



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF FLORIDA

Take Action Now

BILLS BEFORE LEGISLATURE AIM TO GUT SCHOOL DISTRICTS POWER

Florida voters would be asked to decide whether local schools districts should have control over charter schools, if lawmakers approve two bills currently moving through the Legislature calling for a constitutional amendment.

Currently, districts can approve or deny charters although recent legislation has already given the state power to override their decisions. The bills HUR 759 and SJR 976 would create a state level charter school approval process, eliminating the power of local school districts.

- Without local school district oversight of Charter Schools, the academic welfare of children will be greatly imperiled, says Orange County School Board Chair **Bill Sublette**.
- HUR 759 was filed by Rep. **Manny Diaz**, dean of Doral College, a private university run by the state's largest for-profit charter school management firm, Academica.

The second bill, HJR 530, would allow cities to withdraw from county school districts and form their own district. As cities have more revenue, this would have a significant impact on school funding and bonding. Additional efforts to wrest more control of public schools from locally elected school boards include the *Principa Automomy* bill (HB 287) and the formation of *High Impact Charter Networks* (HB 830) in local districts.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

We urge members to contact your Representative and Senator, and ask that they oppose these proposed constitutional amendments.

Remind your representative that our local public schools are the backbone of our community and belong to all of us. They have an obligation and duty to help them and our students achieve at their highest level.

[Click here](#) to find your Representative

[Click here](#) to find your Senator

"Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead