

SHERIFFS 101

Building community power in Florida



INTERPRETATION: para español, llame (786) 665-8802

pou kreyol, rele (305) 901-2692

WEBINAR PURPOSE

- Learn about the Freedom4Florida Coalition
- Learn more about the role of sheriffs in your community
- Learn how to support campaigns to demand change and hold sheriffs accountable in your community

SPEAKERS

- Courtney Peters, DreamDefenders
- Sen. Dwight Bullard, NewFlorida Majority
- Catoya Roberts, Advancement Project National Office
- Ky'Eisha Penn, Advancement Project National Office
- Tiffany Yang, Advancement Project National Office

FREEDOM FROM PRISONS AND POLICE





CARE > CAGES



SHERIFFS & THE HISTORY OF POLICING

SHERIFFS & THE HISTORY OF POLICING

What do we mean when we say.



COLONIZATION, ENSLAVEMENT, AND COLONIAL AMERICA

Sheriffs

Night
Watchmen

Slave
Patrols

Vigilantes

COLONIZATION, ENSLAVEMENT, AND COLONIAL AMERICA

Sheriffs

Night
Watchmen

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The Sheriff Resisted.

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COLONIZATION, ENSLAVEMENT, AND COLONIAL AMERICA

Sheriffs

Night
Watchmen

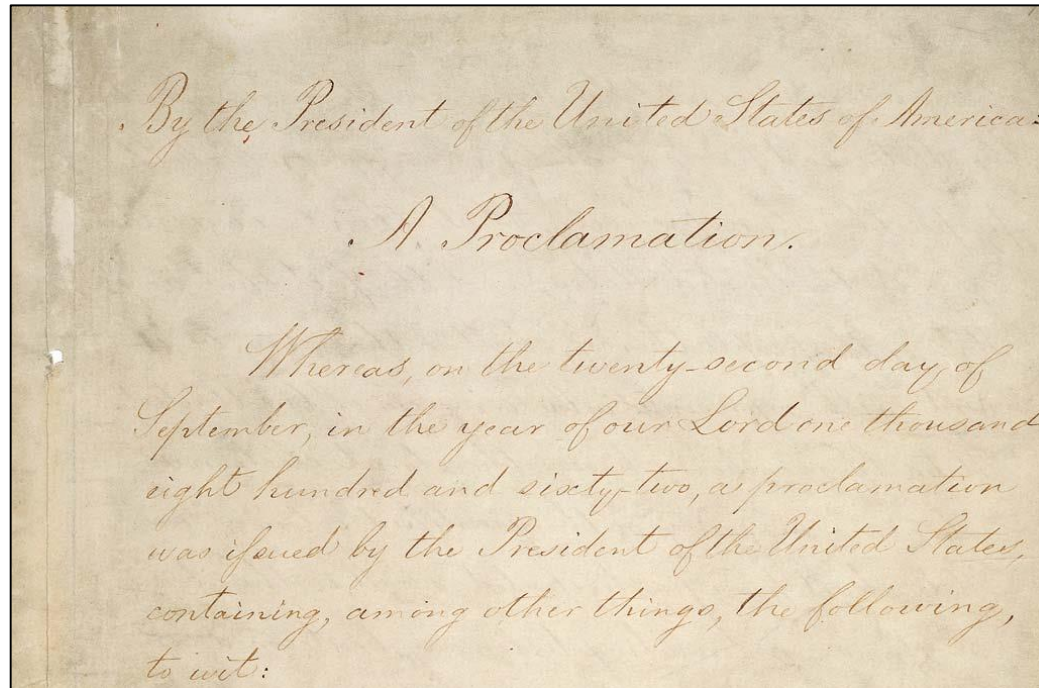
Slave
Patrols

Vigilantes



EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1863: Emancipation Proclamation



EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1865: Thirteenth Amendment

13th Amendment

Section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

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EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1860s: Black representation in political office



