Redefining Justice

How would Florida’s death row look if it were required to play by the same rules as other states?

By Katie Sartoris  Daily Sun Associate Managing Editor

Do all 390 inmates on Florida’s death row belong there?

Less than a week after the state conducted America’s first execution of 2016, the question stands before the U.S. Supreme Court, which is expected to rule in coming months on the constitutionality of the loosest capital punishment requirements in the nation.

The question also stands before state lawmakers, who have been reluctant to revisit the issue, with a new proposal in the Legislative session that begins Tuesday.

Neither the Florida Department of Corrections, nor the Florida Supreme Court nor the Justice Administration Commission keep an accounting, according to their spokespersons.

But the Daily Sun has pieced that chaotic picture together through an 18-month investigation into all 390 capital cases. A database built from digital records supplemented with, and cross-checked by, physical case files stored at Florida Archives and the Florida Supreme Court reveals the issue’s troubling scope.

Please see JUSTICE, A24

Florida’s Death Row is the Second Largest in the Nation.

| On death row for 40-plus years | Empty rows are death sentences with unanimous or super majority jury votes. | Rows are simple majority votes. | Rows with a red outline are sentences from the tri-county area. |

38

On death row for 30 to 39 years

3

On death row for 20 to 29 years

26

Longest wait on a non-unanimous vote

Sentenced to die 40 years ago, Jacob Dougan’s appeals are still snaking through the system. His death warrant has been signed twice, yet he has outlived 91 other inmates executed since he was sent to Death Row.

Most recently executed inmate

Since Florida reinstated its death penalty in 1973, the youngest inmate was a 15-year-old boy. A Marion County jury recommended capital punishment with a 10-2 vote.

Most recently signed death warrant

A March 17 execution date has been set for Mark Asay, sentenced to death row 27 years ago for killing two people. Gov. Rick Scott signed his death warrant last Friday, 12 hours after the state’s most recent execution.

Floridians have no way of knowing which 23.5 percent likely belongs on Death Row.

The Weather Today, C2

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NFL playoffs open with first two wildcard games. Sports, B1

Tax-Aide continues to help residents. Local News, C1

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**REDEFINING JUSTICE**

**A DAILY SUN SPECIAL REPORT**

WHO IS EXECUTED WHEN AND WHY?

Gov. Rick Scott has signed over 25 executions—more than any other Florida governor. But his decision-making process is secret, and there are no obvious patterns between which inmates will be scheduled to die next.

**Executed Jan. 7, Oscar Bell**

**Age:** 33

**Jury note:** Unanimous 1-0

**Time on death row:** 10 years

**Executed Jan. 10, David Lamberti**

**Age:** 32

**Jury note:** 12-0

**Time on death row:** 11 years

**Executed Feb. 17, Michael Lamberti**

**Age:** 30

**Jury note:** 12-0

**Time on death row:** 11 years

**Executed March 17, Mark Avery**

**Age:** 35

**Jury note:** 1-0

**Time on death row:** 27 years

**Executed March 30, Darryl Ray**

**Age:** 36

**Jury note:** 1-0

**Time on death row:** 27 years

**To be scheduled**

**Oscar Bell**

**Age:** 33

**Time on death row:** 10 years

**Michael Lamberti**

**Age:** 30

**Time on death row:** 11 years

**Mark Avery**

**Age:** 35

**Time on death row:** 27 years

**Darryl Ray**

**Age:** 36

**Time on death row:** 27 years

**Timely Justice Act Hasn’t Curbed Length of Time On Death Row**

**By KATIE SANTHOS**

Daily Sun Alexandria Managing Editor

In the 3.17 years since Florida passed the Timely Justice Act, condemned inmates have spent about nine days more on death row, a new analysis of death row inmates shows. Deemed to have been executed, the law had not changed the reality that Florida inmates, on average, spend 51 years on death row before being executed, according to the Institute for Human Rights in the 2018 fiscal year.

That’s 16 months longer than the 1.8 years at the time of the last execution.

In Texas, by comparison, the average death row stay is 10 years.

The Timely Justice Act mandates that the governor sign a death warrant within 90 days of an inmate losing an appeal. The law was to be in effect by January 1, 2018.

The idea was to speed up executions, because there are people on Florida’s death row who have been there for a long time—10, 15 years,” said Stephen Harper, professor and overdirector of the Florida Center for Capital Representation at Florida International University. Harper said the law has had three inmates who have lived on death row for more than 40 years—longer than any other inmate in the country.

But the law has not only killed the statute of limitations by the governor or district attorney. Of the 500 on death row, 460 have been officially certified as warrant-ready.

Only two (of their death warrants have been signed. “I think about the families. I think about the victims’ families,” Scott said in a recent interview. “The death penalty is a serious matter. It’s very emotional and difficult to do.”

The state’s execution process looks like this now.

1. The sheriff or county attorney certifies a warrant-ready inmate who has exhausted all avenues of appeals.

2. The governor signs the warrant and holds final clemency hearings for certified inmates.

3. The governor signs the warrant within 90 days of the death row inmate’s hearing. Scott has signed 38 warrants during his five-year tenure, but has signed five new death warrants since he took office.

“We do have three inmates at this time,” Scott said.

“If you’re not planning to do what you’re doing, then you’re not doing it properly.” But the governor won’t say whether the inmates are those who have been on death row for more than 40 years.

“We’re planning to do it for the governor and it’s continuing to do this.”

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Unlocking the Science, Secrecy Of Florida’s Lethal Injection Drugs

By KATHY JARVIS
Daily Commercial Manager Florida Times-Union

As states scramble to find the right process for humans lethal injection executions, Falls Church, Virginia’s Department of Corrections has been working on its protocol for the past 10 years. The state has already conducted 81 executions since its reinstatement in 2002.

According to a report by the National Academy of Sciences, Lethal Injection is the most popular method of execution, with 81 percent of states using it.

The report states, “Lethal Injection is the most commonly used method of execution in the United States. In 2012, 17 states and the federal government used lethal injection to execute 38 inmates, representing 77% of all executions in the country. The remaining 10% of executions were carried out by other methods, such as hanging, electrocution, and lethal gas.”

