

Commissioner Wilson's District 1 Newsletter

Take a closer look at Tuesday's
Board of County Commissioners
meeting



✉ district1@ocfl.net ☎ 407-836-7312 📘 NicoleWilsonD1 📷 NicoleWilson_D1

Hey West Orange County,

Mother Nature has finally given us our first few days of autumn weather — enjoy it while it lasts! With a Board of County Commissioners meeting on Tuesday and several events on the horizon, now is the perfect time to stay in-the-know on all things District 1. Your input and participation is what shapes our future as a county, so read on to see exactly how you can get involved.

As always, follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for daily updates on all things West Orange County, and feel free to reach out to us at district1@ocfl.net. We would love to hear from you.

Certain apps may cut off the end of this email, so **If you're using Gmail, make sure you click the ellipses at the bottom of the newsletter to view the rest of it.**

On Your Radar

COMMISSIONER NICOLE WILSON'S
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SYMPOSIUM
FINDING BALANCE IN TODAY'S POLITICAL CLIMATE

October 17 | 9:30 AM - 5:30 PM

Barry University
CENTER FOR EARTH JURISPRUDENCE
Many laws. One Earth.

Nicole Wilson
COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1

SCAN ME

The banner features a green background with illustrations of a globe, trees, a wind turbine, and solar panels. It includes the text for the Environmental Justice Symposium, the date and time, and logos for Barry University, the Center for Earth Jurisprudence, and Commissioner Nicole Wilson.

Join us for the [Environmental Justice Symposium](#) on **Friday, October 17th, 2025**, at Barry University School of Law for an inspiring day of big ideas and real action.

You'll hear from numerous **elected officials**, award-winning public-interest land use attorney **Richard Grosso**, and **leaders** from organizations like the CLEO Institute, Live Wildly, and Save Split Oak.

Together, we'll talk about the real challenges facing Florida and how you can be a part of building a safer, more resilient future.

Enjoy **free lunch and refreshments** provided by the **Center for Earth Jurisprudence** while networking with students, professionals, community advocates, and policymakers. For our attorney friends, we are also offering **5.5 complimentary CLE credits!**

[Reserve Your Spot Here](#) – space is limited, so don't wait!



**Orange County District 1
Food Giveaway**

Saturday, 10/18 at 9 a.m.

Sunshine Elementary School
13225 International Drive

Distributing free meat, fresh produce and more – while supplies last!

Brought to you by:

Nicole Wilson
COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT 1

**SUNSHINE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
Orange County Public Schools

**Second Harvest
FOOD BANK
OF CENTRAL FLORIDA**

The flyer features a light blue background with a white grocery bag filled with fresh produce. It includes a calendar icon for the date, a location pin for the school, and an information icon for the details. The 'Brought to you by:' section features a portrait of Nicole Wilson and logos for Sunshine Elementary School and Second Harvest Food Bank.

This Saturday, we will be hosting a food giveaway at Sunshine Elementary School! Nearby residents in need of a helping hand can join us to receive a variety of essentials to stock your fridge and pantry.

The event begins at 9 a.m. at 13225 International Drive. Supplies are limited, and food will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. See flyer for details.



HAMLIN GROVES COMMUNITY MEETING

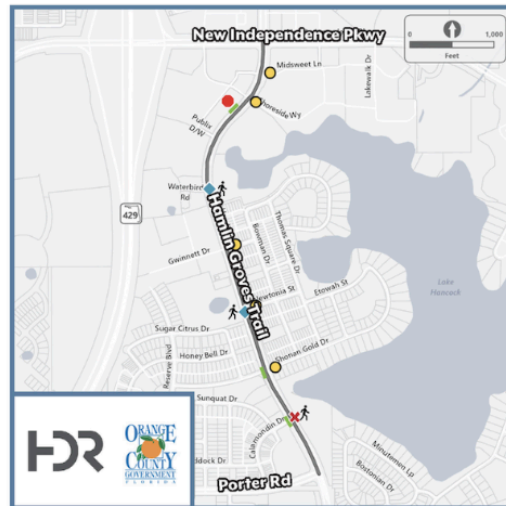
TRAFFIC CALMING & PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLE SAFETY STUDY

Purpose

Orange County's Traffic Engineering Division is conducting a study to address traffic calming and pedestrian/bicycle safety along Hamlin Groves Trail. The study evaluates measures to better manage vehicular speeds, enhance safety for all users, and provide safer pedestrian and bicycle crossings.