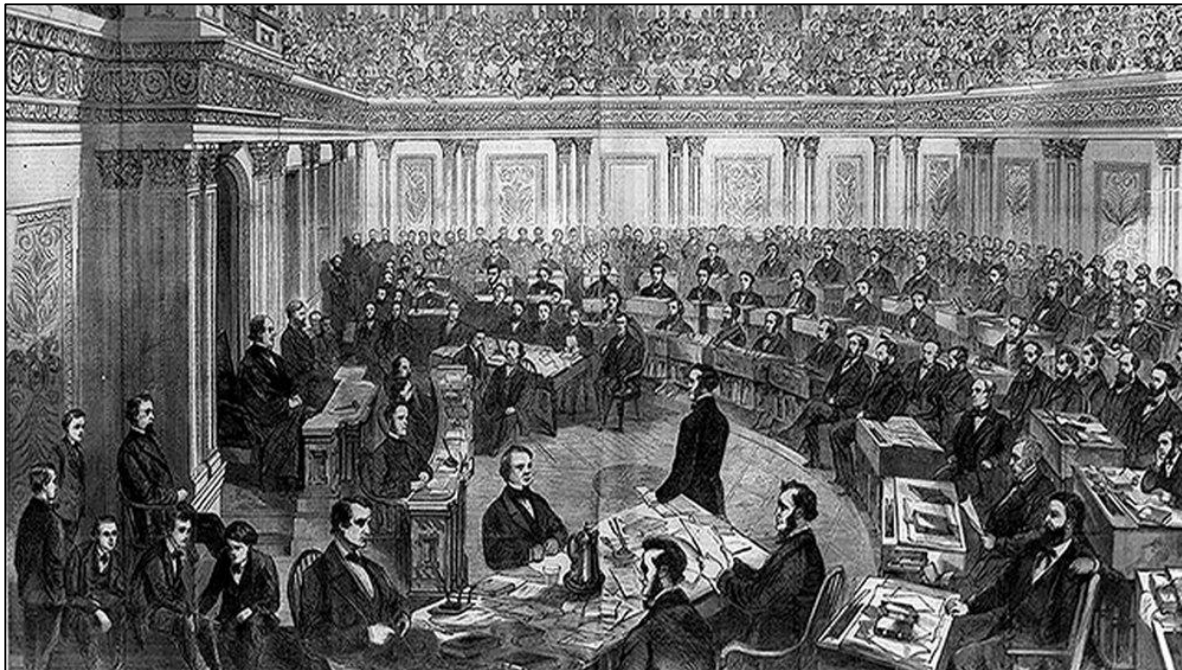
EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1870s: Paramilitary groups like the White League, Red Shirts, and the KKK violently police and intimidate Black voters