It also states, “Lethal injection has been used in executions since 1976, when it was first introduced in the United States. Since then, it has been used in more than 1,100 executions, and is currently used in all 31 states that allow the death penalty.”

Lethal injection is typically administered by a single injection into the subclavian or jugular vein, directly into the heart. The drugs used in lethal injection executions are designed to cause rapid and painless death, and are usually administered in a sequence of three drugs:

1. A sedative to rapidly and painlessly induce unconsciousness.
2. A paralyzing agent to prevent the inmate from breathing.
3. A drug to stop the heart, leading to death.

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REDEFINING JUSTICE
A DAILY SUN SPECIAL REPORT

SENTENCED TO DEATH, ONLY TO BE CLEARED

Florida leads the nation in death row exonerations. Since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976, higher courts have reversed the convictions of 23 condemned Florida inmates.

First Exoneration
Florida inmate David Keaton was the first man exonerated from death row in the modern era of the death penalty (1973-present). On the basis of mistaken identification and coerced confessions, Keaton was sentenced to death for murdering an off-duty deputy sheriff during a robbery. At age 18, he was one of five men wrongfully convicted and later released after another man arrested on a separate murder charge confessed. In 2003, Keaton became a founding member of Witness To Innocence, an organization of death row exonerees who share their stories to educate others.

Most Recent Exoneration
Derral Hodgkins was released from Florida’s death row on Oct. 12, 2015, after his acquittal by the Florida Supreme Court of the 2006 murder of his longtime friend Teresa Lodge. Lodge was found dead in her Land O’Lakes apartment, beaten, strangled and stabbed multiple times. Hodgkins’ skin was found under her fingernails, but investigators didn’t find a weapon or other evidence that placed him at the scene. Hodgkins told investigators they had had sex about three days before the murder and that Lodge dug her nails into his back during the act.

Father’s Exoneration
James Richardson walked out of a Florida prison in 1989, 21 years after being wrongfully convicted of killing his seven children. Special prosecutor Janet Reno agreed to the release after evidence showed that the conviction resulted from misconduct by the prosecutor. In addition, neighbor Betty Rees had confessed to the crime to a nursing home employee. On Oct. 25, 1967, the children died after their food was laced with pesticide. Jurors were not told about Rees’s criminal history — she was on parole at the time for killing her second husband and being suspected of killing her first husband with poison.

Post-Humous Exoneration
After 14 years on Florida’s death row, Frank Lee Smith died of cancer on Jan. 30, 2000, just months before DNA exonerated him of raping and murdering an 8-year-old girl in Fort Lauderdale. Smith’s death made him a national symbol because it was the first case in the U.S. that scientifically proved an innocent man had died in prison for a crime he didn’t commit.

Governor’s Exoneration
Freddie Pitts, 31, and Wilbert Lee, 40, were freed from death row in 1975 after serving 12 years for a crime they did not commit. Pitts, then 26, and Lee, then 20, were arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to death in the Y-363 deaths of two black children in Orange County. Pitts claimed police beat confessions which they discarded police beat confessions which they discarded.

An exoneration is a legal term meaning that a person who has been convicted of a crime has been cleared of the charges against them. The term is derived from the Latin word *exonera*, meaning “to release.” Exoneration is a legal process that can be initiated by the court, the prosecutor, or the defendant themselves, usually through a motion for a new trial or a petition for relief from a conviction. In many jurisdictions, the process of exoneration requires the demonstration of new evidence that was not available at the time of trial, or that the defendant was factually innocent of the crime. The process can take many years, and often involves legal battles and challenges to the original conviction. Exoneration is an important step in the rehabilitation and reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals, providing them with a fresh start and the opportunity to move on with their lives.
“Is Execution a Deterrent? Yes! It Would Be a Better Deterrent if it Were Used More Regularly.”

by Kate Guarino
ontario’s Morning Edition Manager

It’s the “heartbeat of Florida,” says Bradford County Sheriff Gordon Smith, of his place where 160-year-old state, population 4,845. “It’s the real ‘Ole Miss’ on the east coast of Florida,” he says. “You’ve got the best of all the traditions.”

The town lies within two hours of the beach, an NFL stadium, the state Capitol and Daytona Beach.

And the best known for its local claim to fame: the Florida Death chamber, just 30 miles from historic St. Augustine.

Located in unincorporated Bradford County, the Florida Death Penitentiary is one of only six in the nation to carry out an execution in the past year, including one of Bryce York.

Some residents here won’t learn that news. They prefer to say it’s in Ocala, a Union County town to the north with fewer than 100 residents.

And, for the most part, people aren’t oblivious to what’s being executed and what it means. “We don’t think it’s any big deal,” said resident Elizabeth. “I don’t think it’s going to change our lives.”

The town’s sheriff, Gordon Smith, is one of the few who has been involved in an execution.

“It’s been one restaurant or another for the past 15 years. It’s the same restaurant. It’s the same menu. It’s the same people.”

More than just a restaurant, it’s also a place of community and family ties.

“The people here are like family. They come here to see family. They come here to see friends. They come here to see people they’ve known for a long time.”

The town’s sheriff, Gordon Smith, is one of the few who has been involved in an execution.

“My family is here. My kids are here. My parents are here. My grandparents are here.”

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“We’re Depressed Economically, But it’s the Best Kept Secret In Florida.”

Even Sheriff Smith got his start at the prison as a correctional officer.

Two best days of my life — the day I started there and my last day there," he said. "It was tough." He’s an unrelenting defender of the death penalty. Thought the condemned were "some bad people who need to be executed." He’s got the most humane and humane dealings anyone can ask for.

Death Row on One Side, Rich History on the Other

In small-town Starke, Smith’s agency handles everything from 911 calls to late-night utility calls to animal control.

He’s an art hunter whose other decor includes two taxidermy bucks. One is wearing a ball cap. On his desk sits the "Florida Union and Bradford counties sit down the street near the courthouse. The smell of pizza floats from code enforcement to 911 calls to animal control. The median household income here is $32,880, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. While Florida’s $44,956 and the average $35,246.

He maintains that the prison is a positive for the community. "People come here to see the town, whether your visit is positive or not. And, we must the families that come here to visit. When you incorporate somebody, they’re not just being punished, so their families.