This meeting is being facilitated by your District 1 Commissioner, Nicole H. Wilson. County staff and project consultants will present findings from the study and discuss potential solutions under evaluation. These include near-term improvements such as new crosswalks, restricted crossing U-turns (RCUTs), and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs), as well as long-term improvements like roundabouts and new traffic signals. This is an opportunity for residents to learn more about the study, review potential design solutions, and provide input.

Project Map



HORIZON WEST: If you missed the first community meeting regarding important safety improvements for Hamlin Groves Trail, please join us next Wednesday evening for another chance to learn more and provide your feedback!

The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 10/22 at 6:30 p.m. in Cinépolis Luxury Cinema, 14111 Shoreside Way, Winter Garden, FL 34787.**

What We've Been Up To



To celebrate National Walk & Roll to School Day, we joined our friends at [Bike/Walk Central Florida](#) as they took over P.E. classes at Horizon West Middle School to make sure D1 students are traveling safely.



We visited the Windermere Downs community to discuss ongoing concerns about cut-through traffic. If you have a neighborhood concern, please contact our office at district1@ocfl.net. We would be more than happy to help!



The Orange County Farm Bureau does indispensable work to improve the lives of our local agricultural community. D1 was well-represented at the Farm Bureau's annual dinner — Sunridge Middle School, Lakeview Middle School, West Orange High, and Dr. Phillips High were all recognized for their FFA achievements!



The Winter Garden Heritage Foundation never fails to find new ways to highlight our community's history! Pay a visit soon to check out their latest exhibit, Champions of West Orange County: A Legacy of Athletic Excellence. The exhibit archives over 100 years of the sports and athletes that helped shape our community, from the little leagues to the pros.



We joined the Victoria's Voice Foundation Save our Kids forum. This organization has made real progress in educating communities on the dangers of opioid abuse and removing legal barriers to life-saving opioid antagonists like naloxone. Education, prevention, and increasing access to naloxone are straightforward strategies that save countless lives. Thanks to the efforts of groups like Victoria's Voice, overdose deaths declined 37% in Orange County from 2023 to 2024.



We broke ground on the expansion of the Maitland Art Center campus — a project that will help the Art & History Museums of Maitland grow its Art School and restore the historic Studio Court to its original purpose as working artist spaces. Funded in part by the Tourist Development Tax through an Orange County Facilities Program Grant, this project is a great example of how cultural tourism invests back into the people and places that make Central Florida so special!

BCC Preview: Morning Session

Residents can provide public comment regarding any item in the morning session starting at 9 a.m. on Tuesday. [Click here to pre-register!](#)

Approval of Grant Agreement with Veteran Entrepreneurship Initiative ([Click here for more info](#))

- The County has determined that there is a public interest for activities/programs in order to develop, promote and support existing military veterans' small businesses, and veteran entrepreneurs desiring to start a business venture in Central Florida through education, mentorship, investment pursuits, and other activated conducive to Orange County's economy. Veteran Entrepreneurship Initiative, Inc.'s operations consist of highly skilled staff in technical assistance provision, especially to military veteran entrepreneurs.



Veterans Entrepreneurship Initiative

Approval to provide additional funds to The Better Access to Treatment Project, with AdventHealth Orlando ([Click here for more info](#))

- The Orange County Better Access to Treatment program (BATT) will increase access to evidence-based treatment and recovery support for justice-involved individuals living with an opioid use disorder (OUD) after being released from custody.
- The project aims to break down silos between justice and health systems to create a comprehensive, accessible plan of care to improve health and safety outcomes.
- AdventHealth facilitates and operates this program in coordination with the county.

Approval of U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration Grant Agreement Agreement for the Orange County Real-Time Flood Forecasting Project. ([Click here for more info](#))

- Orange County has been approved for grant funding to develop and deploy a Real-Time Flood Predictive Model to improve forecasting of flood events up to 72 hours in advance of storms and hurricanes. This predictive capability is vital to enhance our emergency preparedness and response capabilities!



- Reminder: download the OCFL Alert app for life-saving information about emergency shelter locations, water and ice distribution centers, evacuation routes and public service announcements.

Discussion B-1: Head Start Annual Presentation

- This presentation will include important updates on the essential services offered by Orange County's Head Start program. That includes emerging federal requirements, federal shifts impacting program delivery, program achievements, the role of County investment, and future priorities.