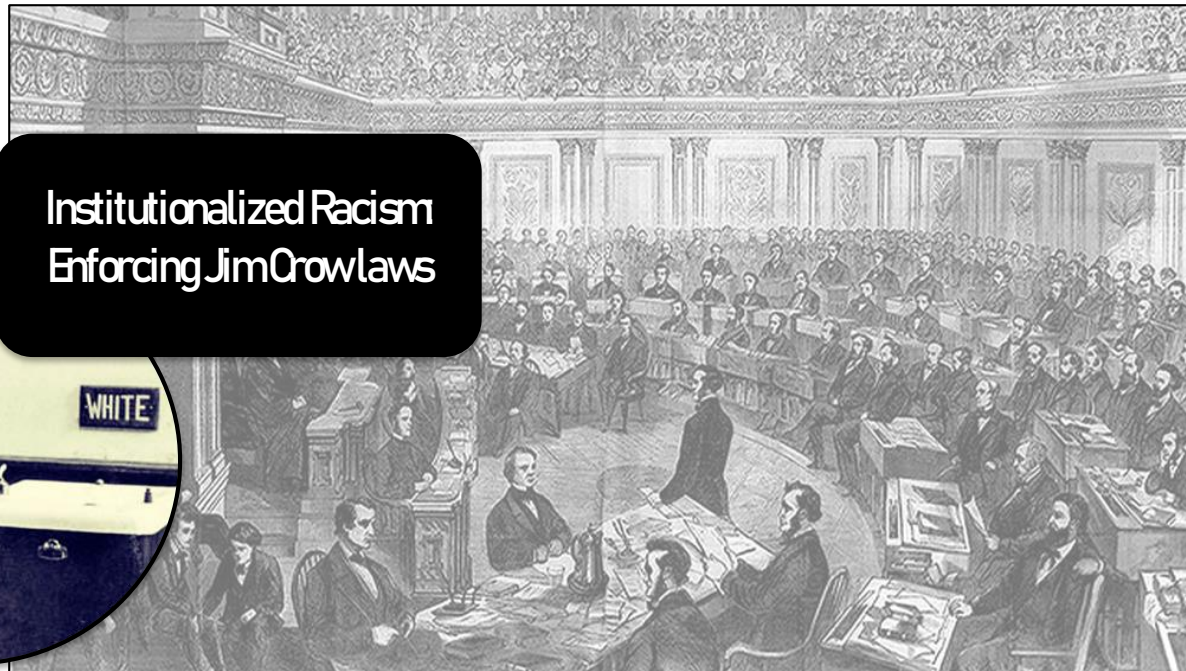
EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1877: White segregationists regained political power in every southern state



EMANCIPATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

1877: White segregationists regained political power in every southern state



Institutionalized Racism Enforcing Jim Crow laws



Institutionalized Racism
Enforcing Jim Crow laws



New Industrial Economy.
The rise of labor organizing



1870-80s:

Formal unified policing departments
in most US cities

Institutionalized Racism
Enforcing Jim Crow laws



New Industrial Economy.
The rise of labor organizing



THE PAST IS NOT PAST



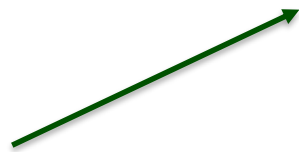
MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Sheriffs are
elected officials

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

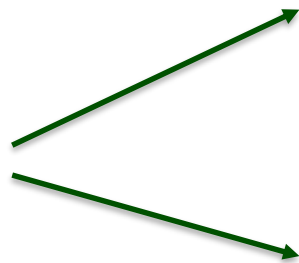
Sheriffs are
elected officials



- Directly accountable to voters

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Sheriffs are
elected officials



- Directly accountable to voters
- Not subject to accountability from city councils or mayors
- Subject to far less oversight than other law enforcement

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Policing

Jails

Immigration

Civil
Enforcement

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Policing

- Broad policing powers (arrests, investigations, warrants)
- Where does the policing occur?
 - Rural or unincorporated areas
 - Contracted cities or towns
 - Courthouses
 - Airports
 - Waterways, ports
 - Schools

Jails

Immigration

Civil Enforcement

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Policing

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- Where does the policing occur?

Jails

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Civil
Enforcement

Schools

More on this later

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Policing

Jails

Immigration

Civil
Enforcement

- Manage county and regional jails
- Administers related carceral programs, like drug court or probation
- Responsible for transportation to and from the jail

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Policing

Jails

Immigration

Civil
Enforcement

- Florida has been ground zero for experimentation
 - 287(g) agreements
 - Basic ordering agreements
 - Anti-immigrant state legislation (SB168)
 - Warrant service office program

MODERN-DAY SHERIFFS

Policing

Jails

Immigration

Civil
Enforcement

- Carries out the orders of the court
- Conducts evictions
- Civil asset forfeiture

SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS

Florida Case Count Surpasses That Of New York, The Country's Original Epicenter

July 26, 2020 · 8:01 PM ET

RACHEL TREISMAN



As the U.S. epicenter of the coronavirus shifts from the Northeast to the Sun Belt, Florida's total case count has officially surpassed that of New York.