The area has struggled in recent years. The Bradford County schools, a South Florida inmate, left Jerry know we’re here," said Totura, a Catholic Deacon. "We’re depressed economically, but it’s the best kept secret in Florida." He said Starke is a place where everybody knows everybody.

"We’re Depressed Economically, But it’s the Best Kept Secret In Florida.”

From noon to 2 p.m., Correll met with his spiritual advisor, Catholic Deacon Jason Roy. At the same time, the Eugene Cay offered $5 haircuts at his barber shop on West Call Street.

Meanwhile, in downtown Starke, the opening rituals were rolling at the Tillie Theatre. It showed its first feature on Oct. 5, 1941, "Evil beneath the R.A.F." starring Tyrone Power and Ann Todd.

At 5 p.m., opponents began a large-scale car and wall hanging from a slingshot. "No more executions," he said. "Everybody knows everybody." He added, "Every executioner was helping Correll do his duty. Under the watch of two monitors from the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, other officers fetched the chamber’s phone and communication system. In the room, the inmate’s executioner. A dog from the K-9 unit, was stationed to keep the peace between opponents and up to 50 people.

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"We’re Depressed Economically, But it’s the Best Kept Secret In Florida.”

For more information, contact the Bradford County Historical Society at 352-473-1119. The Historical Museum opened its doors for a half day while Phil Cay offered $5 haircuts at his barber shop on West Call Street.

At 3:30 p.m., a handful of mourners placed the prison’s minutes from Leon, who said Correll’s "general demeanor was calm and in good spirits today." The prison staff prepared Correll’s last meal — a DuPont mining operation and the prison — where nearly 200 people work, including the execution team.

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“People Come to See the Town, Whether Your Take Is Pro-Death Or Anti-Death.”

A small town landscape dotted with rich history

Bricks still provide the surface on Walnut Street in Starke, a community in which the entire downtown district is on the National Register of Historic Places, including the old Bradford County Courthouse. Crosby Lake Cemetery, founded in 1850, holds history of departed generations.

Kitsch signposts welcome residents and tourists

A billboard competes with a rooster for motorists’ attention along U.S. Highway 301. Guide Metal Recycling forgets the billboard and a North Cherry Street home shows signs of replacing the old. Florida State Prison and small businesses dominate the home to a $35,880 median income.

A rural region largely untouched by Florida’s growth

But outside the Starke city limits, the area is ripe in a rural countryside. The Starke water tower, rolling farmland and cow pastures paint a picturesque scene. Quaint railroad tracks run through downtown and intersect with the main drag.

Mom and pop businesses power the local economy

In Starke, you can watch Al Zuluaga toss pizza dough at Tony and Al’s Deli, find the latest addition to the closet along East Brownlee Street, or catch a casual conversation with dinner at Powell’s Dairy Freeze, as Eddy Williams, left, and Jasper Byrd did.

Prison culture is woven into the fabric of the community

An open field between Florida State Prison and a cow pasture becomes an assembly on execution days. Father Phil Egitto, of Daytona Beach’s Our Lady of Lourdes, prays for the condemned. Territories are marked for supporters and opponents of the death penalty, whether present or not.
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JUSTICE

Continued from A8

- The defendant was convicted of murder by a jury of 12 ordinary citizens, and his conviction was upheld by the Court of Appeals.

- The defendant was sentenced to life imprisonment without possibility of parole.

- The defendant is currently serving his sentence in a state prison.

- The defendant is appealing his conviction to the United States Supreme Court.

- The defendant's family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the police officers involved in the shooting.

- The defendant's defense attorney plans to argue that the use of excessive force by the police was unjustified.

- The defendant is currently represented by a team of experienced criminal defense attorneys.

- The defendant is scheduled to be released on parole after serving 25 years in prison.
Supreme Court will review death row case

The U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that jail juries — not judges — can find the aggravating factors necessary for conviction. But unlike other states, Florida does not require its juries who vote for death to record why.

“Florida’s practice is certainly unique in the country,” said Robert Dunham, executive director of the national Death Penalty Information Center. “It is out of step with what every other state does.”

State Sen. Thad Altman, R-Wellington, has filed a bill for the 2014 legislative session to remedy that. It would require a unanimous jury vote on a written statement and a unanimous vote for aggravating factors.

“For the first time in Florida’s history, a defendant’s life would be preserved in a public, transparent forum,” Dunham said. “I’ve never heard the word ‘unanimous’ in the public dialogue.”

Attorney Bill McEachern, a defense attorney in the death penalty case of a man convicted of murdering two girls in Seminole County last fall, said he’s “very encouraged” by the bill. But he’s not sure the legislature has the appetite for the debate.

“This is a legal issue as opposed to a political one,” Harper said. “It’s really not a partisan issue, and I think the legislators have mixed those two lenses.”

Florida is now in such an outlier the efforts of the U.S. Supreme Court’s pending ruling won’t have much effect on the rest of the country. “It has limited national implications, but systemic ones in Florida,” Dunham said.

Harper agrees. “I don’t think to predict how the court will rule,” he said. “But if the court rules that way, it’s going to open the death penalty to a unanimous jury finding of aggravating factors.”

Even if that change would impact nearly half the state’s condemned inmates, “the matter what the Supreme Court is going to say, it could throw Florida’s entire death penalty system into chaos,” said Harper.

Meanwhile, Florida juries have sent four more killers to death row in the past four months — all without a recommendation for death that was unanimous.

And only three juries know why.

Katie Schackow is an associate managing editor with The Villages Daily Sun. She can be reached at 352-671-5694, kschackow@villagesmedia.com.

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Job Growth, Taxes Star in Scott's State of the State Address

Gov. Rick Scott gave a State of the State speech Tuesday that was focused almost entirely on job growth and cutting taxes. Beautifying Florida and adding more than a million jobs since he took office were the top legislative priorities, which a new study released Wednesday cited as major catalysts behind the state’s growing economy.

On Jobs

"Our 1 million jobs have been created in just five years since I took office," one million jobs. Now that’s something very Floridians can be proud of," Scott said across the state and said those businesses are key to continued job growth.

On Tax Cuts

Scott’s proposed cuts are largely aimed at businesses, including the elimination of corporate income taxes for manufacturers and retailers. Scott also wants to cut corporate income taxes as a competitive reason by making those who invest in Florida charged their use of manufacturing equipment.

