Conservation 20/20 Support
August 8, 2016
Estero Bay Agency on Bay Management

Presented by:
Marisa Carrozzo & Brad Cornell
Coalition members of Yes On Conservation 20/20
Who We Are

Yes On Conservation 20/20 is a coalition of local citizens and organizations working to support the passage of the Lee County Conservation 20/20 referendum on November 8th, 2016

Current Coalition Members

• Audubon of Southwest Florida
• Audubon of the Western Everglades
• BikeWalkLee
• Caloosa Saddle Club
• Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife
• Charlotte Harbor National Estuary Program
• Conservancy of Southwest Florida
• CREW Land and Water Trust
• "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society
• Estero Council of Community Leaders
• Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation
• Responsible Growth Management Coalition, Inc.
• Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation
• Sierra Club, Calusa Group
• The Trust for Public Land
2016 Referendum

Lee County BOCC voted to place 20/20 on 2016 ballot in a non-binding referendum (original ballot measure was also non-binding)

Exhibit “A”

Conservation 20/20 Non-Binding Referendum

DO YOU APPROVE OF LEE COUNTY CONTINUING TO USE GENERAL REVENUE FUNDS TO ACQUIRE, RESTORE, IMPROVE, AND MANAGE LAND FOR CONSERVATION, SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT, WATER QUALITY, WATER RECHARGE AND SUPPLY, FLOOD CONTROL, WILDLIFE HABITAT, PASSIVE PUBLIC RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE PURPOSES, PURSUANT TO LEE COUNTY ORDINANCE 15-08 (COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION 20/20 LAND PROGRAM)?

YES-For

NO-Against

Ballot language adopted by the BOCC on May 17, 2016
Conservation 20/20 Background

• Willing-seller conservation land acquisition and stewardship program
• Acquired 24,930 acres throughout Lee County

Great progress, but:
Lee County is 39 of 67 Florida counties in total conservation lands, and 61 of 67 in acres conserved per person*

Celebrating 20-year anniversary

*2014 Florida Natural Areas Inventory
Outstanding Conservation Needs

Current and future nominations in DR/GR and CREW: aquifer recharge, flood storage, wildlife habitat and wetland preservation/restoration

Example: Current Nom #536 – 579 acres south of Corkscrew Rd. adjacent to Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary

Avenue for future acquisition of Edison Farms: 4,000 acres, mostly wetlands, headwaters of tribs to Estero Bay
Vote YES 20/20

On November 8\textsuperscript{th}, 2016 vote YES for:

✓ Clean water
✓ Quality of life
✓ Outdoor recreation
✓ Wildlife habitat
✓ Tourism

Visit www.yesonconservation2020.org for more information and ways to get involved! Visit and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/YesOnConservation2020 to follow our activities
Outreach

Vote YES on Conservation 20/20 • November 8, 2016

On November 8, 2016
Vote YES for:

- Quality of life
- Clean water
- Outdoor recreation
- Wildlife habitat
- Tourism

Conservation 20/20 is Lee County's successful conservation lands program.
Conservation 20/20 lands provide vital quality of life, environmental and economic benefits by helping to protect waterways and drinking water supplies, preserving wildlife habitat and offering recreational opportunities for residents and visitors.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long has the program been in existence?
A: 20 years, since 1996

Q: How much land has been purchased to date?
A: 24,930 acres as of May 21, 2016

Q: How is the program funded?
A: The program is funded using millage-based taxes levied on Lee County’s General Revenue

Q: Is this a tax increase?
A: No. The Conservation 20/20 ballot referendum has no direct impact on any of the millage rate. The “mill” is a $1 tax for every $1,000 of taxable property value, and the General Fund millage rate has been 4.156 since 2008. Voting “Yes” will not increase this millage rate, and voting “No” will not decrease this millage rate. A “No” vote will likely end the Conservation 20/20 program. Conservation 20/20 is a part of the County’s General Revenue Fund, and the General Fund millage rate is either maintained or adjusted by the Board of County Commissioners on an annual basis, based on the overall needs of the County. Please see Lee County Ordinance #15-08 or visit www.yesonconservation2020.org for more information on how 20/20 is funded.

Q: How much is currently in the Conservation 20/20 acquisition fund to purchase more land?
A: Approximately $95 million

Q: How will the properties be maintained in perpetuity?
A: Management and restoration funds are allocated on a yearly basis through Lee County’s capital improvement budget, using a five-year property. Unspent funds are rolled over to the next year’s budget.

Learn more about Conservation 20/20!
Add us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/YesonConservation2020

Political advertisement approved by the YES ON CONSERVATION 20/20 Political Committee.
Keep Conserving Lee
Vote Yes on 20/20
www.yesonconservation2020.org
Resolutions Passed Supporting 20/20

- Town of Fort Myers Beach
- Village of Estero
- City of Bonita Springs
- City of Sanibel
- City of Cape Coral (Pending August 8, 2016)
- City of Fort Myers (TBA)
Get Involved

• Become a coalition member
• Endorse a Yes vote on Conservation 20/20
• Donate
• Volunteer time for: event tabling, handing out flyers, distributing flyers to local businesses, etc.
• Help schedule speakers for events and meetings
Thank you

Some coalition contacts:
Marisa Carrozzo: marisac@conservancy.org
Brad Cornell: bcornell@audubonwe.org
Pete Cangialosi: pcangialosi@comcast.net

Coalition e-mail and website:
yesonconservation2020@gmail.com
www.yesonconservation2020.org