# Civics 101

### A Refresher



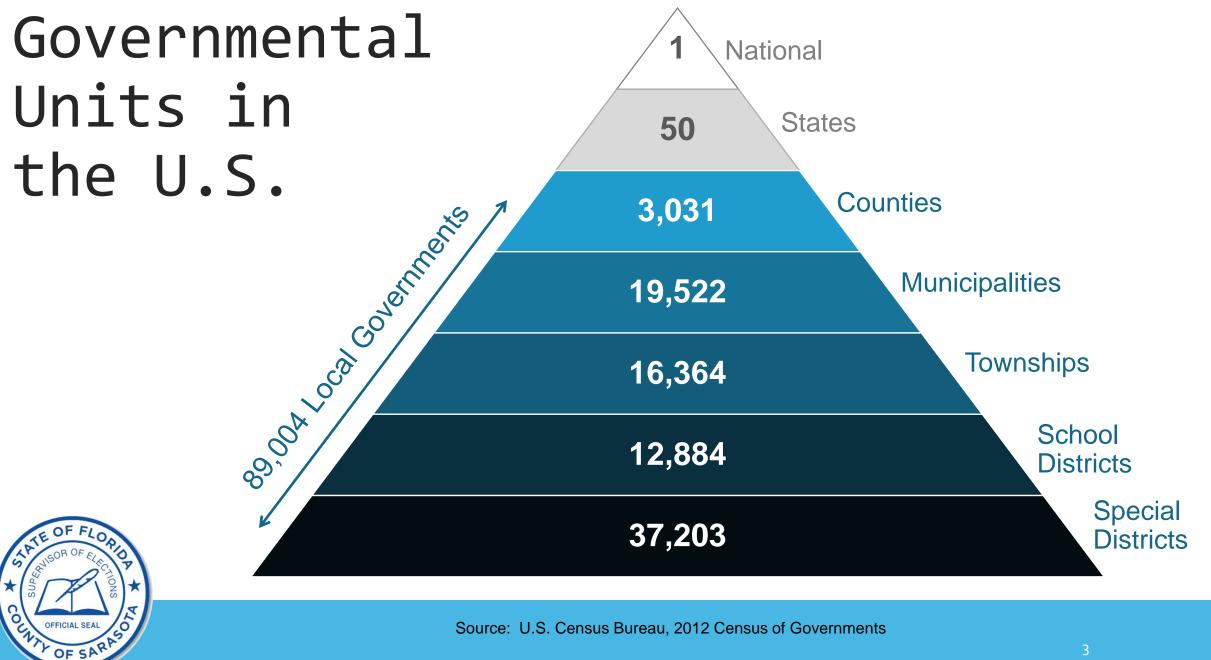
Ron Turner Supervisor of Elections Sarasota County

### What is Civics?

Definition of *CIVICS* (*Merriam-Webster* online dictionary)

### :the study of the rights and **duties of citizens** and of **how** government works.







- Founding Principles / Key Concepts
- Framework of Government (Federal, State, and Local Government)
- Responsibilities of Citizenship



### Founding Principles

- Consent of the Governed
- Separation of Powers
- Federalism



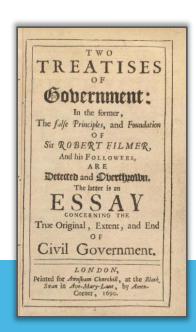
### Consent of the Governed

- Locke's Social Contract Theory
- Self-government (We the People)
- Will of the people is expressed through elections

"[Humans] being, as has been said, by nature, all free, equal and independent, no one can be put out of this estate, and subjected to the political power of another, without . . . consent." John Locke Second Treatise of Government (1689)

Government legitimacy

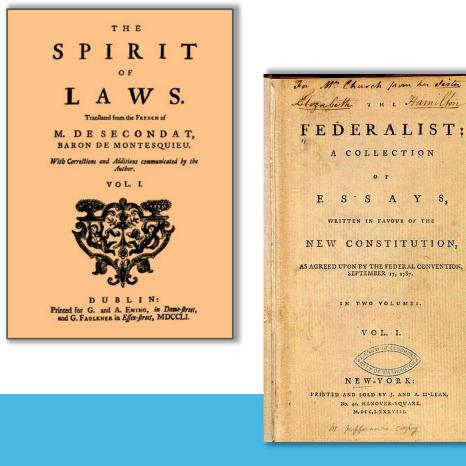




Governments... deriv[e] their just powers from the consent of the governed. **Declaration of Independence (US 1776)** 

### Separation of Powers

 Separation of powers between executive, legislative and judicial



"When the legislative and executive powers are united in the same person, or in the same body of magistrates, there can be no liberty... Again, there is no liberty, if the judiciary power be not separated from the legislative and executive."