On the Islamic State

Scott switched subjects near the end of his speech to talk about recent attacks by, or influenced by the Islamic State group. "Our president must make it their mission to immediately eliminate the threat of ISIS in the United States of America," he said.

Complete coverage of the State of the State, AB

Obama Delivers His Final State of the Union

President Barack Obama and his final address to Congress Tuesday's talk will be about the strength of the nation in the face of challenges. See Page A7

\[Graph\]

\[Graph\]

Millions have caught Lotte Fever, with the Tuesday Powerball jackpot hitting a magical number...

$1.5 Billion

It took a $1.5 billion jackpot for Robert Falsam to buy a lottery ticket after a year of seeing away from the江西. "I just (at it) from a financial point of view. We lost our investment," a lottery winner in a previous year said.

The Daily Sun’s "Lotto Fever" ranking of the Most-Lottery-Buying States is released Wednesday. "It is all about the extra millions. Since we bought out ticket, our wife and I have never had second thoughts about what we would do with the money. And that’s what it is. Not winning $1.5 billion would be pretty guilty too."

What could you get for $1.5 billion?

7,343 Lotus lottery around the world. 228,000,000 person scored a Siberian luxury cruise in their best cabin.

6,000 Virgin Galactic trips into space. Over 228,000,000 for a soft in space.

428 Diamond-accredited iPhones. Over 228,000,000 for a soft in space.

\[Graph\]

\[Graph\]

The Jackpot may be $1.5 Billion, but you might only take home...

$421,500,000

So, you won the lottery. First, sell off the cars, land, gold, luxury watches, managing people's portfolios is a job. Second, sell the large sum over the cost of $421,500,000. Take only 34 percent of the winnings, leaving you $140,500,000. You may also have a 25 percent gambling tax, tijd. Tijd said.

Reporting by Joe Paterson, Daily Sun

\[Image\]

\[Image\]
BREAKING DOWN THE NATION’S 2nd-LARGEST DEATH ROW

The number of inmates on Florida’s death row: 390
The number of inmates on Florida’s death row in 2021: 287
The number of inmates on death row in 2020: 24

The number of inmates on death row by a unanimous jury vote: 1

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Redefining Justice

Who would be eligible to die under dueling proposals to change Florida’s sentencing laws?

By KATIE SARTORIS AND CURT HILLS | Daily Sun Editors

Florida has executed 92 inmates since the death penalty was reinstated. Did they all deserve to die?

Under new thresholds for capital punishment proposed by the Florida House, at least 17 of those inmates would not have been eligible for death. Under a new Senate plan, the number grows to at least 40, according to a new Daily Sun investigation into the physical case files of all executed inmates dating back to 1976. The number of those already executed who would not have qualified under the new proposals could be as many as 19 larger, because in those cases, the number of dissenting votes for death was not recorded.

“Don’t tell me how you voted,” a judge instructs individual jurors in one 1977 transcript. Another such sentencing in 1983 led to execution, even though the Florida Supreme Court mandated the documentation of dissenting votes two years earlier, the Daily Sun found.

In a follow-up to the Daily Sun’s Jan. 10 investigation into all death row files dating to 1976, the newspaper has also analyzed all 92 physical case files of those executed.

In the transcript of Raymond Clark’s 1977 sentencing shows how jurors were not instructed to record dissenting votes for death.

In the transcript of Allen Davis’ 1983 sentencing shows how dissenting votes were not recorded — even though the Florida Supreme Court began requiring this in 1982.

THE COURT: By law I’m bound to read each of you the following: “The jury shall be composed of 12 impartial persons and if at least 9 jurors are of the opinion that the defendant should be executed, then he will be executed.” 

The transcript of Allen Davis’ 1983 sentencing shows how dissenting votes were not recorded — even though the Florida Supreme Court began requiring this in 1982.

THE COURT: We are going to ask each of you individually concerning this advisory sentence. It is not necessary that you state how you personally voted but how any other persons voted, but only if the advisory sentence on road was correctly stated.

Executed by lethal injection in 2002. Actress Charlize Theron

She was sentenced to death for six of the murders and was executed with an 9-3 jury majority.

Would not have been eligible for death if at least 10-2 jury vote was required at sentencing.


Executed with an 9-3 jury majority.

Would not have been eligible for death if at least 10-2 jury vote was required at sentencing.

Most notorious inmates executed

Ted Bundy confessed to 30 homicides in seven states between 1974 and 1978. He received three death sentences for murders in Florida and died in the electric chair in 1989.

Executed with a simple 7-5 majority.

One of two female inmates executed


Executed by lethal injection in 2002. Actress Charlize Theron

Executed with an 8-4 jury majority.

Executed with a 9-3 jury majority.

Executed with a 9-3 jury majority.

Executed with a 10-2 jury majority.

Executed with an 11-1 jury majority.

Executed with a 12-0 jury vote.

Wanted their right to a jury.

Number of Executions By Geography

Florida has executed 92 people since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. Of the 20 judicial circuits, the most executions come from the circuits centered around Jacksonville, Orlando, St. Petersburg and Miami. The Ninth Circuit, comprised of three counties centered around Ft. Meyers, produced the most executions at 12.

FLORIDA HAS EXECUTED 92 INMATES SINCE THE DEATH PENALTY WAS REINSTATED IN 1976

5 Executed against their juries’ wishes

Inmates appear in the order in which they were executed.

1 Executed on a judge’s override, even though all 12 jurors voted for life

Executed on a judge’s override, even though 11 jurors voted for life.

19 Executed, but jury vote not recorded.

Executed without a jury vote.

26 Would not have been eligible for death if at least 10-2 jury vote was required at sentencing.

40 Would not have been eligible for death if at least 10-2 jury vote (as required in 26 of the 31 death penalty cases) was required at sentencing.

17 Would not have been eligible for death if at least a 10-2 jury vote was required at sentencing.

Most recent inmate executed

Triple-murderer Oscar Bolin died five years after being sentenced to death.

Would not have been eligible for death if at least 10-2 jury vote was required at sentencing.

Most notorious inmate executed

Ted Bundy confessed to 30 homicides in seven states between 1974 and 1978. He received three death sentences for murders in Florida and died in the electric chair in 1989.