Discussion C-1: Commissioner Martinez Semrad would like to discuss exploring protective designations for Orange County parks and forests. ([Click here for more info](#))

- The board will discuss the possibility of establishing bird sanctuaries and restricted hunting areas in Orange County's parks, conservation lands, and forested corridors.
- See below excerpts from Commissioner Martinez Semrad's memo to county staff.

Several Florida counties have already adopted similar protections with notable success. **Alachua County** has established designated bird sanctuary zones to preserve migratory habitats near Paynes Prairie, and **Leon County** has implemented restricted hunting areas to protect forested public lands adjacent to residential and park zones. Orange County has the opportunity to follow these examples by creating a framework that aligns with state conservation standards while reflecting our community's priorities.

By establishing bird sanctuaries and restricted hunting areas, Orange County can reaffirm its leadership in environmental stewardship and ensure that our parks and forests remain safe, vibrant, and ecologically sound for generations to come.

BCC Preview: Afternoon Session

This portion of the meeting begins at 2:00 p.m. Each public hearing will include an opportunity to provide public comment.

Public Hearing D-4: Adoption of Affordable Housing Trust Fund Plan 2026-2028 ([Click here for more info](#))

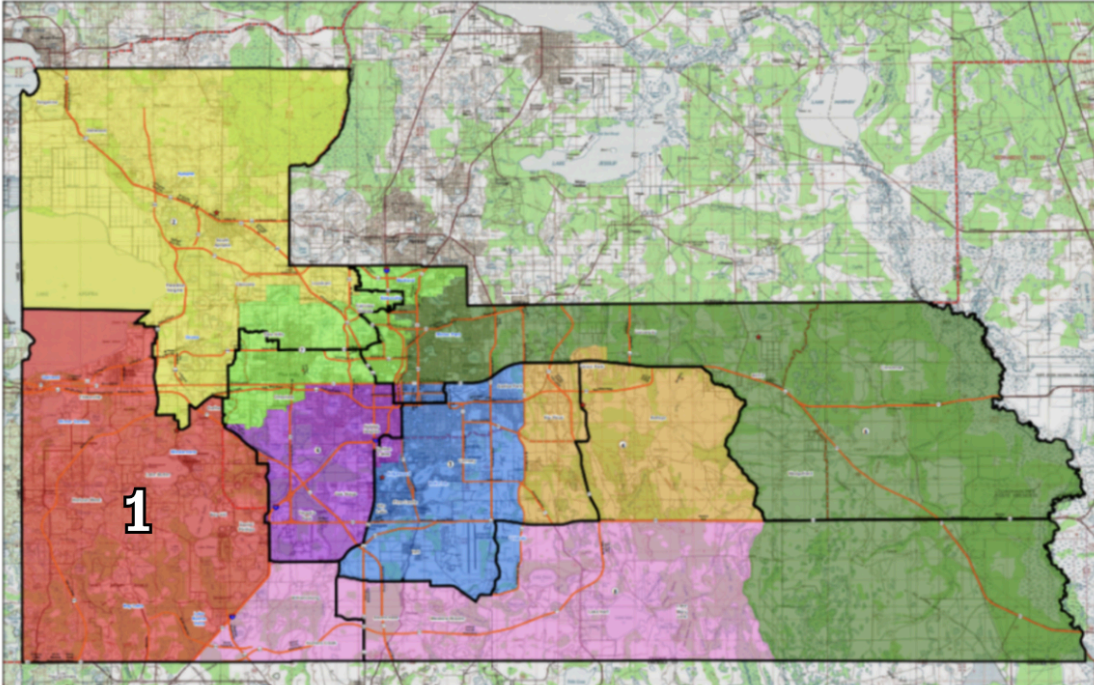
- The BCC accepted the Housing for All 10-Year Action Plan in December of 2019. The plan focuses on removing regulatory barriers, creating new financial resources, targeting areas of transit access and employment opportunities, and engaging the community and industry in addressing the housing challenges of the region. Each of the tools and strategies detailed in the Action Plan are intended to increase and diversify the existing housing stock in Orange County and make housing more affordable.
- The establishment of the Housing Trust Fund was intended to incentivize the construction and preservation of affordable and attainable housing, encourage Missing Middle housing types, and help Orange County meet the goals outlined in the Housing for All 10 Year Action Plan:
 - Create new housing units;
 - Diversify the County's housing stock;
 - Preserve existing affordable units;
 - Integrate social capital and economic development; and
 - Educate potential homeowners and renters.



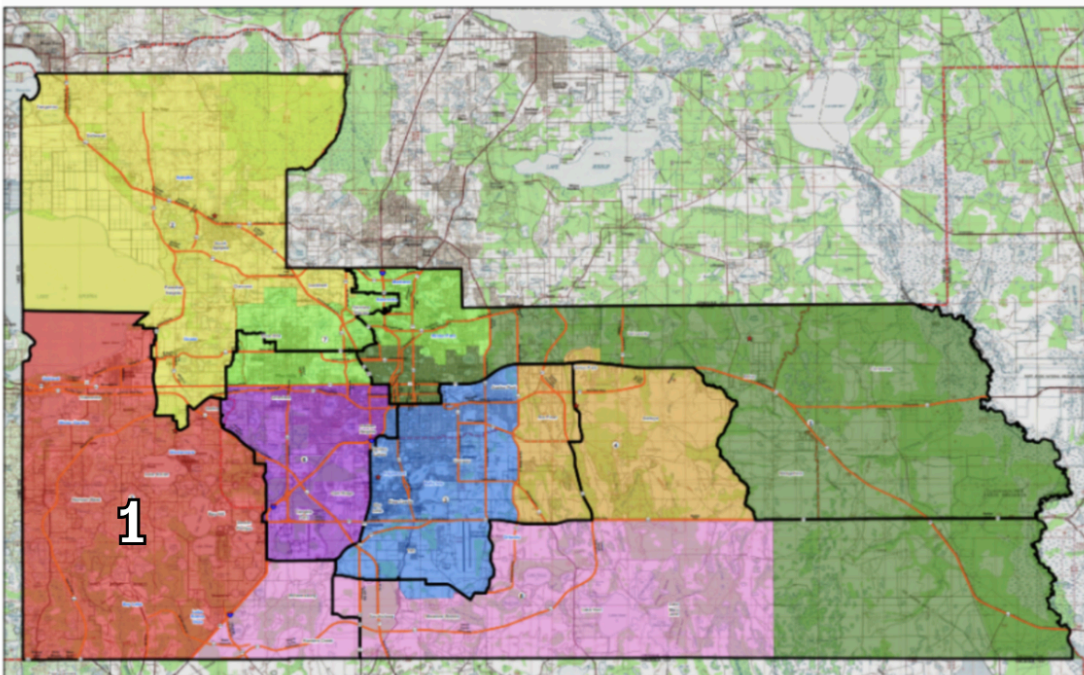
Public Hearing G-8: Adoption of a new redistricting plan in Orange County. ([Click here for more info](#))

- In November 2024, voters approved an amendment to the County charter increasing the number of County Commissioners from six to eight. To take on this process, The Board created a citizen-led Mid-Decennial Redistricting Advisory Committee (MRAC). After months of public meetings and resident input, the committee presented the two maps below for Board consideration:

Recommended Map 7-B



Recommended Map 1-A



- As you can see, both suggested maps suggest the same set of updated boundaries for District 1.
- I want to sincerely thank our residents who provided input throughout the redistricting process. I provided public comment at many MRAC meetings, urging the committee to focus on keeping our communities together and retaining the core areas of District 1. Several previous maps would have removed our district's only community center and Neighborhood Center for Families. The two remaining possibilities avoid that issue.
- Adding two new districts is a difficult process, as it means each of the existing six districts will lose some of their current populations. Back when this idea was first discussed by our Charter Review Commission, I suggested that it might make more sense to undertake this during a census year, when redistricting typically takes place. Regardless, since the MRAC was formed, our citizen appointees have volunteered countless hours of their time to make sure that all angles were considered.

Please know that regardless of what communities District 1 may lose, I intend to represent the entirety of the district that elected me for the remainder of my term as your commissioner.

ABC's of the BCC

**The Board of County Commissioners meets every other Tuesday.
Come on down!**



Board of County Commissioners meetings occur every other Tuesday with a morning agenda and an afternoon agenda.

The early agenda allows public comment on any topic at 9:00 a.m., where a constituent may come to the Orange County Administration Building in person and give your thoughts on any item except for a public hearing, which is later.

Work Sessions or items on the Discussion Agenda are up for debate by the Board and are not voted on.

Public hearings begin after 2:00 p.m., which include zoning variances, public appeals, ordinances, and more. This is where constituents can submit public comments in person on a specific issue.

To attend the BCC, please find information [here](#).

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns at district1@ocfl.net

Orange County, FL District 1 | 201 S. Rosalind Ave | Orlando, FL 32801 US

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