrustc.us/>

Phone: (352) 341-6500

Sherriff - Mike Prendergast

<https://www.sheriffcitrus.org/>

1 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

Inverness, FL 34450-4968

Representative - Ralfph E. Massullo, District 34

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

4067 North Lecanto Highway

Beverly Hills, FL 34465-3551

(352) 527-4510

County Commissionners

- Scott E. Carnahan Chair - District 4
- Ronald E. Kitchen Jr - District 2
- Ruthie Davis Schlabach - District 3
- Jeff Kinnard D.C. - District 1
- Holly L. Davis - District 5

<https://www.citrusbocc.com/>

110 N. Apopka Ave., Inverness, FL. 34450

Phone: 352-341-6560

FAX: 352-341-6584

Senator - Wilton Simpson

<https://www.flsenate.gov/>

4076 Commercial Way

Spring Hill, FL 34606

(352) 688-5077

# What makes up your property Tax bill



CREGG E. DALTON  
CITRUS COUNTY PROPERTY APPRAISER

Commitment ~ Innovation ~ Respect ~ Integrity ~ Service



- SOH / Assessed Value - Current value as capped under the Save Our Homes amendment
- Exemption Value - Applicable exemptions, including double Homestead Exemption
- Taxable Value - Save Our Homes capped value minus applicable exemptions, including double Homestead Exemption
- School Board Exemption Value - Applicable exemptions for school board
- School Board Taxable Value - Save Our Homes capped value minus applicable exemptions, EXCLUDING double Homestead Exemption
- Estimated Tax - Estimated taxes are based on new tax reform rules and calculation assumptions on prior screen
- Market Value - Market / Just value of the newly purchased property.
- Portable SOH Benefit - The difference between Market/Just value and the Assessed value on prior home, \$500,000 maximum benefit. If downsizing a percent of benefit is used to determine the portable benefit on newly purchased property (new just value divided by prior just value then multiplied by prior assessed), maximum benefit is \$500,000.



# Homestead Exemption

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## **Homestead Exemption, Defined:**

Under the law, the house that you own and live in as your primary residence is a homestead. This also includes the land and any detached property such as a garage, guest house, shed, barn or dog house. To protect your homestead, many states offer a homestead exemption.

A homestead exemption serves two purposes. It protects homeowners from losing their homes as a result of judgments and liens, and it provides property tax relief by lowering property tax assessments.

### Property Tax Relief

The other purpose of a homestead exemption is to offer homeowners what is known as property tax relief. Some states, counties, and local municipalities will reduce a property's assessed value when a homestead exemption is claimed, which can result in a lower property tax bill.

The assessed value is usually lower than the market value. Assessed value is generally determined by a local tax assessor. It is the value that a local government believes a property is worth, for taxation purposes.

For example:

Joe and Joanne Jones own a home. The county assessor has valued their home at \$202,500. Based on the assessed value, the Jones' current property tax bill is \$4,291. The couple live in the home and use it as their primary residence. The Joneses claim a homestead exemption to lower their property tax bill. The homestead exemption does not change the assessed value of the home, it simply makes \$25,000 out of the total assessed value exempt from taxation.



*This completes “Community Involvement/Civics” class, please follow this link for a short quiz to receive credit*

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=4Wz47ybOu0-OSA96KvhFiGLtsnh7IpRA116CzdOlgrUOVhTMVgxU0k4MVIpNDc3NDNEU1ExTE4zOC4u>

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*Disclaimer: The contents of this class serves only as an educational guideline for our Homeownership Program. Change at Habitat for Humanity of Citrus County is inevitable. Therefore we expressly reserve the right to interpret, modify, suspend, or cancel, with or without prior notice, any part of our program guidelines at anytime. Changes will be effective on the dates determined by HFHCC*