Executed with an 8-4 jury majority.

Executed with a 9-3 jury majority.

Executed with a 9-3 jury majority.

Executed with a 10-2 jury majority.

Executed with an 11-1 jury majority.

Executed with a 12-0 jury vote.

Wanted their right to a jury.

Inmates executed after denied a jury of his peers

Duane Furbush won the right to a new sentencing hearing, but not a new sentencing jury. The Florida Supreme Court gave that power to a judge, saying: “Furbush makes a number of legal attacks on the propriety of instructions given to the jury at the sentencing proceeding of his first trial, arguing that the order remanding for an ex-cited ‘Guilty’ should have included a mandate for reviewing an advisory jury. We reject all of these contentions. We affirm the trial court’s new death sentence.”

Inmates executed after denied a jury of his peers

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**Redefining Justice**

Which regions of Florida should brace for the largest potential fallout?

Florida lawmakers in both chambers are moving legislation forward in the wake of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down the state’s capital sentencing law. But the House and Senate are divided over how the changes should play. The Senate’s plan would require unanimous jury recommendations for the death penalty to be imposed. The House plan would shift the current threshold of a simple majority to a 9-3 jury vote for death. The implications of either plan are far reaching for Florida’s 20 judicial circuits — some more drastic than others. — Daily Sun investigation of all 389 death row case files, cross-referenced with an analysis at the circuit level, reveals:

**The Consequences of Requiring a “Super Majority” 9-3 Jury Vote**

Florida’s death row would be 24 percent smaller if the state had required at least a 9-3 vote for a death sentence. Why? Fifty-four of the 389 inmates would just make the cut—542 are on death row with a simple 7-5 vote. Only the Third Circuit and Eleventh Circuit have five death sentences below a 9-3 threshold.

Recommenderds for death with more than 3 jurors dissenting, in all 20 judicial circuits. (Also lists the number of sentences that would not have qualified by county)

**The Consequences of Requiring an Unanimous 12-0 Jury Vote**

Florida’s death row would be 74 percent smaller if the state had required jury unanimity for a death sentence. The picture would be most dramatically altered in the Fourth Circuit centered around Jacksonville and the Eleventh Circuit centered around Miami. Only 10 percent of their death sentences would have met this threshold.

Recommenderds for death with at least one juror dissenting, in all 20 judicial circuits. (Also lists the number of sentences that would not have qualified by county)

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**Making the Case for a 9-3 Vote**

More “most of the worst” killers would escape death simply because one juror may not agree with the death penalty. For instance, prosecutors did not get a unanimous death recommendation for serial killer Ted Bundy or for John Couey, who raped a 9-year-old girl before burying her alive. “A unanimous jury verdict for death would allow one true feeling on capital punishment. King maintains the role of the jury is to provide “the focus should be on crime victims, and a nine-juror majority is enough to bring them back in a few years, going through this again,” said Senate Criminal Justice Chairman Greg Steube, R-St. Petersburg. “Being an outlier, we felt that it was best if we just went ahead and went with unanimity. If we don’t, then we would be opening ourselves up to have it all thrown out again.”

**Making the Case for a 12-0 Vote**

A unanimous vote is more constitutionally sound, steers away from legal challenges and brings Florida in line with 26 of the 36 other death penalty states. “You go in 9-3, we’ll be back in a year, going through this again,” said Seneca Criminal Justice Chairman Greg Steube, R-St. Petersburg. “Being an outlier, we felt that it was best if we just went ahead and went with unanimity. If we don’t, then we would be opening ourselves up to have it all thrown out again.”

**Constitutionality**

The U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled that a jury’s vote for death — or even the vote on aggravating factors — has to be unanimous. “To think we can all evolve today and promulgate to understand what the United States Supreme Court may do in 40, 50, 20, 30 years into the future is honestly a pipe dream,” because we don’t know that,” said Brad King, State Attorney for the Fifth Judicial Circuit that includes Sumter County, testified before the Senate.

**Criminal Toughness**

The U.S. Supreme Court has never ruled that a jury’s vote for death — or even the vote on aggravating factors — has to be unanimous. “To think we can all evolve today and promulgate to understand what the United States Supreme Court may do in 40, 50, 20, 30 years into the future is honestly a pipe dream,” because we don’t know that,” said Brad King, State Attorney for the Fifth Judicial Circuit that includes Sumter County, testified before the Senate.

**Jury’s Role**

The focus should be on crime victims, and a nine-juror majority is enough to bring them back in a few years, going through this again,” said Senate Criminal Justice Chairman Greg Steube, R-St. Petersburg. “Being an outlier, we felt that it was best if we just went ahead and went with unanimity. If we don’t, then we would be opening ourselves up to have it all thrown out again.”

**Agrivating Factors**

Require jurors to reach unanimous verdict on at least one aggravating factor and record their vote. In Florida, jurors must weigh 16 such factors in recommending a death sentence. These include murders that are “especially heinous, atrocious or cruel.”

**Judicial Review**

Also eliminates the ability of a judge to overrule a jury’s recommendation for a life sentence and impose death instead. This power is legal only in Florida, Alabama and Delaware. Delaware has no death row inmates convicted under judicial override, Alabama has 25 and Florida has two. Five men have been executed in Florida via judicial override since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976.

**Florida Leads the Nation in Death Row Exonerations**

Florida: 141

Florida lawmakers in both chambers are moving legislation forward in the wake of a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down the state’s capital sentencing law. But the House and Senate are divided over how the changes should play. The Senate’s plan would require unanimous jury recommendations for the death penalty to be imposed. The House plan would shift the current threshold of a simple majority to a 9-3 jury vote for death. The implications of either plan are far reaching for Florida’s 20 judicial circuits — some more drastic than others. — Daily Sun investigation of all 389 death row case files, cross-referenced with an analysis at the circuit level, reveals:

**Executions vs. Exonerations in Florida by Year**

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**Florida’s Death Row: 31%**

Florida’s death row would be 24 percent smaller if the state had required at least a 9-3 vote for a death sentence. Why? Fifty-four of the 389 inmates would just make the cut—542 are on death row with a simple 7-5 vote. Only the Third Circuit and Eleventh Circuit have five death sentences below a 9-3 threshold.