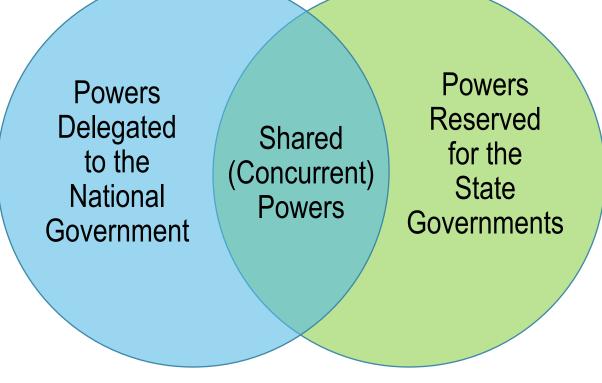
**Charles de Secondat, Baron de Montesquieu** *The Spirit of the Laws (1748)* 

"The great security against a gradual concentration of the several powers in the same [branch], consists in giving to those who administer each [branch], the necessary constitutional means, and personal motives, to resist encroachments of the others...Ambition must be made to counteract ambition. The interest of the man must be connected with the constitutional rights of the place"

James Madison Federalist No. 51 (1788)

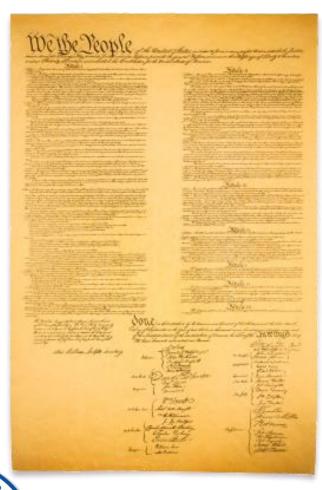
### Federalism

 Division of powers between national and state governments





### United States Constitution



Supreme Law of the United States

Provides the framework for the organization of the United States government

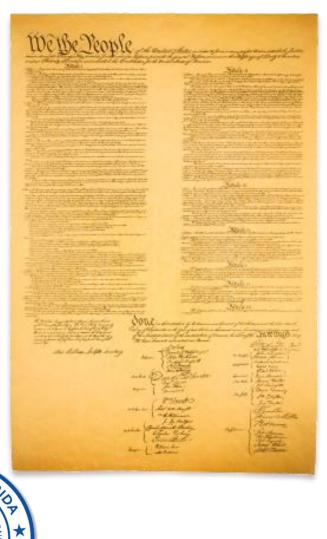
**Protects fundamental rights** 

#### Amendments

- 27 amendments
- First ten amendments constitute the Bill of Rights



### United States Constitution



#### Legislative Branch (Article I)

- U.S. Senate/House of Representatives
- Make laws

