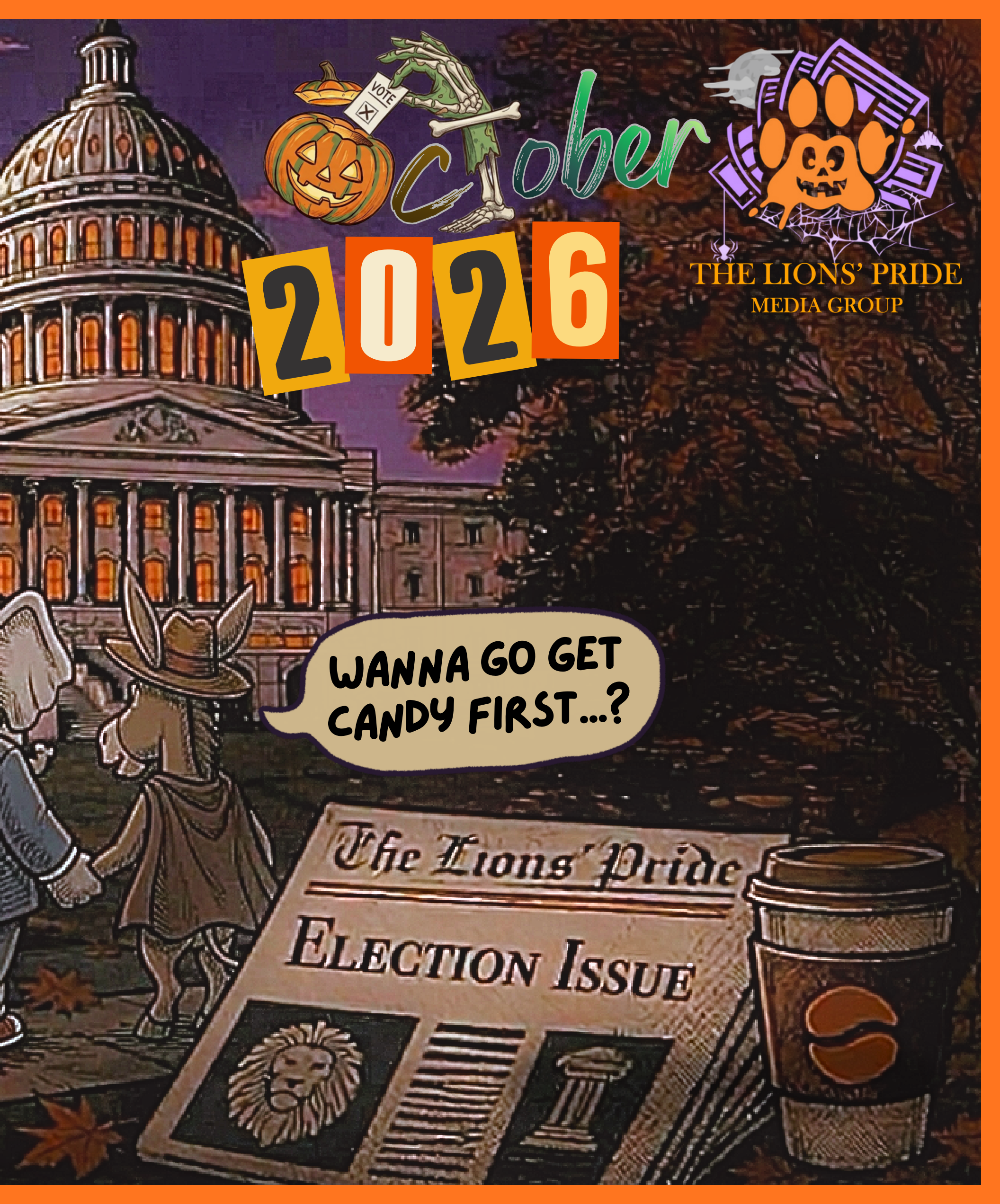




October

2026

THE LIONS' PRIDE
MEDIA GROUP

WANNA GO GET
CANDY FIRST...?

The Lions' Pride
ELECTION ISSUE



The Curse of Tippecanoe: The election supersitition that haunted presidents

Anna Di Domenico
Staff Writer

As the leaves start to fall, it brings the spooky air of Halloween, and this year it comes along with the election season. History has shown the two often go hand in hand.

Beginning with William Henry Harrison in 1840, a remarkable succession of presidents elected every 20 years died in office, giving rise to what became known as the Curse of Tippecanoe.

Other spooky stories such as ghosts in the White House like stories are about Lincoln's presence, or an odd lavender smell from wet laundry where the first lady, Abigail Adams, used to hang clothes haunt American politics. Still, the darkness and magnitude of the Curse of Tippecanoe overshadow all the others and even has an impact today.

In short, the Curse of Tippecanoe was a purported cycle that said that a U.S. president elected in a year ending with a zero would die while in office. For almost 100 years, the sequence of the 20-year span of events was extremely scary and accurate.

Professor Francis "Frank" Orlando, a political science instructor II noted, the unfortunate events happened in this order:

1840: William Henry Harrison died in office

1860: Abraham Lincoln was assassinated

1880: James A. Garfield was assassinated

1900: William McKinley was assassinated

1920: Warren G. Harding died in office

1940: Franklin D. Roosevelt died in office

1960: John F. Kennedy was assassinated

"Even back when they were running in 1980, people were like, 'Are you sure you want to win?'" said Orlando. Despite everything, in the 1980 election, Ronald Reagan brought an end to the unchanging death cycle of American presidents. Despite Reagan getting shot during an assassination attempt, modern medicine ensured his survival, which couldn't have been possible before. In addition, the two presidents

elected in 2000 and 2020 have also been lucky enough to survive, finally breaking an awful spell.

Nevertheless, close calls have occurred that maintained the superstition in the minds of the public. Like the near accident of George W. Bush (elected in 2000) in 2005. Vladimir Arutyunian threw a live hand grenade at Bush. It landed 100 feet away from the president and did not explode. For some it was considered luck, but for others, it was a scary sign that the curse might still be alive.

This political legend started with the story of William Henry Harrison, the first president to die in office. At that moment, he was not only a politician, but Harrison himself was a famous wartime hero, with his leadership being credited with the U.S. Army's successful defeat of the Native American confederacy in the Battle of Tippecanoe.

The legend, as Orlando puts it, is that Harrison and the tribes he defeated were enemies after Tippecanoe, and thus, the tribe put a terrible curse upon Harrison in retaliation. As if to confirm this, the spell started upon Harrison right in the early peri-

od of his presidency. On inauguration day in 1841, Harrison gave his speech outside without a coat or hat, when it was freezing, and rain was pouring. He got sick, which became the reason for his passing.

"He was outside, and it was cold and raining, and people said he got pneumonia from giving the speech, and he died within a month," Orlando explained.

It was a death of which a newly independent nation still trembled, as not only did Harrison's demise created a shocking impact, but the idea of the Tippecanoe curse began to take shape. The jinx passed from one generation to the other lasting more than 150 years, but is it actually gone?

"William Henry Harrison, his ghost, apparently, still haunts the attic of the White House," said Orlando.

In a way it might be seen either as a mere chance, a sad accident, or a real supernatural story. The legend of Tippecanoe's Curse makes us realize that the White House is something more than the center of American governmental power: It is an archive alive, one where the past, mysteries, and the nation's folklore meet each other.

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The battle for Florida in the midterm election

Elijah Penn

Editor-in-Chief

Just a few decades ago, Florida was the bellwether state in national elections. During the 2000 election, Florida was the key swing state in George W. Bush's presidential victory over Al Gore. Bush won the state by a shockingly low margin of 537 votes, a 0.009% difference.

Now Florida is no longer considered a purple state, and is written off as a Republican stronghold with GOP candidates racking up impressive victory margins in recent elections, such as Governor Ron DeSantis' unprecedented 20-point victory over Charlie Crist in 2022, claiming over 1.5 million more votes than his Democratic challenger.

This shift began as the GOP was able to register more voters in the early 2000s, and DeSantis' positioning of Florida as a "free state" during the COVID-19 pandemic attracted an influx of Republicans from states with more restrictions at the time.

Since DeSantis has reached the end of his legal consecutive terms, this year Florida will be voting in a new governor. Despite Republican's 1.5 million registered voter lead, Democrats are hopeful this governor's race may break from the trend.

"Gubernatorial politics is one of my sustained research interests," said Dr. Austin Trantham, assistant professor of political science and



Republican gubernatorial candidate Byron Donalds was endorsed early by Trump, and by DeSantis after he won the Republican Primary. (Photo by Elijah Penn)

co-author of a research article on gubernatorial campaigning. "Governors are powerful political figures whose actions more directly affect citizens on a daily basis than members of Congress or the president."

Trantham notes that Florida's governor is one of the most constitutionally powerful governors in the nation. Furthermore, Florida politics frequently lead policies in other Republican states.

"The Florida governor has a unique power that allows them to suspend state and local officials, including county sheriffs and school board members. Florida's governor also exercises strong control on judicial appointments," said Trantham.

Congressman Byron Donalds (FL-19) won the divisive Republican primary with less than a majority of votes on a split ballot. Former Congressman David Jolly had a smoother path to victory in the Democratic primary, winning 61% of the vote.

When analyzing the Florida 2026 primary election, Trantham identified some themes that emerged.

"Endorsements still matter. Donald Trump publicly supported Byron Donalds in the Republican primary, and Trump's endorsement still carries weight with GOP primary voters," said Trantham. "The ability to raise and attract significant amounts of money is another important factor signifying electability."

Many Republicans who voted against Donalds in the primary are discontent with results, and Jolly's status as a former Republican appears to be attracting No Party Affiliation and moderate voters. Gubernatorial polls show Jolly quickly closing the gap on Donalds' lead.

Historically, midterm elections are favorable to the party which does not hold the presidency. President Trump's approval rating in Florida is at 48%, according to NBC Miami. DeSantis voiced concern that many Republicans plan to sit this election out.

"If David Jolly wins the gubernatorial election or comes close, this would signify a popular backlash against the current president," said Trantham.

Both Donalds and Jolly had significantly more financial backing than their opponents in their respective primaries. Trantham notes this factor could prove problematic to Jolly who currently has \$15 million dollars compared to Donalds' \$135 million dollar campaign funding.

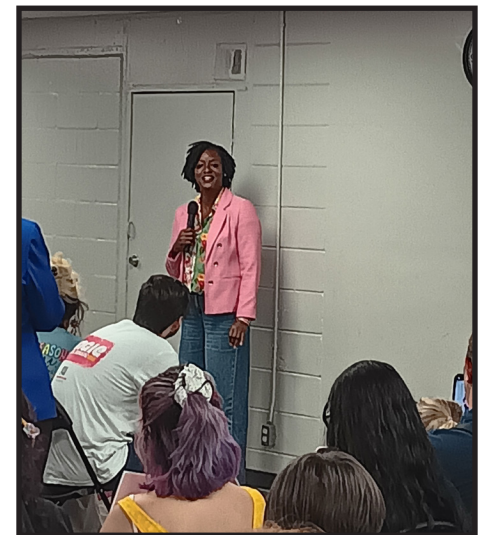
Unlike the gubernatorial primary, funding was not a deciding factor in the Democratic Senate primary. Angela "Angie" Nixon's victory over her opponent, Alex Vindman, was called the biggest upset of the Florida primary. Vindman was nationally known for his role as a key witness in the 2019 Trump impeachment trial. His campaign raised \$16.3 million to Nixon's \$1 million. Still, Nixon went on to win 56.1% of the vote.

Although the Florida U.S. Senate race looks much more favorable for Republicans, recent polling is still showing a shift in favor of Democrats. This election will be the first time that Incumbent Republican Ashley Moody will face voters for this office after being appointed by DeSantis to fill Senator Marco Rubio's vacancy after he was appointed by Trump to U.S. Secretary of the State.

Moody will test her approval with voters against Democrat Florida House Representative Nixon and No Party Affiliation candidate and legal reform advocate, Neil J. Gillespie.

Moody has been criticized for her role in the \$10 million Hope Florida scandal as Florida's Attorney General (AG) at the time. This scandal also plagues current AG incumbent Republican James Uthmeier who will face Democrat Florida Senator Jose Javier Rodriguez in November.

On the other hand, Nixon has drawn criticism for her disruptive behavior on the Florida House Floor, resulting in her being fined by a judge and instructed to complete 15 hours of community



Democratic Senate candidate Nixon has received endorsements from U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and U.S. Representative Ilhan Omar. (Photo by Elijah Penn)

service, and for identifying with the Democratic Socialists of America.

Another statewide race contested in 2026 is Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services, where incumbent Republican and former Florida Senate President, Wilton Simpson, will go against Democrat Joey Mendoza Atkins, an attorney who specializes in representing migrant farm workers, and Write-In Kyle "KC" Gibson, a pastor who has run for governor in previous elections.

The Florida Chief Financial Officer race features incumbent Republican and former Florida State Senator Blaise Ingoglia and Democrat former Florida Senator Annette Taddeo. Like Nixon, Ingoglia has drawn criticism for his antics such as protesting cancel culture by proposing a ban which would ban any political party that has officially supported slavery in Florida. If passed, this bill would have banned the Democratic party in the state.

Trantham pointed out that the results of Florida's midterm elections could determine how much money and effort the national Democratic and Republican parties are willing to spend in the future attempting to hold or take offices in a state that is considered a conservative stronghold.

"The state's close gubernatorial race provides interesting insights for the future of the state and the nation," said Trantham.

Tim Curry: Prince of Halloween, king of hearts

Emma Garrett
Staff Writer

On Aug. 25, actor, singer, and author, Tim Curry passed away; fans across the world expressed their earnest sadness and condolences for the deceased. Dubbed the Prince of Halloween, fans will honor his memory this fall by celebrating his most iconic roles.

Audiences became enamored with Curry's performance in RHPS. Fans, both new and old, were captivated by his silly yet sultry performance in the film.

Ava Barretto, a senior English major, recounted how influential Curry and his films were to her life and how she expresses herself.

"I just liked how glamorous his acting was; it was glamorous and

dissect themes of self-acceptance and expressing one's true self even if others disagree with one's lifestyle. Curry giving a natural performance to a feminine and alternative character was a big deal for the time. The movie's themes resonate with audiences of all backgrounds and inspire them to be their true selves.

Curry was known for being a method actor, a performer who lives and breathes their character both on and off stage. Even though Dr. Frank-N-Furter was such an unapologetically loud and influential role, there was more to come from his performances in the upcoming years.

Fifteen years after playing Dr. Frank-N-Furter, Curry would land the role of the horror icon, Pennywise. Before the 2017 remake, ABC featured a miniseries adaptation of Stephen King's novel, "It," to which Curry left a haunting impression on his audience.

"He scared me," Barretto recounted. "I thought that he was just terrifying and the way that he had such an exaggerated performance had set a standard to how Pennywise should act but also setting a new perspective for villains."

Many viewers, particularly members of Gen-X, believe Curry's rendition of Pennywise had kick-started the fear culture surrounding clowns. Curry's Pennywise sported the classic clown costume and make-up; he didn't look too much different than an entertainer at a children's party. There wasn't anything particularly scary about his appearance. What truly made Pennywise scary were the subtle movement in his eyes, the unhinged poses of his mouth, his raspy voice, and his violent body language.

Curry had put a lot of stock into both overemphasized and subtle acting choices. However, he had to work even harder against heavy make-up from his more prominent roles. When playing the Lord of Darkness from the film "Legend," Curry was covered from head to

toe with make-up and prosthetics. He took the role in full stride and put in just as much effort, if not more, to match his usual grandiose performances such as Dr. Frank-N-Furter.

Curry had put his all into his roles, including the ones outside of his supernatural and occult films. His inclusion in films like "Clue", "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York", and "Annie" added so much personality and wit into already brilliant films.

While the Prince of Halloween reigns over his fans' hearts in fall, this beloved actor is a staple of holiday films of all seasons. While fans can watch "It" on Oct. 31, Netflix will release his final role in "Barbie in the Nutcracker" on Nov. 1. The Netflix animated feature is a remake of the 2001 film of the same name, which includes Curry as the villainous Rat King. In the newest offering, Curry returns as the voice of the Rat King's father.