Recommenderds for death with more than 3 jurors dissenting, in all 20 judicial circuits. (Also lists the number of sentences that would not have qualified by county).

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**Florida’s Death Row: 69%**

Florida’s death row would be 74 percent smaller if the state had required jury unanimity for a death sentence. The picture would be most dramatically altered in the Fourth Circuit centered around Jacksonville and the Eleventh Circuit centered around Miami. Only 10 percent of their death sentences would have met this threshold.

Recommenderds for death with at least one juror dissenting, in all 20 judicial circuits. (Also lists the number of sentences that would not have qualified by county).

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**Recommendations for death with at least one juror dissenting, in all 20 judicial circuits.**

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**Recommendations for death with more than 3 jurors dissenting, in all 20 judicial circuits.**

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**Recommendations for death with at least one juror dissenting, in all 20 judicial circuits.**
The Villages Daily Sun SPECIAL REPORT

REDEFINING JUSTICE

Wednesday, the House joined the Senate in moving legislation through committee aimed at fixing the state's flawed death-penalty sentencing process. The U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 12 ruled the system unconstitutional because it gives too much power to judges and not enough to juries.

Florida's system asked juries to make an advisory recommendation for death, but judges imposed the actual sentence after deliberating on the case. The High Court ruling did not instruct the state to make any changes.

The Villages Daily Sun reported that Florida's death row would be 74 percent smaller if the state's flawed death-penalty sentencing process is not changed.

Under the Senate plan, 68 percent of sentences would have been life sentences, an action taken at least 90 percent of times since 1978. The similarities end there.

The House plan would shift Florida's current standard of a simple 7-5 majority to a 9-3 jury vote for death. Under that scenario, Marion County's 33-year-old Emilia Carr, the youngest woman on death row, would have received life in prison instead. Her jury vote for death was 7-5.

The Senate's plan would require unanimous jury recommendations for the death penalty to be imposed. Under that scenario, the 11th Circuit Court in Miami would have had to consider 11 death row cases.

Further analysis by the Villages Daily Sun revealed that, of the 11 death sentences in the 11th Circuit Court, 9 were 9-3 simple majorities. The 4th Circuit has produced 11 percent of sentences, while the 5th Circuit has produced 16 percent of sentences.

One juror breaking a 6-6 tie would allow one juror, one prosecutor and one public defender to hold hostage the jury's recommendation for death. Only a prosecutor has the power to bring a case to trial, forcing a jury to vote as the clerk of the court dictates.
Still Waiting For Justice, 40 Years Later

By KATIE SARTORIS
Daily Sun
No answers after fourth trial

TAIL-EIGHT
JoAnn Orlando entered the Florida Supreme Court crying in her dumpster, a 6-inch thick envelope stuffed with a murderer’s name and memories of her 18-year-old daughter. She said, “It’s been 40 years, hasn’t it been beautiful?”asked her sister-in-law, Joann Testor, as they stepped into an impromptu world of murder, columns, high ceilings and wood paneling.

“It’s a normal, beautiful,” Orlando said back. It was the first time in the 40 years since the brutal slaying of her daughter that she had been able to address herself to her family.

For years, she remained in hushed, tears-filled silence as she described the death threats surrounding the prosecution of her brother’s killer, Jacob Dougan.

Dougan, who is now 70 years old and has spent 40 years on death row without ever being convicted, was the only eyewitness in the case against his stepmother and stepfather.

Her earlier, incoherent, speech made the 600-mile-round trip to Hollywood.

“I have to be here,” Orlando said.

Even after spending more than half her life on death row, Dougan’s professed legal wrangling appears far from resolution. He is the nation’s second-longest serving death row inmate in Florida, serving time in Florida to be convicted of a non-violent

Jailed Orlando’s trial is to be held in April in 1973 with a 9-vote, in a case won before the court’s highest court last week after a lower court found grounds for appeal of opera-

Dougan’s attorney, Justin Efird, said that he was clearing on his wife with Dougan’s sister at the time of the trial. (The two later married.) The circuit judge later found that prosecutors had evidence of a deal they made with another defendant in the case who testified against Dougan.

Prosecutors said that Dougan’s death sentences should be stayed, and the high court did not indicate when it would rule. Dougan was convicted of killing his wife, who was killed during a disturbance in her car in the courthouse on the case against Dougan.

The group picked up their victim, who was distributed in a case against a man who was driving a truck on the road. The men, who were black, drove to a hospital, where they were shot in the head and died.

The man, who was black, drove to a hospital, where he was stopped in a case against a man who was driving a truck on the road. The men, who were black, drove to a hospital, where they were shot in the head and died.

JoAnn Orlando stands on the steps of the Florida Supreme Court on Feb. 3. She attended the oral arguments for her brother’s killer’s case. Orlando’s brother Stephen was murdered in 1973 by Jacob Dougan. More than 60 years later, Dougan is still on death row.

The Dayton Daily News
Redefining Justice
New death penalty law complicates victims’ long wait

By PATRICIA STEWART
Daily Sun/Special

BRIDGEVILLE, Ohio
Sunday is Senior Day at the 46th annual Sunbury County Fair, which opens Friday and continues through March 18. Admission is $10 for seniors and includes free popcorn and soda. But there are plenty of other reasons for Villagers to take a strip of green and enjoy a little old-fashioned country tradition.

Honor the Heroes
Each day, the fair honors the heroes who keep the community and America safe with two admissions on different days for military veterans, law enforcement, emergency medical providers and the reserves, with identifications.

This is a chance to say thank you to all the people who serve,” said County Commissioner Stan Marsh. “We also have a wall of honor with photographs of people who have served.”

See the Exhibits
Find out what’s new with the Sunbury County Sheriff’s Office or the Maple Spring School. There will be local builds and exhibits with projects completed by students. Check out the tractor pull, plant show or fun games.

Officer Family Living Exhibit, with hand-crafted, built or preserved items made by youth and adults.

Meet the Animals
There’s a beef show today, a swine show Monday, a lambs show Tuesday, a dairy show Wednesday and the poultry show Thursday. Each day has a livestock showing livestock for market, the animal sale Thursday.

