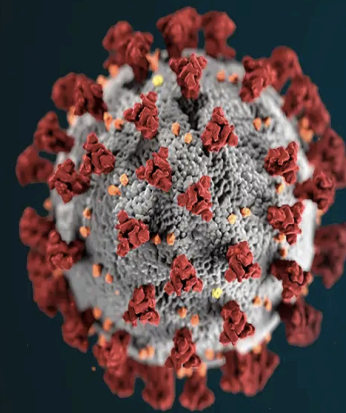
A high-resolution image of Earth from space, showing the Middle East, North Africa, and parts of Europe and Asia. The Earth is illuminated from the right, creating a bright blue glow along its horizon. The background is a deep black space filled with numerous small, distant stars.

ADULT EDUCATION ADVOCACY

IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD

ADVOCACY IN A PANDEMIC WORLD

2020
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



COVID-19

BACK IN THE GOOD OLE DAYS (6 MONTHS AGO)

- **\$93.2 Billion for 2020-2021
(July 1)**
- **\$2.2B more than last year**
- **\$500M for teacher raises**
- **3% state employee raises**
- **3518 bills filed**
- **210 bills passed**

BACK IN THE GOOD OLE DAYS (6 MONTHS AGO)

- Created reserves of approximately \$5B (COVID impact unknown at the time)
- Budget was built on pre-COVID revenue estimates
- No adjustments were necessary for the budget year ending June 30, 2020

BACK IN THE GOOD OLE DAYS (6 MONTHS AGO)

- Economy shut down
- School buildings closed
- Virtual instruction the norm
- Last week of session impacted
- That was then.....
- This Is Now.....

OCTOBER 2020

-
- Historic and controversial presidential election one month away
 - Election/voting issues
 - SCOTUS TV ads
 - Florida and U.S. partially reopened

OCTOBER 2020

- Florida faces a \$5.4 Billion budget shortfall over next two years
- \$3.4B for 2020-21
- \$2B for 2021-22
- Being offset with reserves and CARES \$\$

OCTOBER 2020

- Governor DeSantis said on a radio show Monday that the pandemic will “loom” over every budget and policy debate during the 2021 legislative session, which starts in March.

THE AMENDMENTS

- Amendment 1: Citizenship Requirements to Vote in Florida Elections
- Changes language from “every citizen of the United States can Vote to “only citizens of the United States can vote.

THE AMENDMENTS

- Amendment 2: Raising Florida's minimum wage
- Would raise minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2026. Current rate is \$8.56 in Florida and \$7.25 federal

THE AMENDMENTS

- Amendment 3: All Voters
Vote in Primary Elections for
State Legislature, Governor
and Cabinet
- Currently closed primaries.
Amendment advocates
"jungle primary;" two highest
vote-getters advance to
general election

THE AMENDMENTS

- Amendment 4: Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments
- Voter ballot initiatives would need to get 60% approval in TWO separate elections instead of the current ONE election

THE AMENDMENTS

- Amendment 5: Limitations on Homestead Assessments (originated in the legislature)
- This would give homeowners an additional year (3 instead of 2) to claim the tax benefit of Homestead Exemption for those moving from one homestead property to another.

THE AMENDMENTS

- Amendment 6: Ad Valorem Tax Discount for Spouses of Certain Deceased Veterans Who Had Permanent, Combat-related disabilities (originated in the legislature)
- Allows eligible spouses to claim an existing property tax exemption after the death of the veteran.

THE REST OF 2020

-
- A chaotic 3 months
 - Likely no special session
 - Education systems in flux
 - Uncertain economic recovery
 - Continued budget shortfalls
 - Unemployment unstable
 - Vaccine??

WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN?

- Competition for limited resources
- Potentially contentious legislative session
- 7 months to balance the state budget

WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN?

-
- Continued virtual and in-person activities; virtual is here to stay
 - Critical need for advocacy
 - New advocacy strategies

ADVOCACY IN A PANDEMIC WORLD

- Advocacy will always be important
- Together we are powerful
- Your stories are important
- Our message/our story needs to be communicated
- YOU have influence; YOU are the constituent

WHAT DOES ADVOCACY IN A PANDEMIC WORLD LOOK LIKE?

- Tell your stories virtually
- Virtual tours of your programs; live or recorded
- Video testimonials of students, teachers, partners; live or recorded
- Video graduations; feature a success

WHAT DOES ADVOCACY IN A PANDEMIC WORLD LOOK LIKE?

- Emails have increased value
- Share your stories virtually
- Social media more valuable than ever
- Virtual meetings with legislators

HOW WILL ACE OF FLORIDA HELP?

- January 2021: Redesigning advocacy plan to include virtual and in-person strategies
- Create a virtual advocacy toolbox
- Host a virtual advocacy academy

HOW WILL ACE OF FLORIDA HELP?

- Explore a virtual statewide adult education “contact your legislator” day
- Host a place on the ACE website for virtual stories
- Host advocacy lunch and learn
- Coordinate a virtual social media day

WHAT CAN I DO NOW?



- Buckle Up
- Stay informed
- Help your students stay informed
- Collect media for use in 2021; start your tool kit
- Tell your story virtually

**WHAT CAN I
DO NOW?**



CONTACT INFORMATION

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- Aceofflorida.org