Curry will live on forever in the hearts of millions and will be memorialized in the movies that shaped generations.



Curry had lived 80 long, successful years in the arts. (Photo was taken from A&M Records / Public Domain)

Curry began his career as both a stage actor and television star. However, it wasn't until his first film role that he became a household name. In 1975, audiences were introduced to Curry in the leading role of Dr. Frank-N-Furter in the film, "Rocky Horror Picture Show" (RHPS). Based on the stage play with the same name, the film became a classic for all, especially in the fall season.

rugged at the same time," Barretto said.

Barretto further explained that Curry's skills as an actor are significantly more advanced than most performers today as he can naturally switch between characters and genres. He was simply more capable of playing characters different from himself than other actors.

Both the film and the stage play



From television and cinema to video games and animated classics, Tim Curry had dipped his toes into every form of storytelling. (Photo taken from G.P. Chicken / Public Domain)

The impacts of Amendment 3: How will this affect Florida if it passes?

David Le
Staff Writer

While the focus of this election season has been on the candidates running for governor, the Senate, and representatives to serve Floridians in Tallahassee and in Washington D.C., a proposed amendment to the Florida State Constitution has sparked debate on the benefits for homeowners versus the costs to local governments, municipalities, and citizens.

This proposal will be known as "Amendment 3" on the November ballot. After the idea was proposed by Governor Ron DeSantis, the state legislature passed the ballot measure in June 2026 to be approved by the voters.

"It is a push to eliminate or greatly lower the amount of property taxes that homeowners pay in Florida," Francis "Frank" Orlando, political science professor at Saint Leo University, said. "It needs 60% of the voters to approve it [to take effect]."

Amendment 3 seeks to raise tax exemptions for homesteaded properties to \$250,000. Dade City's Financial Officer, Peter Altman, explained how this could affect property owners with homestead exemptions.

"The greatest dollar value relief would go to that portion of the homesteaded property owners whose taxable value equals or exceeds \$250,000," Altman said. "Homesteaded property owners whose taxable value is less than the proposed \$250,000 value would no longer pay any property taxes for government services except for the school district taxes."

For homeowners, this proposal would benefit them through keeping more money in their pockets by paying less property taxes. Proponents of the amendment argue that it would help address rising prices hurting Floridians.

"For some voters, they would have a massive decrease in what they have to pay, which could go a long way towards affordability and

cost of living," Orlando said.

Supporters have also argued how tax breaks will free up funds for senior citizens living in Florida to spend on essentials like groceries and healthcare. As those have costs risen, their fixed incomes may not always increase

voters to reject the amendment, as uncertainly lingers on how emergency services would be funded.

The potential shortfall in revenue for local governments like Dade City has left officials like Altman weighing tough decisions they will have to make



Dade City is the county seat and one of the six municipalities in Pasco County. The downtown area features many small businesses and the historical Pasco County Courthouse. The passage of Amendment 3 may leave the city finding ways to fill millions of dollars in lost revenue. (Photo by David Le)

with the pace of inflation.

"A lot of revenue comes from property taxes," Orlando said.

Orlando explained that property taxes help fund services such as public roads, parks, libraries, and emergency services. He estimates that county and municipal governments could lose \$12 billion in revenue per year if Amendment 3 passes.

"How that gap will get filled is anybody's guess. It either means counties will do less or find ways to find revenue to maintain their services," Orlando said.

Florida is one of the eight states with no income taxes for citizens. Alongside sales taxes and excise taxes on products such as fuel, property taxes account for most revenues generated by county and local governments.

Some public safety organizations such as the Florida Fire Chiefs' Association, Florida Professional Firefighters, the Florida State Fraternal Order of Police, and the Florida Sheriffs Association have publicly urged

if Amendment 3 is passed, such as raising utility and service fees for residents to cover the loss of millions of dollars.

"[We may have to] reduce services except for emergency services [or] institute new or increase existing non-ad valorem taxes that tax properties on alternative assessment methods to extract the needed revenue in an alternative way," Altman said.

While supporters have argued the Amendment will encourage local governments to govern with fiscal responsibility, sources such as the non-partisan Florida Policy Institute have warned the need to raise funds may ultimately shift costs onto others.

This has raised the possibility of higher taxes on businesses or sales taxes, which in turn passes the costs onto consumers. Assistant professor of economics at Saint Leo University, Rita Ray, explained how the costs of living may ultimately not decrease, but possibly increase.

Ray explained that a reduction and elimination of property taxes

and shifting the costs onto a sales tax was a "redistribution of income."

Those who could afford to buy a property made more income and will pay less taxes if the measure passes. Those who were economically struggling, such as renters, will now have to pay higher sales taxes in addition to getting no homestead tax relief.

Cost shifts may not only be seen in sales taxes, but renters that may be unable to afford to own a home could see their rent increase. Rental properties cannot receive homestead exemptions, and landlords may shift potentially increased non-homestead taxes to renters.

"[We may need to] increase the millage rate up to 10 mills on all non-homesteaded and those homesteaded properties exceeding \$250,000 in taxable value," Altman said.

Not only could potential cost shifts increase financial pressures on those with lower incomes, but the public health system could face strains from reduced funding if Amendment 3 is passed. Public healthcare districts are estimated by the Florida Policy Institute to lose over \$323 billion dollars from lost property tax revenues that ensure healthy communities.

"Those who are employed in hospitals [could] lose their job, and it will take more time for someone waiting because there would be less staff [to see patients]," Ray said.

Ultimately, Amendment 3 raises many questions and concerns voters will have to consider when they head to the ballot boxes this November to decide the future of homestead property taxes in Florida. Reduced property taxes and sufficient government services are liked by everyone, but the questions of the costs to Floridians remain.

"Is it going to be worth not paying property taxes if we're going to have a decreased quality of life? Or increased costs to use services that we already use?" Orlando said. "That is a value question people [must] answer. What do they care about?"

Too old to trick-or-treat, too young to let go of the Halloween magic

Brianna Brinker

Arts & Culture Editor

As college kids, when Halloween comes around each year, do you find yourself reminiscing about your childhood?

It's Oct. 31, 2012, and you are waiting all day to wear your costume and ready to gather as much candy as possible. The streets are filled with lights and spooky decorations. When your bag is too heavy to carry, you get home, pour out all your candy from your trick or treat bag and eat as many as you can while watching Disney Channel's *Monstober's* Halloween episodes.

Those days are so nostalgic. The month of October in the 2010s felt like magic.

Now, we're too old to go out and trick or treat, but we're also too young to let go of all of the Halloween magic we felt as kids. Gen Z experienced Halloween at one of its prime times. How can we get that nostalgic feeling back in college?

When you enter college as a freshman, it is a hard transition to

change your traditions from what you are used to doing at home all your life to being in a new place and creating new ones. But college is all about starting new traditions, especially for the holidays.

"Being in college, holidays feel a little different since you're away from home and your usual traditions," said Siena Wille, a freshman majoring in criminal justice.

"At home, I love spending Halloween with my family, getting dressed up, carving pumpkins, and watching Halloween movies. I'm hoping to start some new Halloween traditions with my friends in college this year," Wille said.

On Halloween, here are a few ideas you and your friends can do to hold onto the magic from your childhood:

 Have a Disney Channel "Monstober" watch party with your friends: "Monstober" was when Disney Channel created special-edition Halloween episodes. It would be so nostalgic and fun to have a watch party with your

friends. Decorate your dorm for Halloween, have candy and snacks out, and rewatch all the Halloween Disney episodes we loved as kids.

 Hand out candy on your floor: This can start a cute new tradition in college. Fill a bucket with classic Halloween candies and leave it outside your dorm or knock on dorm rooms and hand it out. Everyone loves candy and it definitely is a great way to make students smile and recreate the trick-or-treating days.

 Decorate your dorm for fall or Halloween: We are used to our parents decorating the house with flashing lights and creepy monsters, but we can also do it in our dorm rooms! Go to the Dollar Tree with your roommates and pick out fun decorations for the season.

 Dress up with your friends: You are never too old to dress up on Halloween. Come up with easy group Halloween costumes with your friends and make it creative and fun! Take photos and make TikToks even if you aren't going anywhere!