#### **Executive Branch (Article II)**

- President/Executive Agencies
- Enforce laws

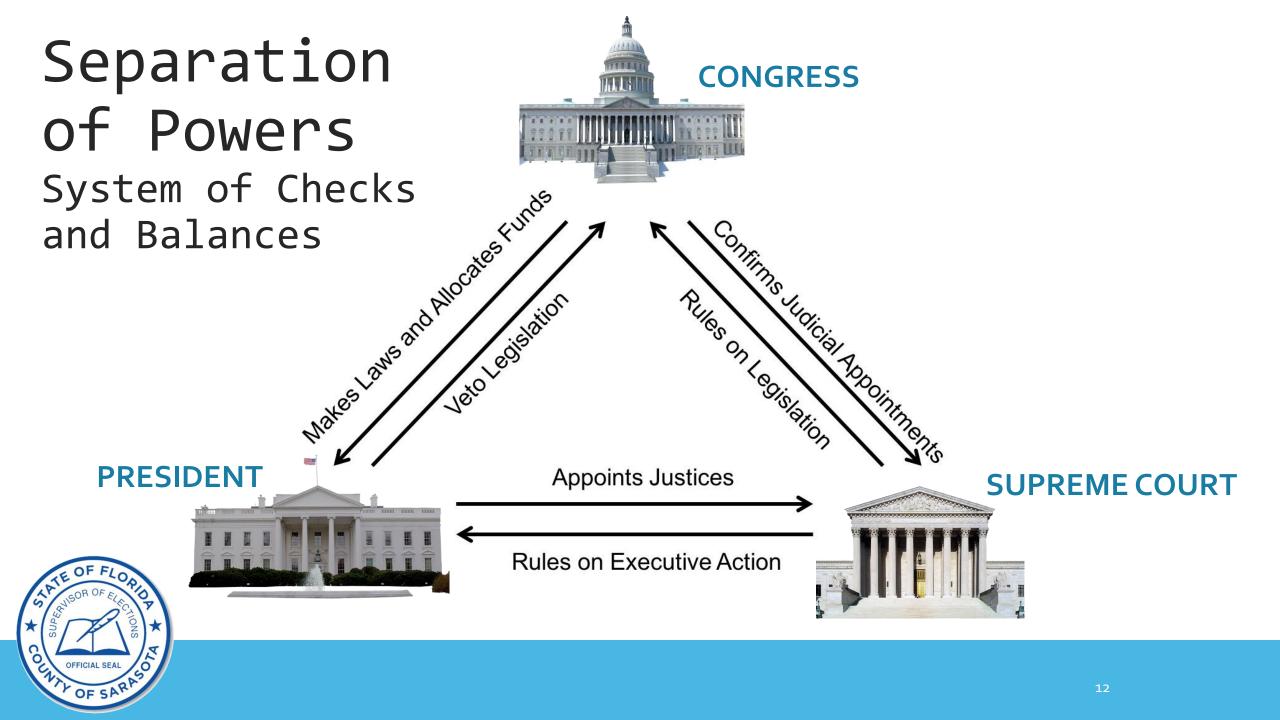
#### Judicial Branch (Article III)

- Supreme Court/Federal Courts
- Interpret laws



### Federal Government



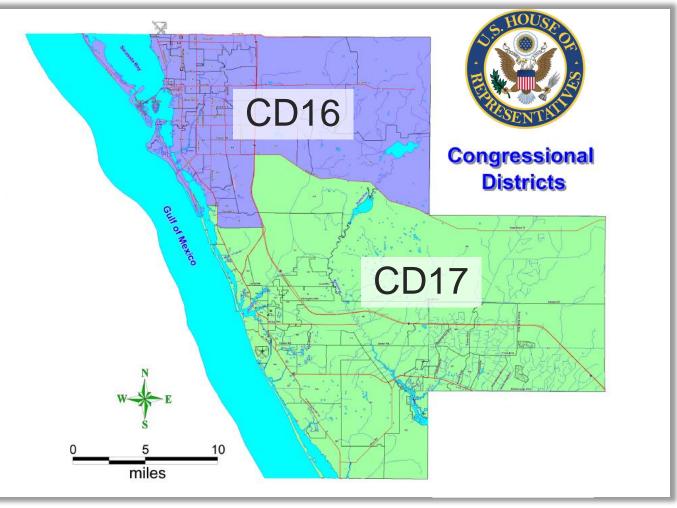


### Florida's Congressional Delegation

2 United States Senators

27 Members of the United States House of Representatives

2 Congressional Districts in Sarasota County — Districts 16 & 17





### Federalism in Practice

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people."

United States Constitution, Amendment X

#### NATIONAL GOVERNMENT

- POWERS
- MAKE TREATIES
- ESTABLISH AND REGULATE POSTAL SYSTEM
- REGULATE FOREIGN & INTERSTATE COMMERCE
- TAX IMPORTS/EXPORTS
- DECLARE WAR
- MAINTAIN MILITARY
- COIN MONEY
- PROTECT COPYRIGHT/PATENTS
- MAKE ALL LAWS "NECESSARY AND PROPER" TO MEET RESPONSIBILITIES PER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

CONCURRENT

- (SHARED)
- POWERS
- COLLECT TAXES
- REGULATE BANKS
- ESTABLISH AND ADMINISTER A JUDICIARY
- BORROW MONEY
- PROVIDE FOR COMMON GOOD
- MAKE AND ENFORCE LAWS

