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In an effort to keep our communities informed about these new policies and the ways that they might affect us, here is a breakdown of the most noteworthy changes to look out for:   * **HB 1557,**the [**Don’t Say Gay Bill**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47249670/353628394/-1548361011?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9GTFJJUy8xLzE5NjYzIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjE3OTFiYmQwLTNlZjktZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAidjM1NzZAYXR0Lm5ldCINCn0%3D&hmac=tEbe2sBdQ70WOnPse1SnfD-AyLA9jxKv_micF7Psk1s=&emci=dc478613-fbf7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=1791bbd0-3ef9-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=10995)that bans schools from talking about gender identity and sexual orientation; * **SB 1808,**[**the Anti-immigrant Families bill**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47249671/353628395/618012846?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9GTFJJUy8xLzE5NjYzIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjE3OTFiYmQwLTNlZjktZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAidjM1NzZAYXR0Lm5ldCINCn0%3D&hmac=tEbe2sBdQ70WOnPse1SnfD-AyLA9jxKv_micF7Psk1s=&emci=dc478613-fbf7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=1791bbd0-3ef9-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=10995)**,**will force families apart by prohibiting transportation of immigrant children to Florida where they could reunite with their relatives and loved ones (this officially went into effect on June 17); * **SB 524,**[**the Ending Voter Freedoms Act**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47249672/353628396/-1937731162?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9GTFJJUy8xLzE5NjYzIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjE3OTFiYmQwLTNlZjktZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAidjM1NzZAYXR0Lm5ldCINCn0%3D&hmac=tEbe2sBdQ70WOnPse1SnfD-AyLA9jxKv_micF7Psk1s=&emci=dc478613-fbf7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=1791bbd0-3ef9-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=10995) that will confuse and intimidate voters by making it more complicated to vote, and commissioning a new police force just for elections (this officially went into effect on April 25); * [**SB 1764**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47249673/353628397/-546186366?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9GTFJJUy8xLzE5NjYzIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjE3OTFiYmQwLTNlZjktZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAidjM1NzZAYXR0Lm5ldCINCn0%3D&hmac=tEbe2sBdQ70WOnPse1SnfD-AyLA9jxKv_micF7Psk1s=&emci=dc478613-fbf7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=1791bbd0-3ef9-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=10995)increases grant funding for solid waste incinerators. It will pour even more money into dirty energy by paying for more incinerators such as the Covanta-owned one in Doral. These trash burners are polluting the air and destroying the neighborhoods in which we live. * **HB 7**the [**“Stop WOKE Act”**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47249674/353628398/441702325?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9GTFJJUy8xLzE5NjYzIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjE3OTFiYmQwLTNlZjktZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAidjM1NzZAYXR0Lm5ldCINCn0%3D&hmac=tEbe2sBdQ70WOnPse1SnfD-AyLA9jxKv_micF7Psk1s=&emci=dc478613-fbf7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=1791bbd0-3ef9-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=10995) that censors educators from teaching the truth about race, sexual identity, or Black history and also allows employees to sue work places for sensitivity trainings if it makes them “feel discomfort”; and; * **HB 5**, [**a 15-week abortion ban**](https://click.everyaction.com/k/47249675/353628399/1403786684?nvep=ew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9BVi9GTFJJUy8xLzE5NjYzIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogIjE3OTFiYmQwLTNlZjktZWMxMS1iNDdhLTI4MTg3OGI4M2Q4YSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAidjM1NzZAYXR0Lm5ldCINCn0%3D&hmac=tEbe2sBdQ70WOnPse1SnfD-AyLA9jxKv_micF7Psk1s=&emci=dc478613-fbf7-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&emdi=1791bbd0-3ef9-ec11-b47a-281878b83d8a&ceid=10995) modeled after the Mississippi law that served as catalyst to overturn Roe v. Wade. This abortion ban doesn’t allow exceptions for cases of rape, incest or human trafficking. There is a lawsuit challenging this bill because the Florida State Constitution protects the right to privacy. A judge has granted a temporary injunction of HB 5, so it will not go into effect until the state appeals.   These laws attack low-income communities, promote the white-washing of history and censorship of LGBTQ+ identity. Their passing and signing will have serious consequences for Floridians in the years to come. Which is why this November, it is our duty to show up to the polls and vote in state elections, to choose champions that will advance progress in Florida. | | | |