From 2010 to 2026, Halloween has changed. It seems that each year, less and less kids show up on the streets looking for lights on at houses in their neighborhood.

It is not so crowded anymore with kids in cute costumes and houses handing out handfuls of candy. Some people don't hand out candy because no kids come on their street. Some kids feel too old to go out and trick or treat. It is not how it used to be for our generation.

"I think Halloween is still really fun for kids today, but I do think it feels a little different than when we were kids," said Wille.

There was something so special about Halloween for Gen Z. The new



Grab some candy from faculty on campus; Saint Leo University always hands candy out! (Photo by Brooke Brinker)

generation does more scheduled events for Halloween rather than trick or treating in their neighborhoods.

"I feel like there are more organized events and different ways for kids to celebrate now. Even though some things have changed, I think there is still something really special about seeing kids get excited about their costumes and candy," said Wille.

We all have memories that we will remember forever. Holidays felt like magic when we were kids and the traditions we created will not be forgotten.

Wille had traditions consisting of carving pumpkins, and she helped create haunted houses.

"Those are some of the things that really make Halloween feel magical when I was younger," said Wille.

If you are feeling nostalgic this fall season and want to recreate the Halloween magic we felt as kids, choose some of the ideas listed and make traditions that are fun and exciting, so, instead of sitting in your dorm room on Halloween, you can look forward to Halloween night just like we did as kids.



Watching your younger siblings, cousins, nieces or nephews trick-or-treat is so much fun. Seeing their eyes light up at all the decorations and run around the neighborhood for more candy brings back the nostalgia. (Photo courtesy of Sharlene Dilks)

Saint Leo panel weighs AI's promise, risks, and future

Saint Leo University confronts growing uncertainty over AI during its annual Constitution Day event

Angeliki Thomas
Staff Writer

"Are you excited or apprehensive for the future?" asked moderator Professor Francis Orlando, a political science instructor and faculty athletic representative. This is the question that people around the world are internalizing as AI technological advances threaten the future.

On Sept. 17, Saint Leo University hosted the annual Constitution Day forum, where select guest speakers were chosen to give their professional opinions on current pressing topics. This year, as AI technologies are improving at a rapid pace, Saint Leo chose to bring concerns from the community to the forefront. After his opening question, Orlando asked the panelists to raise their hands if they were excited for the future of AI and to the shock of many in attendance, only one of the panelists kept her hand down: Dr. Marissa C. Rhodes, an assistant professor of history and a teacher in the medical humanities and honors programs.

Orlando's next question focused on the core topic of AI and the U.S. Constitution. He began the discussion with Dr. Austin Trantham, an assistant professor of political science and Pre-Law advisor.

Orlando asked, "do you think the increasing power of AI poses any threat to the civil liberties guaranteed to us in the Constitution?"

Trantham acknowledged the complexity of AI's growing incorporation into everyday life, especially within the context of government surveillance. As professor of constitutional law, he recognized that there are underlying issues that will surface as AI infringes upon civil liberties through AI adaptation such as in police surveillance cameras.

The discussion quickly led into the viral Anthropic alignment researcher Evan Hubinger's estimation of a 10% chance of AI ending human life by the end of the decade. This statistic showcased the



Students, faculty, and even the president, Dr. Jim Burkee, came to enjoy the forum discussion. (Photo by David Le)

seriousness of how AI may negatively impact society and the fear that surrounds AI.

Candyce Nelson, a teaching and learning specialist at Saint Leo's Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, provided a refreshing remark that led the discussion for the rest of the forum.

"I grew up in the age of the era where the Internet was vastly available, and information was easily accessible," said Nelson. "I remember my teachers having similar conversations about cheating and cognitive offloading and all of this. But in my view, and from what I see in the arts, AI is a tool."

Nelson's perspective focused on how tools can be both helpful and dangerous. Her insightful perspective led to Dr. Kenneth "Kenny" Embry, an associate professor of communication at Saint Leo University in online communication and teaches courses on podcasting and digital literacy, developing the discussion with a personal anecdote that the audience seemed very engaged with. He used an analogy of how AI is like his wife when she reacts to his driving, which makes him a more cautious driver. Embry shared how, in the allegory of his gratitude for his wife always keeping him driving safely while on the road, AI is taking the wheel and therefore needs some sort of guardrails.

AI is certainly getting behind the wheel, and his very human perspective of AI's growing involvement put many students at ease.

Dr. Edward Santiago, assistant professor at Tapia College of Business and Technology, contributed a positive perspective of AI, that it will elevate professionals in their fields.

Santiago recognized the fact that AI will replace certain jobs; however, he suggested that just as in other periods of technological innovation, those jobs will be replaced.

Following the forum, students were left feeling impacted by the discussions that were held. Madelynn Paige Jones, a freshman majoring in political science, shared her thoughts on the event, especially on Candyce's views on AI being used as a tool. "There still is the fear of being replaced by AI," said Jones. "I like to keep in mind that AI can never replace human connection and interaction."

Jones mentioned how as a student, AI has been helpful in breaking down difficult concepts. However, she continues to diligently focus on her work in developing her own academic and professional skills.

"The best thing we can do now is learn how to properly use this tool that has been given to us," Jones said, "This is an opportunity. We have to also be able to use this tool ethically and responsibly."

The growing fears of AI usage in the professional and academic world have shaken the community to its core. Orlando shared some thoughts closing thoughts on the forum that circled back to the ideas of whether AI takes over all of the jobs in the workforce and eradicated the need for a workforce, to whether we as a society live in a sort of utopia and what will happen to a society that does not need to work to survive.

"There's dignity in a day's work and a fair wage," said Orlando. "I don't know if we're ready for that as a species."

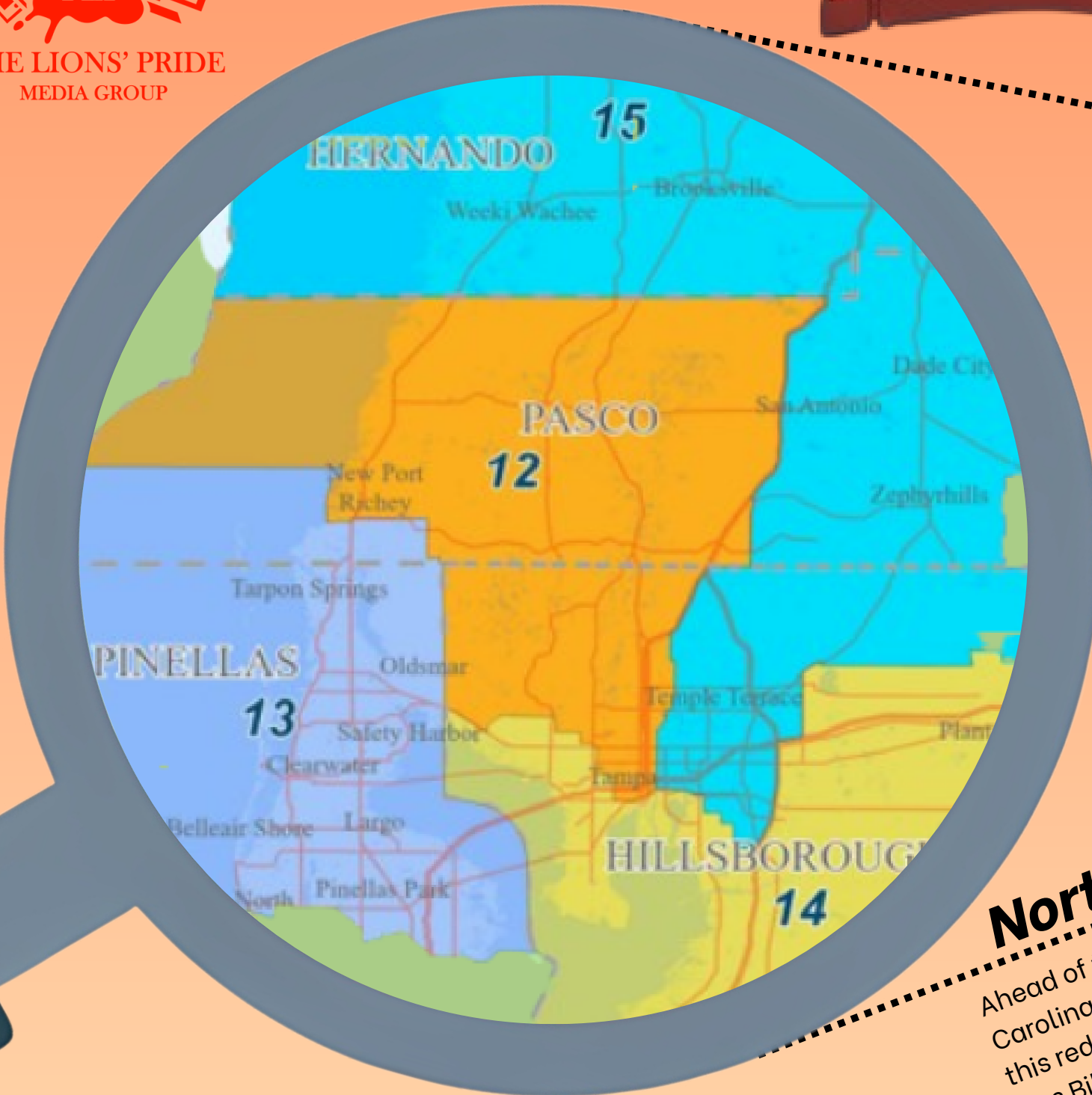
As AI tools continue to expand at an alarming rate, its impact is being felt across the world. Currently, there is no overarching legislation in place to regulate AI usage and rapid growth. We are all living in an era of uncertainty and having forums such as these allows students to have a moment to breathe and realize that they are not alone in their journey towards navigating a new technological era that will change the world.