#### STATE GOVERNMENT POWERS

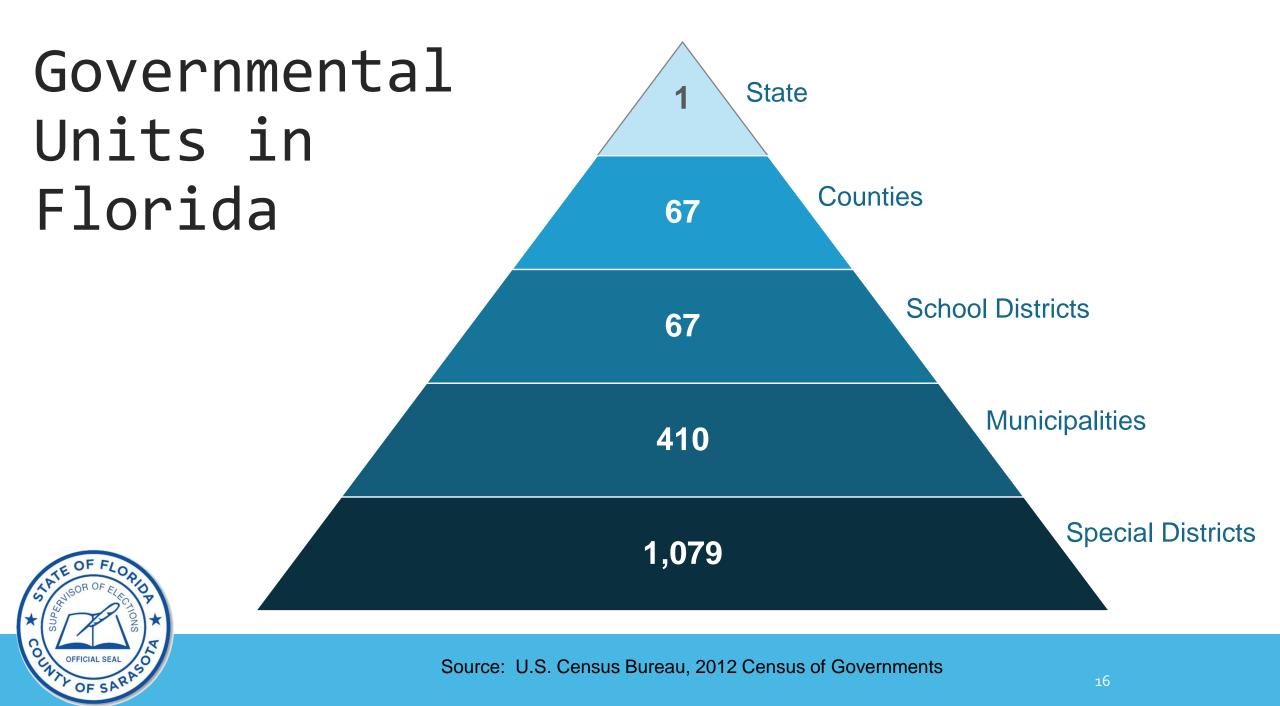
#### ESTABLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- REGULATE INTRASTATE COMMERCE
- PUBLIC EDUCATION SCHOOLS
- CONDUCT ELECTIONS
- PROVIDE FOR COMMON GOOD -PROTECTING HEALTH, SAFETY/MORALS
- ♦ REGULATIONS FOR MARRIAGE
- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
- ALL POWERS NOT DELEGATED TO THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OR DENIED TO THE STATES PER THE U.S. CONSTITUTION



### State Government





### Florida's 1968 Constitution

#### PREAMBLE

We, the people of the State of Florida, being grateful to Almighty God for our constitutional liberty, in order to secure its benefits, perfect our government, insure domestic tranquility, maintain public order, and guarantee equal civil and political rights to all, do ordain and establish this constitution.

#### ARTICLE I

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS Section 1. <u>POLITICAL POWER.</u>-- All political power is inherent in the people. The enunciation herein of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or impair others retained by the people.