Leo Hundley and recent fair board members, says his children are active in the fair. “My kids, Leo, Lindsey and Little, have driven market steers, hogs and lambs for several years,” he says. “They’re proud.”

Pollen, it’s everywhere — coating cars, drifting through the air and starting up allergies. Spring may be in the air, but all we hear is...

Gesundheit!

While snow is in the forecast up North, Villagers are dealing with another type of environmental impact — pollen. It’s that light yellow powdery mess. This on one, the dog, your hair and just about everywhere. But there are ways to keep it off by as you can enjoy allergy-free days.

TIP NO. 1 HOW TO AVOID Pollen

The pollen count is highest from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. according to the National Allergy Bureau. It declines just in time for baseball season.

The Bureau also warns against windy days, because wind tends to stir up pollen, but a rainy day will dampen it.

TIP NO. 2 KEEP HOME, PETS CLEAN

Try keeping your handheld wipers and the car closed. By doing so, you can avoid bringing pollen into your car. Also, consider keeping the pollen out of your home. Regularly vacuum pets to eliminate pollen and dust from hair and fur as well.

TIP NO. 3 HOW TO FIND RELIEF

Symptoms include sneezing, a runny nose and itching in the nose, throat and eyes, or eyes, ears or nose. Help to avoid allergens and decongestants by taking a saline nasal spray.

Reporting by Lauren Fernandez, Daily Sun

TRUMP RIVALS VOW TO BACK HIM IF HE GETS NOMINATION

While the Republican establishment is still working hard to enlist the protesting Donald Trump, his favored candidates continue to insist that they’d back a Trump presidential should he fail.

TIP NO. 4 POLLEN AND YOUR CAN

During pollen season, Paul Noll, owner of Village Car Wash, says it’s important to wash your car every two or three days to wash out pollen. But even then, the pollen doesn’t settle into upholstery. He says pollen won’t damage paint, but it does become more difficult to clean off.
**REDEFINING JUSTICE: A DA SUNDAY SPECIAL REPORT**

**Justice Continued from page 1**

"We had three trials, umpire stand, hearings, umpire stand, hearings," now said Neiger, of the Village of Whitehall. "It's so much nonsense." "That kind of stuff, I've been involved in, is one of 40 lawsuits in Florida dealing with these issues. There it's total -- it's our Jones v. Blevins," Neiger said. "His name is lumped in with the process, it's just an outcome of the system." Neiger said his name is also lumped in with the process of being the person one time who was arrested.

Neiger was originally told he was the person who was stopped and who was arrested. He was also told his name was on a list of 300 people. He was told he was the person who was stopped and who was arrested. He was also told his name was on a list of 300 people.

Neiger was finally told he was the person who was stopped and who was arrested. He was also told his name was on a list of 300 people.

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Neig...
Waiting for Justice

How many of Florida’s capital convictions would not have qualified for the death penalty under new legislation?

Forty-two percent of the 1,381 Florida’s death row convictions would not have qualified for the death penalty under a new law sentencing life without parole for a variety of violent crimes — some as many as four decades ago. While the killers’ appeals got on, the stories of the victims they themselves are often lost or never told. Details of their deaths are scattered among records, newspaper reports and obituaries — which The Daily Mail has compiled here.

These are the 68 victims of killers waiting on death row with a 7-jury recommendation.

They appear in the order of their death.

Victims were killed 40 or more years ago.

Victims were killed 30-39 years ago.

Victims were killed 20-29 years ago.

Victims were killed 10-19 years ago.

Victims were killed Less than 10 years ago.

**40+ Years ago**

**James Abreu**, 38

Beaten to death 30 years ago at his home during a robbery for prescription drugs from them.

**Raymond, Mel, and Matthew Zehnder**, 62, 28, 28

Stabbed three times 45 years ago by a man attempting to rob them.

**Pauline Gray**, 30

Stabbed three times 45 years ago by a pint-sized killer who chopped her head off and left her body in a home-invasion robbery.

**Sally Jefferies**, 37

Shot in the head 30 years ago by a man attempting to rob the liquor store where she worked.

**Leonna Figueroa**, 3

Shot twice 25 years ago in an attempt to rob the liquor store where she worked.

**Silly Clay**, 30

Shot twice 25 years ago in an attempt to rob a store.

**Karen Spencer**, 41

Killed with a baseball bat and beaten 24 years ago by her husband in the backyard of their home.

**Christina Children**, 11

Stabbed 21 times 20 years ago by a man attempting to rob a store.

**Mary Blackman**, 70

Smoked with science but hit with a hummer 22 years ago in her prison cell.

**Frederick McRae**, 21

Devoured 20 times 20 years ago by a man attempting to rob a store.

**Palma O’Connor**, 77, and Allison O’Connor, 13 months

Pulled out and Atilla was suffocated eight years ago in their home by the baby’s brother over a child support dispute.

**Tracie Talbott**, 42, and Robert Hames, 41

Shot in the head five years ago alongside a rosebush by a man attempting to steal prescription drugs from them.

**50+ Years ago**

**Heather Strong**, 25

Battered with a toilet tank lid six years ago.

**Seymour LaMonte**, 26, and Tanya

Doused with gasoline and set on fire eight years ago by a man robbing the convenience store where they worked.

**Edward Miller**, 32

Shot four times 10 years ago in his home by an ex-boyfriend.

**Eliezer Melwin**, 18

Kidnapped from the courthouse for a circuit trial eight years ago and shot dead.

**Robert Brown**, 17

Stabbed three times and shot nine years ago by a man attempting to rob his mother.

**Renee Nealy**, 38

Stabbed seven times 10 years ago after being chased and beaten by a man who stabbed her during his kill.

**Stacy Brown**, 26; Derwin Brown, 26; Adolphus Brown, 26; Trenton Thompson, 26; and Gary St. Louis, 26

Shot five times 15 years ago in a home invasion robbery.

**Jeremy Jones, 24**, and **Deontae Brown, 23**

Beaten to death in 15 years ago in a convenience store.

**Dominic Dyer**, 22, and **Shykeem Melvin**, 25

Shot in the head or died sleeping together at the home of Skyler’s grandmother eight years ago by her ex-boyfriend.

**20-29 Years ago**

**Floyd Copeland**, 70

Shot twice 27 years ago in his home while his neighbor was attempting to rob the liquor store.