The panelists left to right: Embry, Rhodes, Trantham, Santiago, Nelson. (Photo courtesy of David Le)



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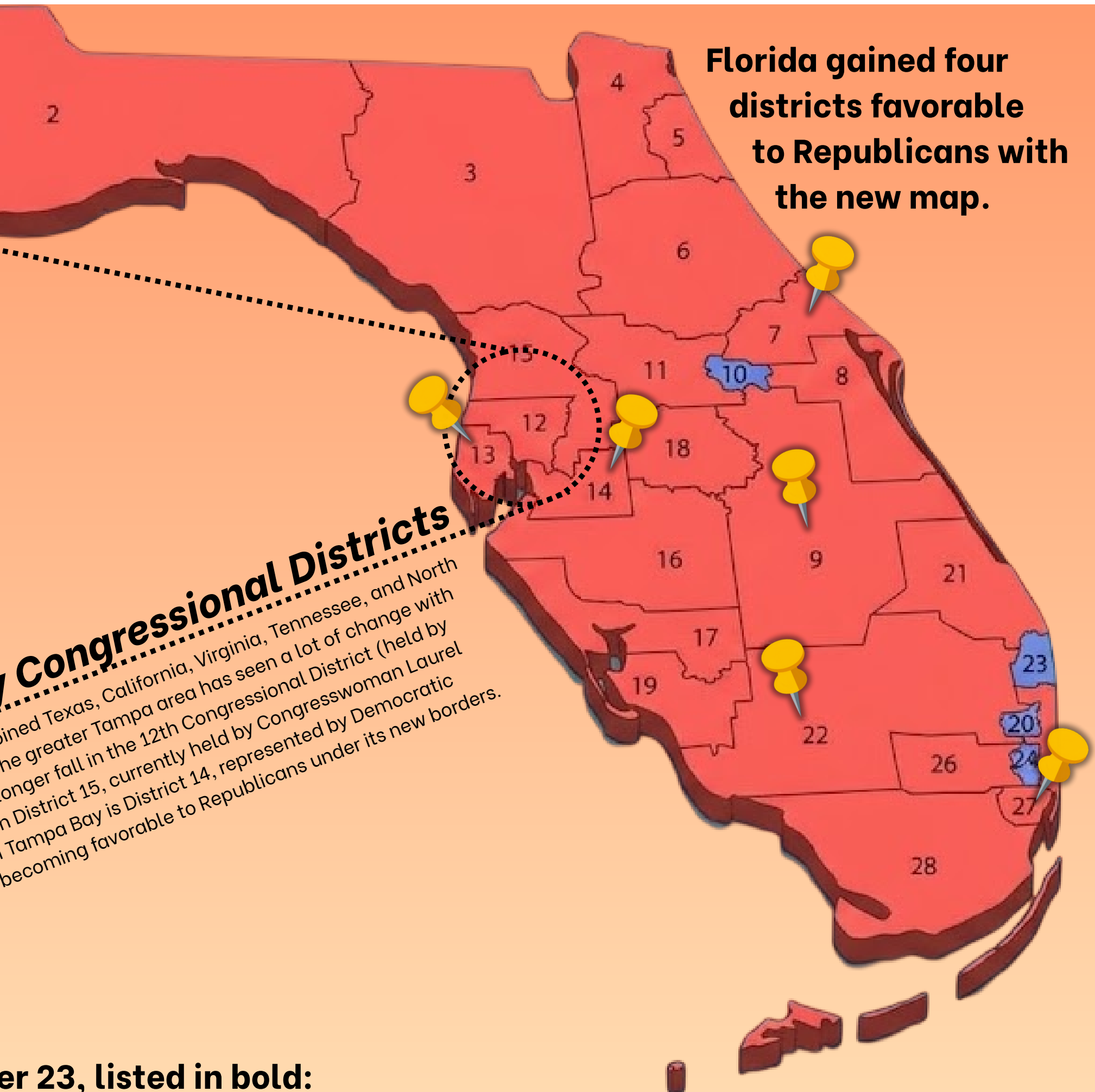
North Tampa Bay
Ahead of the 2026 election, Florida's 1st Congressional District is being redrawn. This redistricting is voluntary and will not affect the 2024 election. Saint Leo will no longer be in the district (Gus Bilirakis) and will instead be in District 15. The most notable change in the district is the loss of Congresswoman Kathy Castor.

Vulnerable seats, according to the Tampa Bay Times as of September 2023

District 1: Jimmy Patronis (Republican)
District 2: Neal Dunn (Republican)
District 3: Kat Cammack (Republican)
District 4: Aaron Bean (Republican)
District 5: John Rutherford (Republican)
District 6: Randy Fine (Republican)
District 7: Cory Mills (Republican)

District 8: Mike Haridopolos (Republican)
District 9: Darren Soto (Democratic)
District 10: Maxwell Frost (Democratic)
District 11: Daniel Webster (Republican)
District 12: Gus Bilirakis (Republican)
District 13: Anna Paulina Luna (Republican)
District 14: Kathy Castor (Democratic)

District 15: Laurel Lee (Republican)
District 16: Vern Buchanan (Republican)
District 17: Greg Steube (Republican)
District 18: Scott Franklin (Republican)
District 19: Byron Donalds (Republican)
District 20: Vacant
District 21: Brian Mast (Republican)



Congressional Districts

Combined Texas, California, Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. The greater Tampa area has seen a lot of change with the new map. District 15, currently held by Congresswoman Laurel Hicken, is no longer in the district. District 14, represented by Democratic Rep. Carlos Gimenez, is becoming favorable to Republicans under its new borders.

er 23, listed in bold:

- (Republican) **District 22: Lois Frankel (Democratic)**
- (Republican) District 23: Jared Moskowitz (Democratic)
- (Republican) District 24: Frederica Wilson (Democratic)
- (Republican) **District 25: Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Democratic)**
- (Republican) District 26: Mario Díaz-Balart (Republican)
- (Republican) **District 27: María Elvira Salazar (Republican)**
- (Republican) District 28: Carlos A. Giménez (Republican)

Beyond red and blue: The rise of non-party affiliated voters

Aimee McElreath

Campus News Editor

According to Gallup, voters registered as having no party affiliation increased from 38% of Americans in 2010 to 45% of Americans in 2025. This leads to the question of what this increase in independent voters could mean for future elections.

Dr. Karen Hannel, chair of the Department of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, provided insight into what NPA voter status is and why somebody may not affiliate with the mainstream political landscape of Left versus Right

“Technically, NPA is simply a voter-registration category,” said Hannel. “In Florida, a person can register with a political party or register without party affiliation.”

Essentially, if an NPA voter had to check a box of which party affiliation he or she was involved with, the choice the voter would check would be, “none of the above.”

