

Five local ballot measures across Florida passed this election cycle, each offering new or increased protections for local communities and environments, including in Nassau County.

- Protect Nassau Now or Never passed, authorizing a bond to establish a new county land conservation program to protect water resources.
- Alachua County's Wild Spaces and Public Places Program passed, renewing the program.
- Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands program passed, extending bonds for the program.
- Indian County Forever passed, authorizing a bond to continue the county's conservation land acquisition program.
- Polk Forever passed, renewing a small property tax for purchasing and preserving lands for conservation.

At every opportunity, Floridians voted to raise their taxes – something they don't like doing – to protect land for conservation, as they almost always do. Odd, then, that they also continue voting in overwhelming numbers for the political party continuing to promote fossil fuels, the political party ignoring clean energy, the political party bowing to development – although they both do that – the political party which refuses to take serious action on water quality, springs protection, biodiversity collapse or any other pro-environmental measure. Go figure.

Nationally, energy, climate change and the environment [were virtual non-issues for either party](#) based on issues in TV ads. This, despite climate change, being a major energizer and talking point in the 2020 presidential race.

[Only 8% of midterm voters](#) considered climate change the most important issue facing the nation, about the same number as those who said so of abortion, health care, immigration and crime.

LINK: [https://mediaproject.wesleyan.edu/issues-sept22/?utm\\_id=75327&sfmc\\_id=1642332](https://mediaproject.wesleyan.edu/issues-sept22/?utm_id=75327&sfmc_id=1642332)

LINK: [https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/11/08/exit-polls-2022-elections/?utm\\_id=75327&sfmc\\_id=1642332](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/11/08/exit-polls-2022-elections/?utm_id=75327&sfmc_id=1642332)

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The developers behind the Wildlight project just off the interstate in Nassau County, Radiant/Rayonier, are planning [a massive, 1.5 million square-foot industrial park for the area](#). The additional truck traffic, the additional noise pollution, light pollution, the additional impervious surface and resultant flooding, are hard to imagine. The Wildlight I-95 exit figures to be one of the busiest in Florida by the time Rayonier is done building out the property. Welcome to Nassau County.

So much for the “low country lifestyle” Wildlight developers are using to sell homes in the development.

If you live in Nassau County, start making your peace with how Rayonier and Wildlight will forever destroy its rural character.

LINK: [https://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2022/11/11/jacksonville-pattillo-rayonier-wildlight.html?utm\\_source=st&utm\\_medium=en&utm\\_campaign=ae&utm\\_content=JA&j=29675462&senddate=2022-11-11](https://www.bizjournals.com/jacksonville/news/2022/11/11/jacksonville-pattillo-rayonier-wildlight.html?utm_source=st&utm_medium=en&utm_campaign=ae&utm_content=JA&j=29675462&senddate=2022-11-11)

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Everglades National Park celebrates its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. [The park and its creation](#) were the focus of my “Welcome to Florida” podcast this week.

LINK: <https://www.stitcher.com/show/welcome-to-florida/episode/episode-125-everglades-national-park-at-75-208335495>