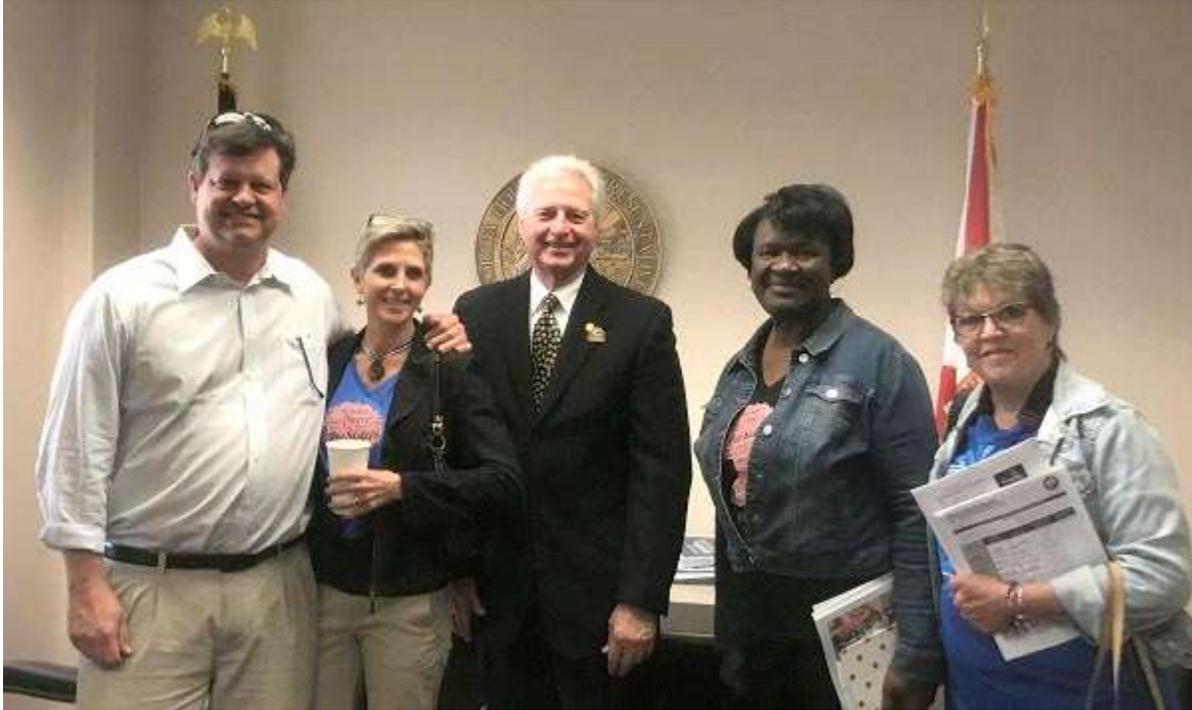


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Levy County Democrats want equal rights for women



(from left) Brandon Peters, Stacey Peters, State Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala, Dist. 22), Gussie M Boatwright and Deborah Goad are seen on Tuesday (March 12) in Tallahassee. Members of the Democratic Women's Club of Levy County (DWCLC) met recently and the Levy County Democratic Executive Committee concur that the Equal Rights Amendment should be ratified. Levy County constituents are seen with Rep. Stone during Tally Days in Tallahassee. The DWCLC visited Tallahassee in support of passage of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). Rep. Stone has not provided *HardisonInk.com* with his comments on the ERA yet.

Photo by Amy Gernhardt

By Jeff M. Hardison © March 12, 2019 at 3:09 p.m.

TALLAHASSEE – At least five Levy County constituents of State Rep. Charlie Stone (R-Ocala, Dist. 22) went to Tallahassee Monday and Tuesday (March 11 and 12) to share their thoughts with their representative about state matters.

One of those issues is the potential for the United States government to add an amendment to the United States Constitution to give equal rights to women – the Equal Rights Amendment.

During the Saturday (March 9) meeting of the Levy County Democratic Executive Committee (DEC) and the Democratic Women's Club of Levy County (DWCLC), a group of constituents chose to go to Tallahassee to hand-deliver a letter to Rep. Stone, which endorses him voting “Yes” on HCR 209 and HCR 255.

HCR stands for House Concurrent Resolution and that means it would match with a similar bill in the Florida Senate.

The letter notes the opinion that “For far too long, the policy priorities of the Florida Legislature have not reflected the unique needs and interests of women. This legislative session

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is your opportunity to be an effective advocate on their behalf.

These constituents are urging Rep. Stone to co-sponsor and support legislation approving the Equal Rights Amendment, including HCR 209 and HCR 255, which is now pending in the Florida House of Representatives.

“Thirty-seven states have adopted legislation approving the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment),” the letter notes. “Only one more state needs to ratify it to make the ERA part of the U.S. Constitution.

“Florida has the opportunity to take the historic and courageous step of adopting the ERA and making it the law of the land,” the letter continued.

This House Concurrent Resolution calls for ratifying the proposed amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to equal rights for men and women.

It notes that “... during the Second Session of the Ninety-second Congress of the United States of America, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, both houses approved the Equal Rights Amendment.”

The HCR notes that on March 22, 1972, this proposed amendment to the United States Constitution was sent to the states for ratification.

Article V of the United States Constitution authorizes the Legislature of Florida to ratify proposed amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

As noted, 37 of the necessary 38 states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment.

The HCR notes that “... constitutional equality for men and women continues to be timely in the United States and worldwide, and many other nations have achieved constitutional equality for their men and women.

Given the Florida Senate concurs, then the Florida Legislature would agree that “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex (gender).”