NPA voter status should not be confused with affiliation with the Independent Party. The Independent Party has its own political ideas that do not fall into the categories of Democrat or Republican political thought, but voters not affiliated with a party have individual ideas that may not align with any party.

Further, Hannel elaborated on why somebody may not identify with a mainstream party like Democrat or Republican.

“There are many reasons, and one mistake is assuming that people who register without a party affiliation must fall somewhere in the political middle,” explained Hannel. “Some certainly do, but others have very strong political convictions and simply don't believe either major party represents them particularly well.”

In other words, not every person has the same political beliefs, and not everybody's political beliefs fall in line with an established status

quo of a particular political party.

“A voter might believe that one party has moved in directions they find fundamentally incompatible with their values while also believing that the other too often lacks the willingness or effectiveness to provide a meaningful alternative,” said Hannel. “In that situation, choosing NPA can be less about indecision than about declining to give either party an endorsement it hasn't earned.”

NPA allows voters to express more nuance in their voting choices. This is critical, considering that the world we live in is not black and white, but a complex world of ideas that are beneficial in some ways and negative in others.

NPA might also allow voters freedom from a political party whose ideas they once aligned with, but the political climate has drastically changed, creating a disconnect between the individual and the political organization.

“At least in my own case, becoming an NPA wasn't a matter of finding a new political home,” clarified Hannel.

In Hannel's case, she had decided that neither party had earned her affiliation, and if other NPA voters had also left their former political parties for the same reason, it would show a rising growth of dissatisfaction of the mainstream political landscape.

However, not every voter independent of a political party has the same reason for becoming an NPA.

“Some people may have never joined a party,” Hannel elaborated. “Others, like me, were previously affiliated and made a conscious decision to leave.”

As an independent voter, Hannel believes that she does not have an obligation to show loyalty to a particular party based on sharing views alone.

“Parties should have to earn a voter's support election by

election rather than assume it because of a letter beside the voter's name,” said Hannel.

The rise of registered NPA voters could mean that there could be less political division. Rather than “Left versus Right,” a surge of voters who identify with neither can instead base their political views based off “right versus wrong” or how they personally believe that government could be better structured.

It is also possible that this surge of political diversity could encourage dialogue between American citizens. Often, political

tension is so grand that any political subject is a taboo when speaking to somebody of different political thoughts, like a friend or family member.

However, conversation, when respectful, can bring us together as citizens of the United States of America and can produce new ideas that can benefit everybody. Rather than the continual splitting of American society into different political factions, the rise of NPA voters may suggest that we can grow in the core values of respect and community as American citizens.



The rise of the NPA may make the United States of America more United. (Photo by AimeeMarie McElreath)

POLITICS ARE SCARY QUIZ

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

Test your knowledge of U.S. history, pop culture,
and Halloween with these fun (and a little spooky) questions!

1

What sudden food order to the White House at night is an indicator of an impending national crisis?

2

The consumption of cherries and iced milk during excessive heat led to the death of what president?

3

Which president is said to have a guttural laugh that may be heard in the White House since the 1860s?

4

What happened to the man who was accused of assassinating President John F. Kennedy, Lee Harvey Oswald?

5

Which president was the first to live in the White House?

6

What president's pet alligator once lived in the White House and was a favorite of children on the grounds?

7

What is the name of the classic Halloween movie that follows a group of kids who go trick-or-treating on Halloween night?

8

Where does the name "Jack o' Lantern" come from, and what does it originally represent?

9

What is the origin of the tradition of trick-or-treating? How did it begin?

10

What creature is often associated with Halloween and is known for being a symbol of bad luck and mystery?

11

Which Halloween song became a signature Halloween anthem after its release in 1962?

12

In what year was the first Halloween costume officially patented, and what was it for?

Meet the candidates who promise to kill bugs if elected

November marks a historic eastern Pasco election for Pasco County

Mosquito Control District Commission

Elijah Penn

Editor-in-Chief

Did you know that in Pasco County Mosquito Control commissioners are elected by voters?

Pasco County Mosquito Control District (PCMCD) is one of 15 independent mosquito control districts in Florida. This means that it is comprised of a board of elected commissioners and has the authority to levy taxes.

PCMCD recently reached its 75-year milestone in May. However, this year will mark big changes for the way the commission is elected.

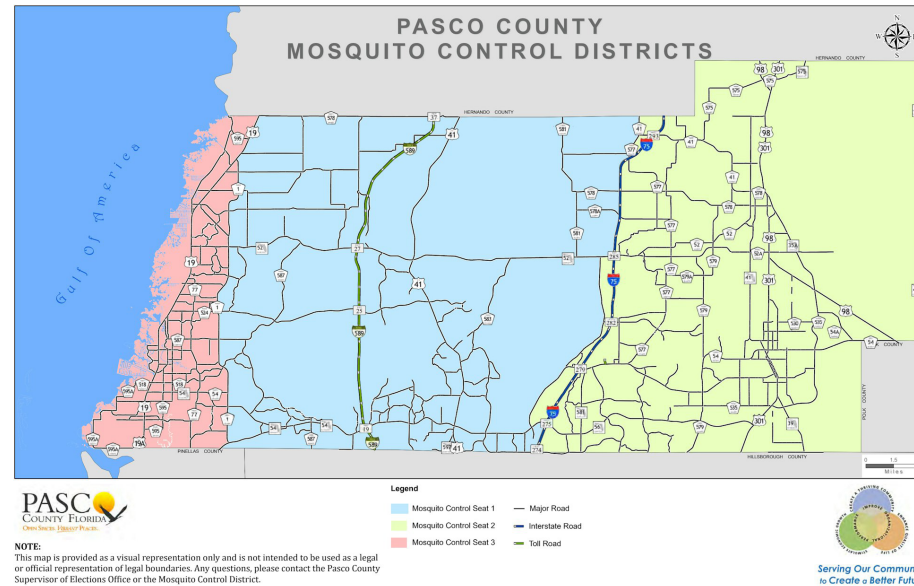
In the 2025 Florida legislative session, State Representative Brad Yeager sponsored a bill which created term limits for PCMCD commissioners of two four-year terms and mandated the Pasco County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) to create the PCMCD commission subdistricts.

Yeager's bill fundamentally altered who elects PCMCD commissioners. Previously, the seats were voted on county-wide, but beginning in 2026, only registered voters in the subdistrict represented by the commissioner seeking election can vote in the race.

In the 2026 legislative session, Rep. Randall Maggard revised the term limits to three four-year terms and mandated the BOCC to include all of Zephyrhills in the PCMCD commission Subdistrict 2.

On Nov. 3, voters in eastern Pasco County will decide who their PCMCD commissioner will be for Subdistrict 2, which covers all of Pasco roughly from I-75 east, with a few carveouts falling west of I-75. There is no incumbent in this race as the current District 2 commissioner, Matthew "Skeeter" Abbott, who has served on the board since 2007, is no longer eligible under the new term limits and drawing of subdistrict lines.

Abbott ran as a Republican in the 2026 primary for Rep. Kevin Steele's vacant seat of the Florida House of Representatives District 55, but was defeated by Walter Price, who will face Democrat Zach Funkhouser in



Two of the state Representatives of Pasco County sponsored legislation which established subdistricts for the purpose of elections and regional representation. (Map from PCMCD)

the general election.

PCMCD is comprised of three commission seats representing west, central, and east Pasco. It is responsible for overseeing mosquito control efforts in Pasco to limit mosquito-borne diseases by spraying to kill mosquitos and researching mosquitos and the diseases they carry. It also monitors best practices and local and national trends in infection. Its commission is charged with overseeing operations and approving financial decisions.

This election comes at an unprecedented time in mosquito-borne illnesses in Tampa Bay with Pasco, Hillsborough, and Pinellas counties declaring a state of emergency due to worst recent recorded spread of dengue fever in the state.

Vying for this open seat in the nonpartisan PCMCD commission subdistrict are Gregory J. Fuher, a local businessman, and Shanon R. Holm, a member of the Mirada Community Development District.

Originally, from Michigan, Gregory Fuher joined the Navy at 17. He moved to Florida in 2005, living around the state before settling in Pasco in 2009.

