

## Legislative Priorities 2020

### Carl Veaux speaking for Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife

The most pressing legislation is not forgetting the Bills that will clean up our Calusahatchee River and the Big O. The Governor just noted we need to inspect septic tanks and fix them so they do not pollute any waterway in our state. . They should be inspected every two or three years. And , if needed be fixed so they do not leak ever. I talked to a Army CORP engineer and he told me that just one septic tank can pollute a waterway big time. Please support this legislation or even write it.

Of course ,continue the process of sending the water South. Find ways of cleansing the water first .The Everglades needs this water to remain healthy and viable for drinking water and for the flora and fauna in the Glades. Please support Bills that will do this. Especially the Bill to buy the land South of the Lake.

I have talked to you about banning fracking in all of Florida for three years now but nothing happens. The Bill fails year after year. Fracking needs thousands of gallons of water which we need for drinking water. Fracking has the potential of polluting our underground water supplies , thus,robbing us of more drinking water. Please vote yes on banning fracking when the fracking bill comes up for a vote. We need more clean water for drinking and recreation not less do to fracking.

One relatively new set of Bills are concerned about studying and researching ways of stopping Red Tide and Green-Blue Algae Blooms. Please support the universities and private industry studies of these menacing health threats so we can find ways of stopping these environmental disasters and even eradicating these blooms forever. Fund their efforts. Support these bills Thank you.

Please fund Florida Forever with at least two hundred million dollars plus. We need environmentally sensitive land for shade , water, springs, recreation and the wild animals and birds who live their. Eco tourism brings in money. Support Florida Forever!

Please fund the \$250,000 that the city of Cape Coral asks for every year for the utilities and design of Sirenia Vista Park in the Cape. We need an environmental center to tell the story of the environment of the Cape. With the experts of Audubon saying we are going going to lose half of our birds and nearly 70% of all our animals and birds we need environmental centers to stop this carnage. We commend you that you got it passed last year only to have the governor red line it. Please get it passed this year. But the key to getting the money, is talking to the people who red line these projects Please lobby them personally. The Cape Coral Mayor is all for this . Get him to help lobby these people .We need you all on this vital project.

Mia , the lady that started this campaign for the environmental center is 77 years old. Let's honor her now . Mia , volunteered to work with the Manatees for well over 20 years . She helped to get the Manatee Park started and built in Lee County. She worked there for many years. For her efforts the Manatee state organization named a manatee after her. There are manatees in this park. Just a thought, maybe you could write a bill funding this building through Florida Forever. Please contact me if you think this might work. Mia and everyone in the Cape especially our children needs your help on this.

Again , thanks for what you did last year to get it passed .P lease resubmit this bill.

Another issue before you is climate change. In years past, the temps would be getting cooler at this time in Cape Coral but it is still hot with no relief in sight. Please support the Florida Secretary of Agriculture's ideas and legislation that she proposes to stem climate change. She is on the right track.

Please do not support these toll roads . Especially, the one that goes from I-4 to Immokalee .Our panthers will bless you as all the wildlife we will save will do as well. We need to save our beaches for development and the tourist dollars . Our way of life is in jeopardy without these coastal retreats. Look into stopping these high tides , coastal erosion, huge hurricanes, higher water levels, do to higher temperatures and melting of the glaciers.

The Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife has bought fourteen lots in the Cape with gopher tortoises and burrowing owls on them. We hope to save the wildlife forever. Maybe, you cold help us to buy more lots through Florida Forever?

Thank you for your attention for these environmental concerns.

Lastly, being in public education for 33 years, please support higher teachers salaries. To recruit fine teachers , teachers salaries should start at least from \$47,000 to \$50,000. We need to do this to retain quality teachers for the duration of their working years. Which is not the case now. This is my opinion alone.

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