Chandan Khanna/AFP via Getty Images

SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

A joint statement from Faith in Florida, Southern Poverty Law Center and Dream Defenders urges Gualtieri to release pre-trial detainees who don't pose a public safety risk and inmates held on detainer requests from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"Jails and prisons combine the worst aspects of cruise ships, conferences, or other large public gatherings and thus breed entirely unnecessary risk for those on both sides of the jail walls," the statement said. "Under current conditions, any unwillingness or refusal to release those incarcerated is shortsighted, dangerous, and cruel."

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NEWS / HILLSBOROUGH

**Hillsborough sheriff releases
164 county jail inmates to
reduce coronavirus risk**

SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

What about arrest and enforcement practices?

NEWS / HILLSBOROUGH

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SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Clock Running Out on Florida's Eviction Moratorium, Leaving Landlords and Tenants in Limbo

By CHRIS REMINGTON • JUL 24, 2020

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Florida's moratorium on evictions is set to expire next week. It's estimated more than 800,000 Floridians could lose their apartments or homes if it's not extended.

MIAMI HERALD

SHERIFFS & THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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MIAMI HERALD

This leaves hundreds of thousands of Floridians wondering whether they need to find a new place to live or will be able to stay put.

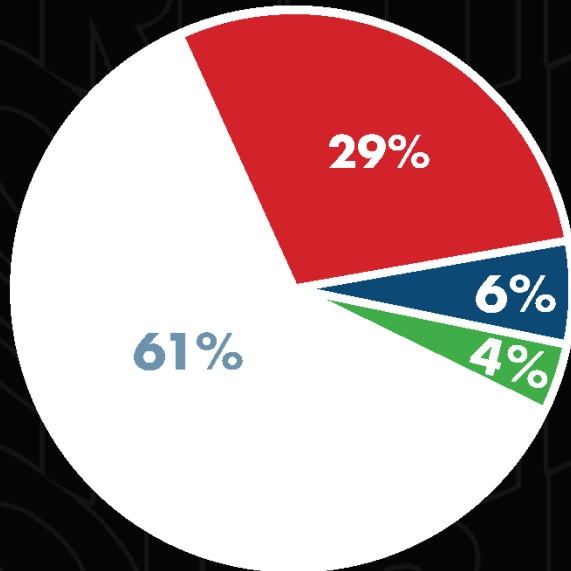
“Looking at it from a statewide basis, the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel found 1.2 million households that are having difficulty paying the rent and more than 800,000 could be evicted in the next four months,” said Sean Rowley Tenant’s Rights Advocacy Director for Legal Services of Greater Miami.

DEFUND POLICING

DEFUND POLICING

LEON COUNTY SHERIFFS FACTS

2020 COUNTY BUDGET



SHERIFF
\$79,741,173

CULTURAL
(LIBRARIES, PARKS, RECREATION)