Fuher was in the auto salvage industry for 20 years before starting his own consulting company, but it is politics that has always been his passion. This passion led him to filing

for the open PCMCD seat.

Fuher realizes how important PCMCD is and has researched their operation and the issues they face. This led him to discovering issues he believes he can resolve in their operations with his business experience.

The top three priorities Fuher holds are cutting wasteful spending, reviewing old contracts that may no longer benefit PCMCD or taxpayers, and ensuring that all equipment is up to date and safe.

"I think the board has been focused more on building some monstrous campus up closer to the executive director's home instead of being focus on whether we are being a good steward of the taxpayers money," said Fuher.

He believes that his twenty plus years of experience overseeing complex business operations and budgets qualifies him to help bring accountability to PCMCD.

"We should be trying not to spend taxpayer money just because we have it and think we should," said Fuher, "that's how spending gets out of control in government agencies."

Fuher wants to move PCMCD from seeking more tax money to finding ways to cut costs in daily operation.

"When you're running an organization on 'where do I get more money' instead of 'how can I spend less money and still get a great effect,'

then that's a big problem," said Fuher.

A Florida native, Shanon Holm, came to Pasco after graduating from USF in 2007. He minored in Political Science and has always been interested in Politics.

Holm has been following PCMCD since 2012 and ran multiple times for a board seat against incumbent commissioners. He didn't plan to run again until the new district lines offered an opportunity.

The top three priorities Holm has for PCMCD are the efficient use of tax funds, continuing high-level service, and cutting spending.

Holm currently sits on the Mirada CDD, where he and his fellow board members oversee a budget of tax funds. During his time on the board, he successfully fought a proposed tax increase. He also came out against the new \$37 million facility the PCMCD proposed in 2024, calling it "wasteful spending."

Holm noted that the Hillsborough County Mosquito Control, which operated under the Hillsborough County BOCC, has a budget of \$7.7 million, compared to PCMCD's \$25 million budget. Although about half of that budget is reserves, PCMCD still outspends its southern neighbor.

"Our budget has bloomed. Six years ago, it was about \$10 million. So, we just keep spending more and more," said Holm, "It seems like we're spending every penny we can get our hands on, which is not what we should be doing."

Holm positions himself as someone with experience overseeing tax budgets with proven results and an active participant in dialogue with the PCMCD since 2012.

"You've got to be able to fight for the taxpayers, and I think I've proven that I'm that person who's able to do that," said Holm.

With PCMCD being primarily a budgetary role, east Pasco voters must decide which of these they think will best oversee this important operation and put their tax dollars to use in the most cost-effective way.

Where to find fall fun near campus

Isabella Picone
Staff Writer

As the sweltering Florida heat begins to fade, and the first hints of an autumn chill arrive, consider trading a few study sessions for a pumpkin patch, fall festival, or spooky Halloween event. Academic stress can be overwhelming when a new school year begins, and unwinding with a fun fall activity may be the solution to your worries. Whether you are looking for a family-friendly occasion or something more spine-chilling, this article is for you.

At Dade City Farms, the 2026 Fall Festival kicked off on September 26 and will be open every Saturday and Sunday in Oct. from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Dade City Farms’ 2026 Fall Festival will include pumpkin patches, a petting zoo, local vendors, and more.

At Wiregrass Mall in Wesley Chapel, Halloween themed Wednesday Night Market will transpire on Oct. 14 from 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. This free event involves market trick-or-treating, fall treats, and costumes galore.

The Wednesday Night Market is also family-friendly and costumes are highly encouraged. Another

market option is the Antique Mall of Dade City’s Trunk or Treat on Oct. 24 from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. The Antique Mall of Dade City is less than 15 minutes from campus and promises candy, community fun, and spooktacular vintage finds. This event is free to enter, and costumes are once again encouraged.

If you are willing to make a slightly longer trek to Tampa, the Hyde Park Pumpkin Patch is a popular spot for both pumpkins and pictures. From Oct. 10–25, the pumpkin patch will be open, and all pumpkin proceeds support the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and animals finding their forever homes. Additionally, on Oct. 24, Hyde Park will host its pet parade and live music.

Also on Oct. 24, Tampa Riverwalk is hosting events from 4 p.m. – 9 p.m.; the evening begins with trick-or-treating, continues with costume contests, and ends with a Halloween movie. All this fun occurs on the Tampa Riverwalk and overlooks the Hillsborough River.

Finally, the Tampa hotspot Sparkman Wharf hosts Haunted Wharf every Oct. and transforms into a spooky shipwreck that is milder early on and gets scarier as the night progresses. This event

also includes dancing, DJs, food, and cocktails for those 21 and older.

If you want to get your socks spooked off, Howl-O-Scream is a terrifying option. Howl-O-Scream haunts Busch Gardens during September-Oct. and showcases some of Florida’s scariest haunted houses. Tickets start at \$49 and can be purchased on the Busch Gardens website.

A closer alternative, less than 15 minutes from campus, is Scream-A-Geddon, which runs until Nov. 1. The tickets start at \$40, and there are six scary attractions that are renowned for being horrifying. These events are not for the faint of heart but continue to bring fun and bloodcurdling fear to Pasco County every year.

“My first time going to Scream-A-Geddon was in eighth grade, and I have gone every year since. Nothing else can compare to the terrifying fear that Scream-A-Geddon evokes,” said Breckin Paolinetti, a Pasco County local who returns again and again for the adrenaline rush and Halloween fun of Scream-A-Geddon.

If you prefer to stay on campus,



Friends, couples, and families have a variety of wonderful picture opportunities at the Dade City Farms Fall Festival. Ben Hasapidis '26 and Caroline Magill '26 enjoyed attending this spot as students. (Photo courtesy of Benjamin Hasapidis)

Residence Life hosts the Haunted Marmion Trick-or-Treat event during Oct. at Marmion-Snyder Hall. This event is also open to the community and free; however, attendees are asked to donate one canned or nonperishable food item at check-in that will be donated to a local food bank for community distribution.

However you decide to spend your fall months—in a pumpkin patch, getting scared at a haunted house, or simply sipping on some coffee with friends—have fun and be safe.

Sports

Fall season is in full swing for the Lions: When to catch Saint Leo sports at home

Ana Guarderas
Sports Editor

Fall competition is in full swing at Saint Leo University. Students and community members still have many opportunities to support the Lions at home.

Championship seasons are underway for fall sports, including men’s soccer, women’s soccer, volleyball, men’s cross country, and women’s cross country. While these programs take the main stage during the fall, several other programs will also be competing throughout the semester to prepare for their championship seasons,

which are later in the academic year.

For students and community members looking to support the green and gold, the fall calendar brings multiple opportunities to catch the different sports in action at the Saint Leo Soccer Field, Marion Bowman Activities Center, Lake Jovita Golf and Country Club, Mary Cannon Cabot Stadium, Jody Luihn Family Stadium, Thomas B. Southard Stadium, and the Saint Leo Tennis Center.

Both Saint Leo soccer programs began conference play on Sept. 16, with many opportunities to play in front of their home crowd.

FALL HOME SCHEDULE

Date	Sport
Oct 15	Women’s Lacrosse vs. Florida Southern
Oct 19-20	Women’s Golf
Nov 13	Softball vs. SCF

The men's soccer team has started their season on a high note, obtaining three home wins, including a victory over No. 17 in the country, Florida Southern.

The team started its conference run at home against Tampa with 10 conference matches, five of them being at the Saint Leo Soccer Field. Their home conference opponents include the University of Tampa, Palm Beach Atlantic, Barry University, Eckerd College, and Nova Southeastern University.

With five conference games and two non-conference games in the schedule taking place at the Saint Leo Soccer Field, the Lions will have many opportunities to play in front of their community. So far, they have played four of their conference home games. Their focus is still the same: keep grinding and giving their best on their home field with the two conference games left.

Team captain and junior, Viktor Danielsson, majoring in economics, invites the students and community to take advantage of these opportunities.

"Show up; it means a lot. I think we have a special group, and I believe we can do something special this year. So come out and support," Danielsson said.

For the women's soccer team, they have started their season before conference play with a home win against Middle Georgia, setting a good standard of what they can do this season. They will have the opportunity this semester to play six times in front of their home crowd. The first three games have been against Florida Tech, Florida Southern, and Lynn. From Oct. 17 until Oct. 27, they will be playing against Embry-Riddle, and Rollins on the Saint Leo Soccer Field.