Section 2. <u>BASIC RIGHTS</u>.-- All natural persons are equal before the law and have inalienable rights, among which are the right to enjoy and defend life and liberty, to pursue happiness, to be rewarded for industry, and to acquire, possess and protect property; except that the ownership, inheritance, disposition and possession of real property by aliens ineligible for citizenship may be regulated or prohibited by law. No person shall be deprived of any right because of race or religion.

Section 3. <u>RELIGIOUS FREEDOM</u>.-- There shall be no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting or penalizing the free exercise thereof. Religious freedom shall not justify practices inconsistent with public morals, peace or safety. No revenue of the state or any political subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken from the public treasury directly or indirectly in aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination or in aid of any sectarian institution.

#### Three Branches of Government (Articles III, IV, & V)

Legislature, Executive, Judiciary

#### Local Government (Article VIII)

**Counties** (Political Subdivisions)

Municipalities

Education (Article IX)

School Districts; School Boards

Superintendent of Schools



### Three Branches of Florida Government

#### **Executive**

Governor Cabinet (Attorney General, CFO, and Commissioner of Agriculture)

#### **Legislative**

Florida Legislature Florida Senate (40 members) Florida House of Representatives (120 members)

#### **Judicial**

Supreme Court (7 Justices, including Chief Justice) District Courts of Appeal (5 Appeals Courts) 20 Circuit Courts; 67 County Courts