\$16,996,577

HUMAN SERVICES

\$11,179,440

OTHER

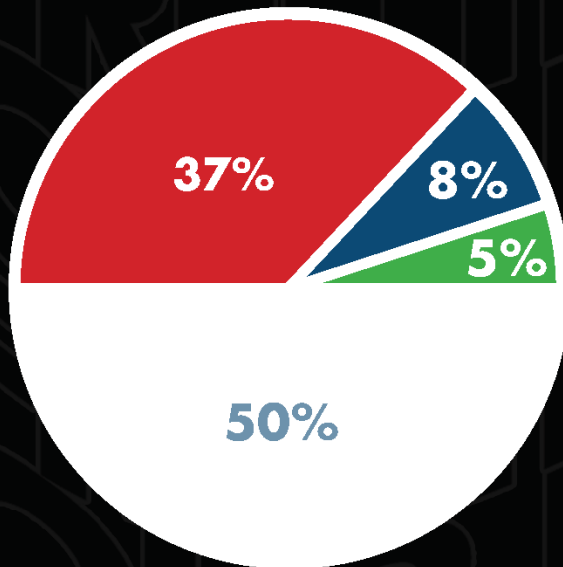
\$166,285,283

■ Sheriff ■ Human Services ■ Cultural ■ Other

DEFUND POLICING

BROWARD COUNTY SHERIFFS FACTS

2020 COUNTY GENERAL FUND



SHERIFF
\$543,194,260


CULTURAL
(LIBRARIES, PARKS, RECREATION)
\$116,460,710

HUMAN SERVICES
\$78,235,280

OTHER
\$737,890,250

■ Sheriff ■ Human Services ■ Cultural ■ Other

SHERIFFS & SCHOOL POLICING



**The School-to-Prison
Pipeline**

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE?



Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YnGctoUq-fA>

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON-PIPELINE?

The policies and practices that are directly and indirectly pushing students out of school and on a pathway to prison, including:



- Harsh school discipline policies that overuse suspension & expulsion.
- Increased policing & surveillance that creates prison-like environments in schools.
- Overreliance on referrals to law enforcement & the juvenile justice system
- An alienating & punitive high-stakes testing-driven academic environment.

SHERIFFS & SCHOOL POLICING

WHAT ARE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS?

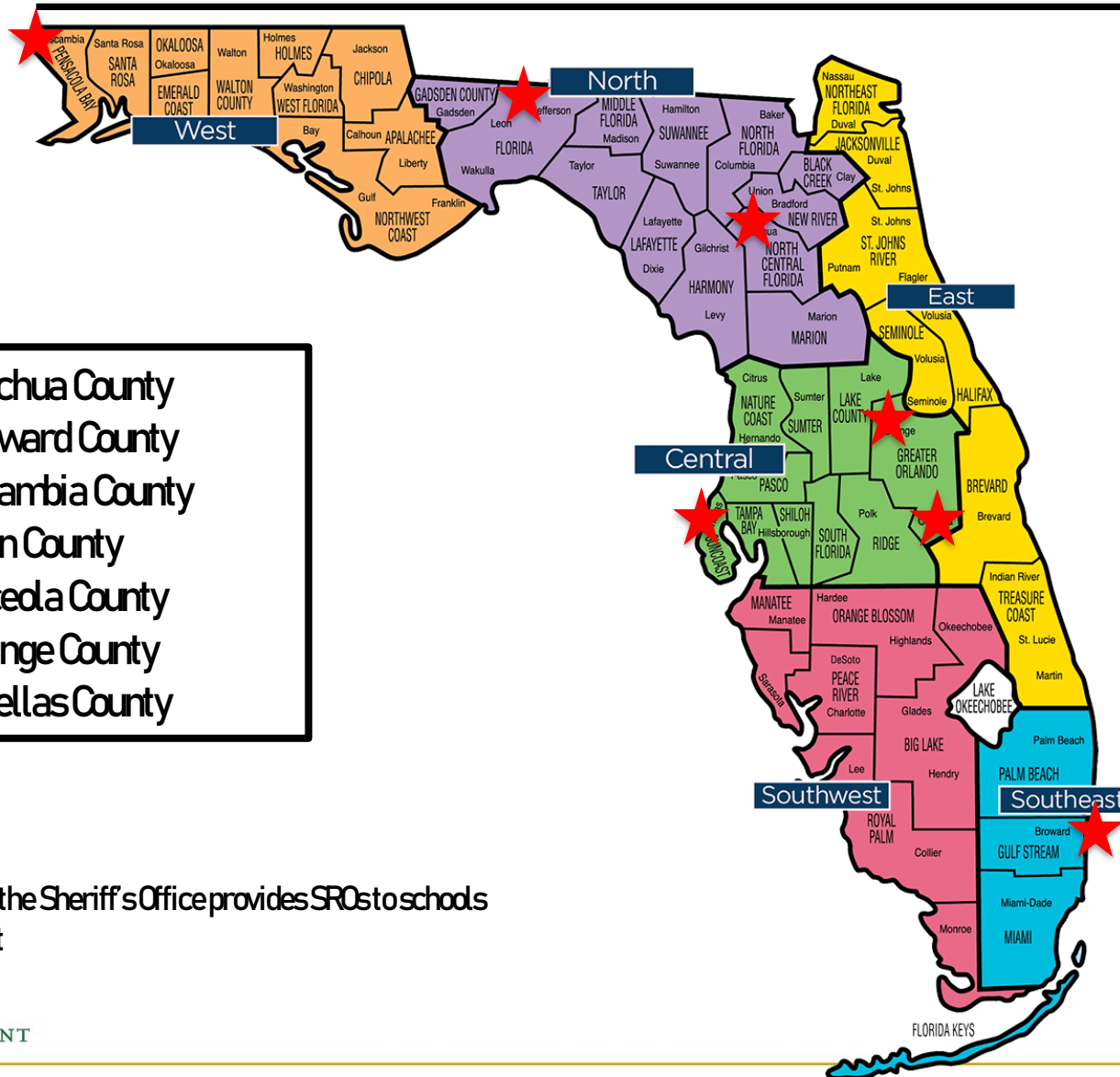
School Resource Officers (SROs) are sworn law enforcement officers whose primary function is to provide law enforcement while stationed in schools.