The most recent home game had a little more meaning for Saint Leo Assistant Coach Hannah Kuster, who played for Lynn University for four years.

"Lynn holds a special place in my life because I spent four years there as a student-athlete and had an amazing college experience," Kuster said. "It feels like a full-circle moment, going from competing in the Sunshine State Conference as a player at Lynn to now coaching in the same conference here at Saint Leo."

Now from the opposite sideline, Kuster is looking forward to experiencing this game from the coaching side at the Lions' home game against Lynn.

Volleyball will give students many more opportunities to support this season at the Marion Bowman

FALL VOLLEYBALL HOME SCHEDULE

Date	Sport
Oct 16, 6 p.m.	PBA
Oct 21, 6 p.m.	Webber
Oct 23, 6 p.m.	Lynn
Oct 24, 7 p.m.	Nova Southeastern
Nov 6, 6 p.m.	Rollins
Nov 7, 4 p.m.	Embry Riddle

- Conference
- Non-conference

Activities Center.

The Lions began Sunshine State Conference play at home on Sept. 18 with a total of 10 home conference matches on the schedule, with opponents including Florida Southern, Eckerd, Tampa, Barry, Florida Tech, Palm Beach Atlantic, Lynn, Nova Southeastern, Rollins, and Embry-Riddle all the way up to November.

After the first couple of conference games, junior Gina Stavile, who is doing her MBA in data analytics, has learned from this experience.

"This conference is one of the toughest out there, so we can't hesitate. We have to play hard every single game and leave everything out there," Stavile said.

The only two fall season programs that don't get a chance to compete in front of their home crowd are Men's and Women's Cross Country, but they will spend their fall traveling to meet all over the region from Lakeland to Alabama. This is all in preparation for their Sunshine State Conference championship and postseason competition.

This year, they get the chance to compete for conference titles not too far from home. Their championship being on Nov. 7 in Lakeland will be hosted by a well-known opponent, Lynn University.

Even though the community doesn't get a chance to see them

competing at home, there are still ways to support them such as checking their results on the Saint Leo University Athletics website or social media as well as the Cross Country Team's Instagram.

For the Lions, the fall semester doesn't stop there. There are many programs competing this semester before they kick off their championship season in the spring. These upcoming games include men's and women's golf, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's lacrosse, beach volleyball, softball, and baseball, with a few different competition dates this fall, and they even bring some of the action home.

This semester brings many chances for the community to support many of Saint Leo's teams this fall with the advantage that they don't have to travel anywhere else.

Come out and support the Lions throughout their fall season competition, whether it is a night inside Marion Bowman Activities Center, an evening at the soccer field, a morning at Jovita, an afternoon at Mary Cannon Cabot Stadium, the home of the 2026 Softball National Champions, or any other stadium.

This schedule gives the community the opportunity to experience the school spirit while rooting for their favorite Lions.

FALL SOCCER HOME SCHEDULE

Date	Sport
Oct 6, 7 p.m.	Men's Soccer vs. Florida Poly
Oct 10, 7 p.m.	Women's Soccer vs. Lynn
Oct 14, 7 p.m.	Men's Soccer vs. Eckerd
Oct 17, 7 p.m.	Women's Soccer vs. Embry Riddle
Oct 21, 6 p.m.	Men's Soccer vs. Nova Southeastern
Oct 24, 7 p.m.	Men's Soccer vs. Trinity (FL.)
Oct 27, 7 p.m.	Women's Soccer vs. Rollins

- Conference
- Men's Soccer
- Non-conference
- Women's Soccer

Coach Lyndsey Bevill's “one percent better” philosophy helped build a championship team

Ana Guarderas

Sports Editor

Coach Lyndsey Bevill, the Saint Leo women's golf coach, has built a championship team around the philosophy of becoming one percent better every day.

As a former athlete and coach, Bevill has a strong competitive spirit. Winning matters to her, and after more than a decade in the college coaching world, she has proven it. But when she talks about what has kept her coaching, winning and the championships are not what comes to her mind first.

“The relationships. Without question,” Bevill said. “Winning is fun, and I’m extremely competitive. But at the end of the day, the trophies aren’t what keeps you coaching.”

Bevill has taken the opportunity of coaching to help young women develop not just as golfers, but as students, teammates, and most importantly, people.

Bevill began her college coaching career after graduating with a degree in sports business from Northern Kentucky University, where she was a member of the women's golf team for four years. In 2011, she joined the University of Indianapolis Women's Golf program as a graduate assistant coach. Coaching gave Bevill a way to stay connected to golf while changing the focus to not just her own results, but her players and team.

“I wanted to stay connected to the game in a way where I could make an impact on other people,” Bevill said.

After six seasons with the Greyhounds, Bevill took the head coaching position at Saint Leo University in 2017.

Bevill's coaching philosophy has evolved over the years into what she calls the “one percent better” philosophy. For her, improvement doesn't have to completely happen overnight, but



Coach Lyndsey Bevill, the head coach of the women's golf program at Saint Leo University, with the 2024 Sunshine State Conference Championship team and their trophies. (Courtesy of Hailey Ji Cai)

it's about finding a way to get a little better every day.

Most golfers want to see the big results: lower scores, tournament wins, championships, but those things take time. They come from the small decisions linked to preparation, attitude, response, effort, and consistency.

“Those little things add up. If we can consistently get one percent better, eventually the results take care of themselves,” Bevill said.

This philosophy impacts the players in much more than just golf; it is a way to push each day to become better and keep growing. It might mean becoming a better teammate, student, communicating better, and handling adversity. Perfection is not the goal; continuing to grow a little each day is.

In 2024, years of small improvements led Saint Leo Women's Golf to a conference championship. The Lions were able to capture the first Sunshine State Conference Championship in program history. It represented years of recruiting, building relationships, changing expectations, learning from mistakes, players leaving their mark, and believing.

“People see the picture with the trophy at the end, but they don't see everything that happened before it,” Bevill said.

Elena Verticchio, a member of the 2024 championship team and an All-American Honorable Mention, experienced firsthand how Bevill's philosophy helped her grow on and off the golf course.

“Coach Bevill has believed in me since the first day I set foot at Saint Leo,” Verticchio said. “Because of her, I have become a more confident person, leader, and athlete.”

Bevill truly saw the “one percent better” philosophy and growth in the 2024 team. They believed in each other and competed for one another. The players became more mature in time, learned to handle adversity, communicate, and most importantly, became better teammates. Those are things that don't show on Golfstat, but they matter much more than people think.

The team did not depend on one person to carry. They learned to stay in the moment and keep fighting for the whole group, even during the moments that didn't go as planned.

“You don't have to play perfect golf. You just have to keep making the next decision the best one you can,” Bevill said, noting what represented the “one percent better” philosophy in that team.

For Bevill, the “one percent better” philosophy goes beyond golf and scores. What she truly wants for her players is to leave after four years as confident and

independent women who know how to handle difficult situations, communicate well, and deal with real life.

Golf only goes so far, but the lessons, skills, relationships, and experiences learned through it and college athletics stay with them. Bevill hopes her players develop during their time in the program, developing qualities like accountability, resilience, discipline, and communication.

“I also want them to know that somebody believed in them and cared about them as a person, not just because of what number they shot that day,” Bevill said.

Verticchio experienced this kind of support during her time at Saint Leo and how it continues after graduating.

“She is not only my coach, but also a mentor and someone I trust and know will always be in my corner,” Verticchio said.

Bevill has learned in her role as a coach that caring for her players is not making things easy for them. But pushing them to be better and holding them accountable, since the goal is for them to develop and get better even during difficult times.

Bevill has shown that she doesn't just develop golfers; she builds a family. The 2024 Sunshine State Conference Championship is part of the team's legacy. Still, Bevill hopes the legacy is measured by the hard work, relationships, how players represent Saint Leo, the development, and how players care of each other, not just scores and championships.

She hopes her players can look back and say, “Those four years helped make me who I am,” and see a family and support system.

“Once you're a Lion, you're always a Lion” is one of the mottos Bevill likes to pass along to her players after they finish their time with the program.



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Trick or treat