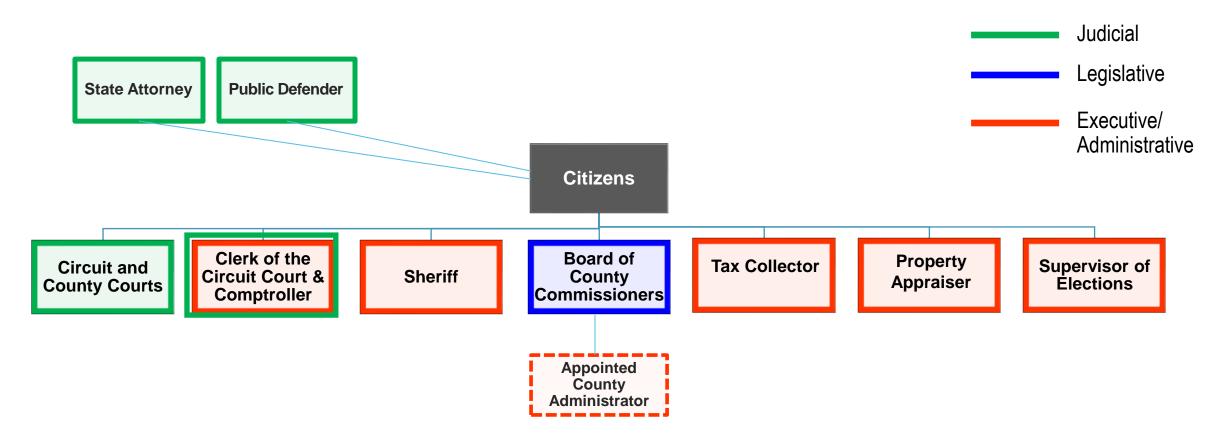




### Local Government

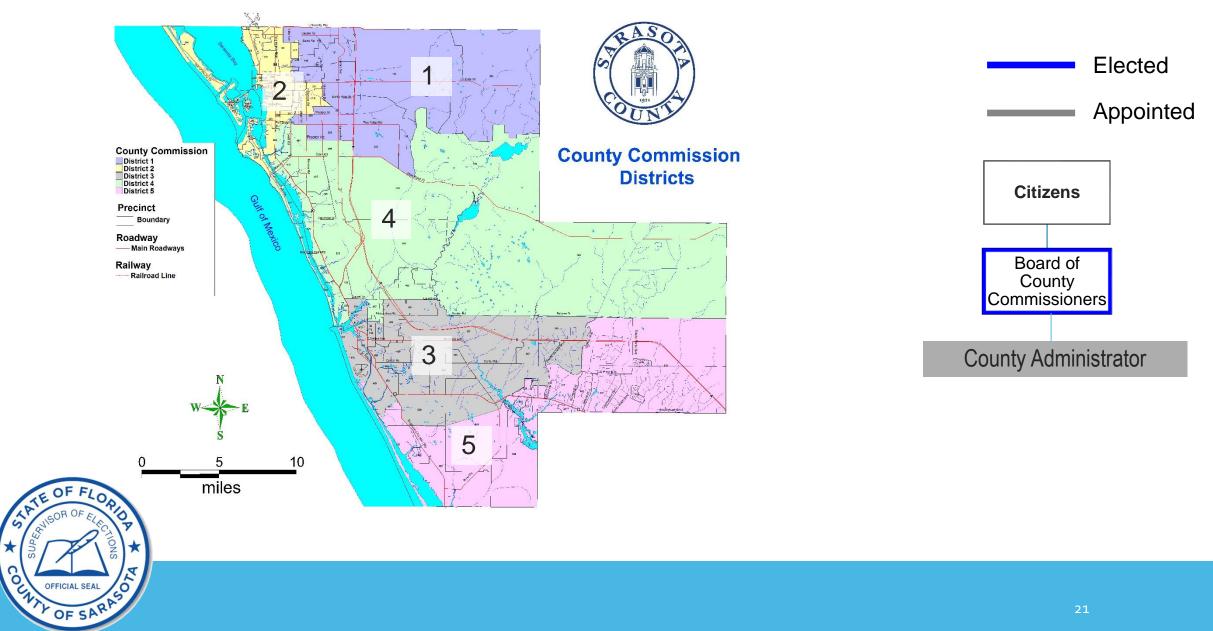


### Sarasota County Government/Elected Offices





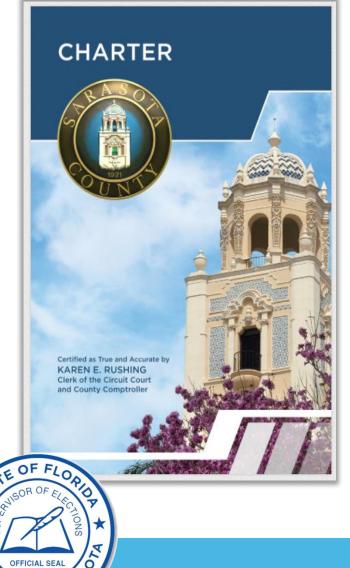
#### Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners



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### Sarasota County Charter



Sarasota County Charter adopted on November 3, 1971

Local self-government

Established organization of county government (Article II)

Set up an elected Charter Review Board

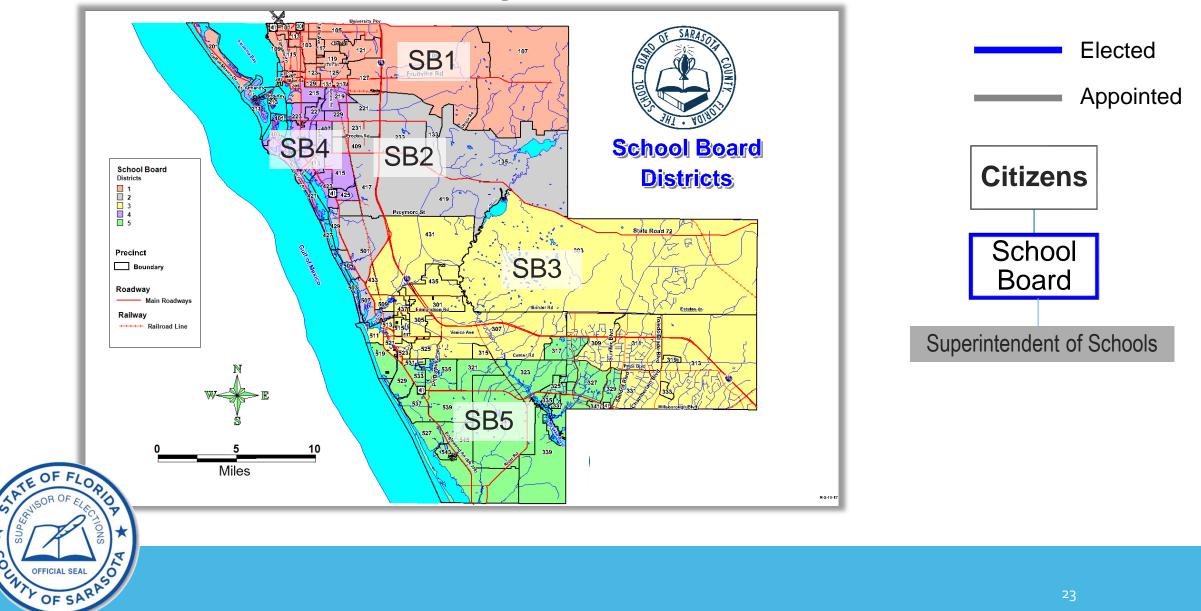
- 10 members; 2 in each commission district
- Charter revision methods
- Petitions signed by 10% of registered voters
- Act of the Florida Legislature
- Ordinance by Board of County Commissioners
- Recommendation by Charter Review Board