WHAT DOES THAT HAVE TO DO WITH SHERIFFS?

In some Florida counties, sheriff's deputies work as SROs through local contracts, creating a threatening environment for students and feeding the school-to-prison pipeline.

Source: Justice Policy Institute http://www.justicepolicy.org/uploads/justicepolicy/documents/educationunderarrest_fullreport.pdf

SHERIFFS & SCHOOL POLICING



- Alachua County
- Broward County
- Escambia County
- Leon County
- Osceola County
- Orange County
- Pinellas County

★ = Counties where the Sheriff's Office provides SROs to schools within the district

SHERIFFS & SCHOOL POLICING

Following the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL which resulted in the deaths of 17 people, Florida state legislatures responded by passing legislation that requires one armed officer at each school.

WHY IS THIS A PROBLEM?

- Students of color are disproportionately policed in schools nationally. Black and Latinx youth make up over 58% of school-based arrest while representing only 40% of public school enrollment
- Black students are more than twice as likely to be referred to law enforcement or arrested at schools than their white peers

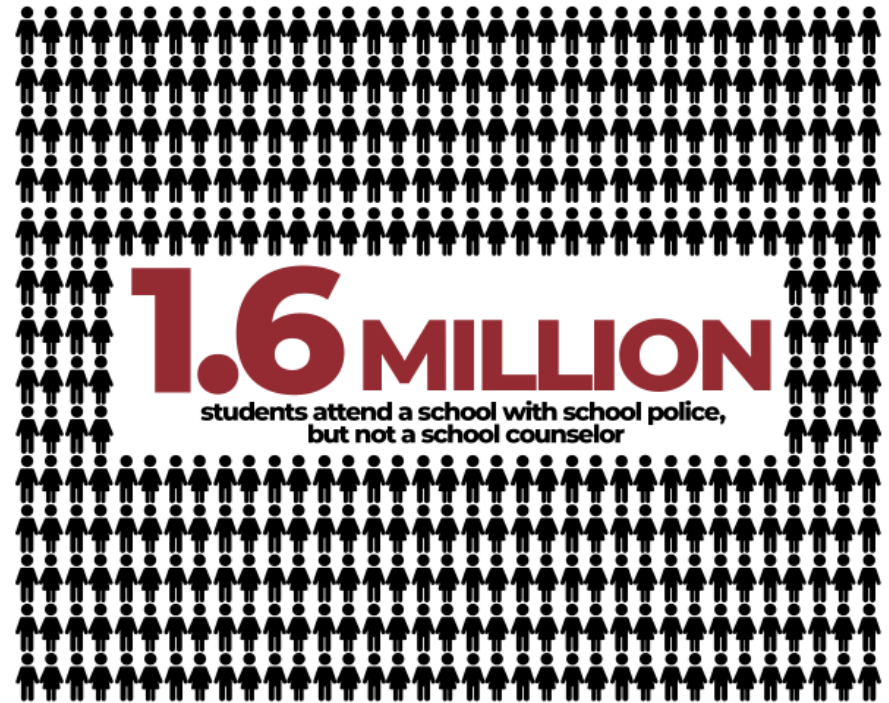
CURRENT STATE OF SCHOOL POLICING

Students of color are more likely to attend schools that employ school police officers, but no school counselors



Black Students are **3 times more likely** to attend a school with more security staff than mental health personnel.

Source: 2013-2014 Civil Rights Data Collection, "A First Look: Key Data Highlights on Equity and Opportunity Gaps in Our Nation's Public Schools." U.S. Department of Education Office for Civil Rights. (June 7, 2016).



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For more information on work being done around school policing and the school-to-prison pipeline please check out our We Came to Learn Report on our website: <https://advancementproject.org/wp-content/uploads/MCTLweb/index.html#page=52>

VOTING IN FLORIDA

Important Upcoming Dates

- August 8th-15th Early Voting Period for the Primary Election
- August 18th Primary Election
- October 5th Voter Registration Deadline for the General Election
- October 24th-31st Early Voting Period for the General Election
- November 3rd General Election

Voter Registration – 3 Ways

- Online: <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>
- By Mail/ In Person at your county Supervisor of Elections office, local library, or any entity authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to issue fishing, hunting, or trapping permits.
- While getting certain government services, *e.g.*, Florida driver's license offices

You must show a valid Photo ID + Signature to vote in person