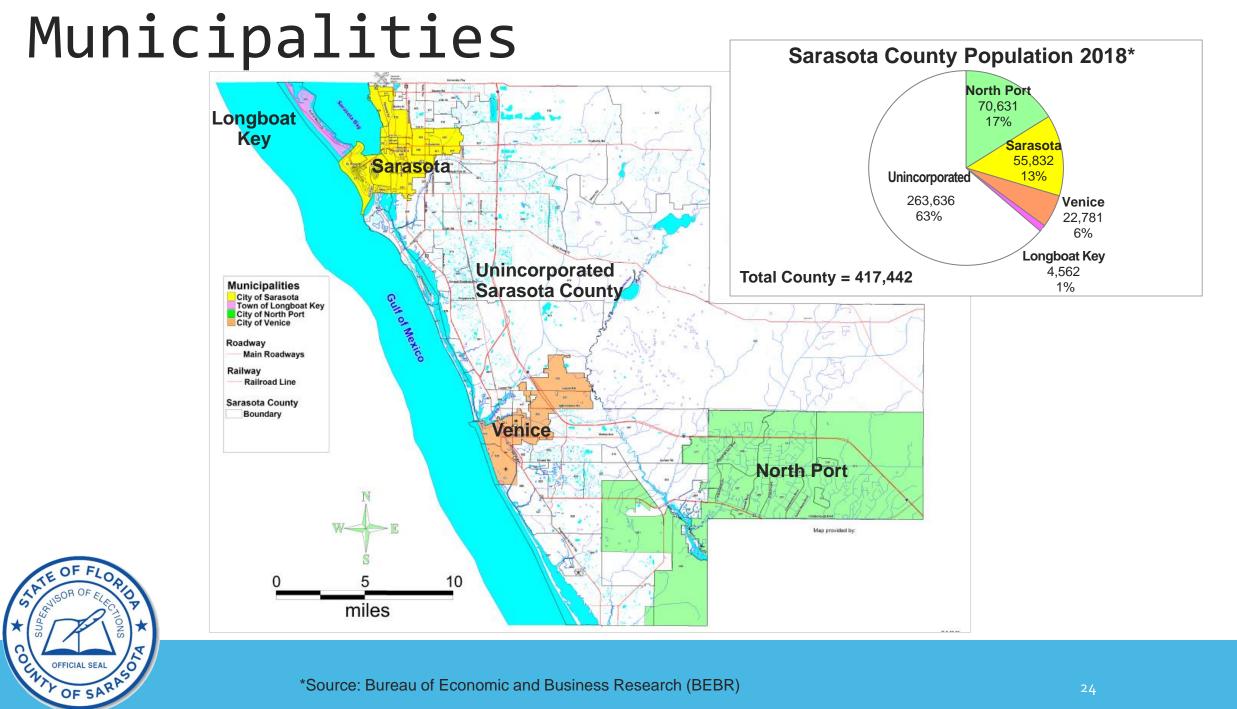
### Sarasota County School District

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\*Source: Bureau of Economic and Business Research (BEBR)

### Municipal Governments

#### Town of Longboat Key (3 year terms)

- 7 Commissioners
- Elected at-large (5 district seats; 2 at-large seats)
- Mayor rotational/appointed

#### <u>City of North Port (4 year terms)</u>

- 5 Commissioners
- Elected at-large (residential district seats)
- Mayor rotational/appointed

#### <u>City of Sarasota (4 years terms)</u>

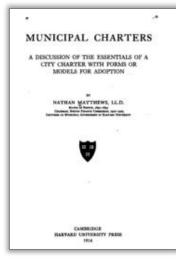
- 5 Commissioners
- Elected at-large and in districts
  (3 single-member district seats; 2 at-large seats)
- Mayor rotational/appointed