- If your Photo ID doesn't include a signature, you will be asked to provide another identification that does have your signature. Without proper ID, you can vote by provisional ballot as long as you are eligible and your signature on that ballot matches the signature on the registration record.

VOTING IN FLORIDA

Restoration of Rights

- If convicted of a felony other than murder or felony sexual offense, your right to vote is restored once you have completed all terms of your sentence, including probation and parole.
 - The issue of whether you would also have to pay off related fines and fees remains unclear and will be heard before an appellate court this month.
- Persons with a felony conviction should check online at flrestoremyrights.com to determine whether their civil rights have been restored.
 - If an individual's rights have been restored, no documentation of restored civil rights is required in order to register to vote.
- Persons who have had their rights restored and register, could still receive notification from their county supervisor of elections office stating their rights are not restored because of a prior felony conviction.
 - If an individual receives such a notice, he/she should also receive a packet containing proof of the conviction, a photocopy of their DL or other identifying information, the date and time of the conviction, and the county in which the conviction occurred.
 - All persons whose right to vote is denied based on a previous felony conviction has the right to appeal the decision at the County Supervisor of Elections office where the notice originated.

VOTING IN FLORIDA

How do I vote by mail?

- Except on Election Day, no excuse is needed to cast a vote-by-mail ballot.
- You can request to vote by mail to your Supervisor of Elections' office online, in writing, in person, or by phone.
- The ballot must be returned and received by your Supervisor of Elections' office by 7 p.m. on Election Day. (Other return options are available for Military and Overseas Voters.)

Election Day

- Polls are open from 7am until 7pm. (You must be in line by 7pm.)
- You must vote in the precinct where you live and can look it up online.
- Voting a provisional ballot is a last resort. Voting by regular ballot is always preferred.
 - If your name is not found on the precinct register, and if a poll worker concludes that you cannot vote by regular ballot, then you should accept a provisional ballot.
 - You have the right to present written evidence of your eligibility to vote to your County Supervisor of Elections' office no later than 5pm on the Thursday after the election.
- You have the right to assistance in voting due to limited English proficiency, disability, or inability to read or write.
- There are federal and state prohibitions on voter intimidation.

Q&A

SHERIFFS 101

Building community power in Florida



THANK YOU!