#### <u>City of Venice (3 year terms)</u>

- 6 Council Members plus Mayor
- Elected at-large
- Elected Mayor



### Form & Function of Municipal Governments



Voluntary government

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Home rule (local self-government)
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Florida Constitution & Municipal Home Rules Powers Act

#### **Council/Commission-Manager Form of Government**





### Special Districts

Sarasota County Public Hospital District Blackburn Creek Community Development District Bobcat Trail Community Development District Englewood Area Fire Control District Englewood Water District Holiday Park - Park & Recreation District Lakeside Plantation Community Development District Sarasota National Community Development District Sarasota Soil & Water Conservation District Stoneybrook At Venice Community Development District The Woodlands Community Development District Toscana Isles Community Development District Tri-Par Estates - Park & Recreation District Venetian Community Development District West Villages Improvement District

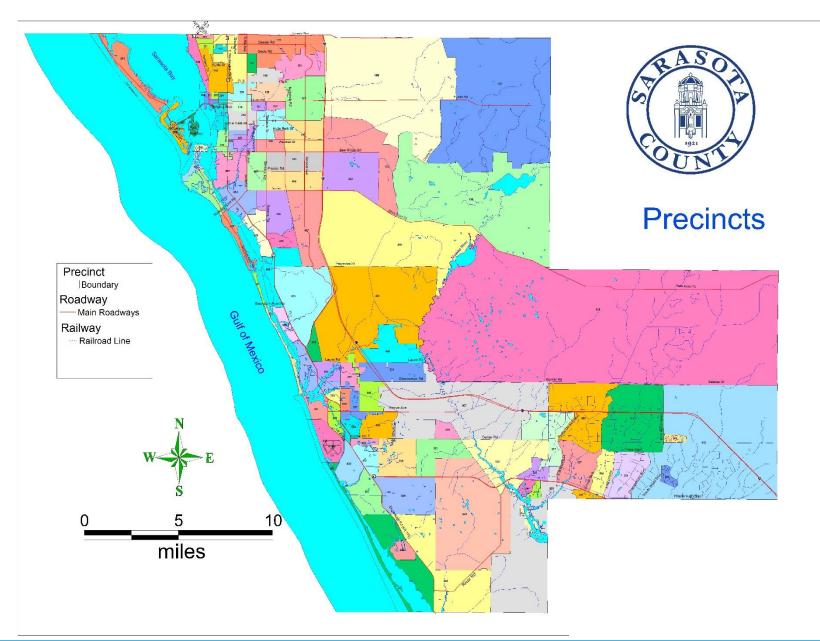
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(4 Year Term) (2 Year Term) (4 Year Term) (3 Year Term) (4 Year Term) (4 Year Term)





### Sarasota County Precincts





### County Canvassing Boards







### County Canvassing Boards

Canvassing Board Members	Alternate Members*	Substitute Members**
County Court Judge (Canvassing Board Chair)	Alternate County Court Judge or Qualified Elector (appointed by Chief Judge)	Qualified Elector (appointed by Chief Judge)
Chair, Board of County Commissioners	Alternate County Commissioner or Qualified Elector (appointed by BCC Chair)	County Commissioner (appointed by BCC)
Supervisor of Elections	No Alternate for Supervisor of Elections	County Commissioner (appointed by BCC Chair)

\*If a canvassing board member is unable to participate in a meeting, the canvassing board chair shall designate which alternate member will serve. §102.141(1)(e) 3. Fla. Stat.

\*\*If a substitute or alternate canvassing board member cannot be appointed as provided, the chief judge shall appoint a substitute or alternate who is a qualified elector. § 102.141(1) (d) . Fla. Stat.



### Florida Elections

- Three Ways to Vote
  Vote by Mail
  Vote Early
  Vote on Election Day
- Closed Primary
- Voter registration books close 29 days before each election
- Online Voter Registration RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov



### Sarasota County Voter Registration

as of 6/9/2021

POLITICAL PARTY	VOTERS
Florida Democratic Party	107,230
Republican Party of Florida	148,753
Other	95,308
TOTAL REGISTERD VOTERS	350,841



### Remember Franklin's Challenge

## "A republic, if you can keep it."

Benjamin Franklin, 1787