**Drew Wilson**, 30

Shot 10 times 20 years ago in an attempt to rob a liquor store.

**Joseph Ward**, 26

Stabbed 21 times 25 years ago by a man attempting to rob a liquor store.

**John Keim**, 20

Doused with gasoline eight years ago in his home by a man attempting to steal money from his “bobby coat” contest.

**10 Years ago**

**Christopher Aldape**, 40

Gagged, bound and stabbed 15 years ago by a neighbor.

**Joseph Miranda**, 64

Shot eight years ago in his home by a man attempting to rob the liquor store.

**Brian Neal**, 43, and **Karen Ferris**, 43

Cut the phone wire eight years ago in an attempt to rob the couple.

**Andy Keim**, 26; **Tracie Tolbert**, 43, and **Palma Deluca**, 59

Hogtied, bound and beaten eight years ago in their home by a man attempting to rob the liquor store.

**Herman Covington**, 70

Shot twice 25 years ago to rob the liquor store.

**60+ Years ago**

**Stevie Dean**, 36

Beaten with a toilet tank lid six years ago.

**Shirley Gann**, 41

Stabbed in the head six years ago by a man attempting to rob a liquor store.

**Steven Schumacher**, 37

Beaten, beaten and stabbed six years ago by a man attempting to rob a liquor store.

**Frank, Frank, and Linda Dansa**, 60

The couple was murdered in 1990 after being egged on by a restaurant owner and his workers.

**William B. PRATT**, 41

Stabbed 18 months ago by his neighbor.

**Ray Moore**, 27

Stabbed 15 years ago in a home invasion robbery.

**Reginald Smith**, 53

Stabbed 18 years ago in his home by a restaurant worker.

**Ruby Ross**, 21

Beaten 21 years ago in their home by a man attempting to rob the liquor store.

**Sylvia Heath**, 72

Shot in the head five years ago by a man robbing the convenience store.

**Raymond Williams**, 47

Shot two times eight years ago in an attempt to rob a liquor store.

**Ray Rutland**, 67

Beaten to death with a bowling ball.

**Sylvia Brown**, 87

Stabbed eight times 20 years ago by a man attempting to rob a liquor store.

**Bernice Brewster**, 41

Shot 15 years ago in an attempt to rob a liquor store.

**Edward Hodges**, 37

Hit twice 15 years ago in an attempt to rob a liquor store.

**Juanese Aiken**, 34

Shot to death 30 years ago by a stored weapons dealer at the home of the Prudie and Production building where he worked as a supervisor.

**Keith Pullum**, 17

Stabbed three times and shot 15 years ago by a man attempting to rob his mother.

**Lynita McNeal**, 64

Stabbed seven times 10 years ago after being chased and beaten by a man who stabbed her during his killing.

**James Abreu**, 28

Beaten to death 20 years ago at his home during a robbery.

**Cynthia Harrison**, 53

Gagged, bound and stabbed 20 years ago by a man attempting to rob a liquor store.

**Betty Jean Ferris**, 57

Shot in the head 20 years ago by a man attempting to rob the liquor store.

**Harold Shrin**, 55

Stabbed 30 times 28 years ago by an attempted killer.

**Braun Anderson**, 35

Shot 10 times 28 years ago by a man attempting to rob the liquor store.

**Charlotte Brown**, 39

Stabbed 10 times 27 years ago in the back during a burglary.

**Christopher Babb**, 79

Shot in the head 10 times 25 years ago by a man attempting to rob the liquor store.

**Raymond Williams**, 47

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Shot 15 years ago in an attempt to rob a liquor store.

**Edward Hodges**, 37

Hit twice 15 years ago in an attempt to rob a liquor store.

**Juanese Aiken**, 34

Shot to death 30 years ago by a stored weapons dealer at the home of the Prudie and Production building where he worked as a supervisor.
These are the 61 victims of killers waiting on our death row with an N-4 re-judiciary program. They appear in the order of their death.

Charles Van Munsey, 41
Stabbed four times in her living room while sleepwalking across the room by a man who insisted she had to kill him.

Julien Laster, 65
Beaten, stabbed twice in the heart, hanged, cut 45 years ago by a man he saw in a bar helping him move in.

Lorraine Harmon, 94
Raped and stabbed in her home 35 years ago by a man who left the keys inside her body.

Kerol Ross, 21
Stabbed five times 24 years ago and shot after a attempting a carjack in a car 22 years ago by a man who also killed a deputy sheriff. Kerol was seven months pregnant.

Pamela Kipp, 19
Raped and strangled with her own 20-inch hair ribbon when she left her third couch when she was too foggy near her home.

Jeffrey Senger, 33
Shot twice back in the head 14 years ago by a man he knew by a man attempting to rob him.

Orrville Leather, 54
Shot dead and hanged 15 years ago by a man who needed to rob him of $500 after a business deal.

Robert, 55, and Georgella Peters, 48
Shot in their kitchen 34 years ago by a man who robbed them of their VCR, lamps, cash and jewelry.

Larry Weather, 88
Killed in 2012 by a gang of 17 men who overpowered him.

Beating, raped and strangled 23 years ago in the home of a roomate.

Case from our circuit.

Derek King, 35, and Randell Brown, 15
Bludgeoned with a business case from their home in 1977 while she was on a state prison program.

Debra Davis, 46
Stabbed 20 years ago in her home by a man who had stolen her entire life's savings.

Pernell Stevens, 38
Shot six years ago while he was taking a nap 12 years ago by a man who used an AK-47 and robbed him.

Tanique Turnwall, 25
Kidnapped, raped and strangled with a phone cord 14 years ago in the home of a roomate.

Sarah Selvidge, 42
Shot dead 14 years ago by a man who killed him as a result of an insurance policy.

These are the victims of killers waiting on our death row with an N-4 re-judiciary program. They appear in the order of their death.

Tyrone Veness, 44
Stabbed in her chest 23 years ago by an ex-boyfriend.

Torres McHale, 11
Killed by a friend of her ex-boyfriend 12 years ago by a man who had stolen her bed sheets.

Herman Franklin, 62
Strangled with a newspaper, decapitated and stabbed 17 years ago by her co-worker at a store.

Brian Ashem, 20
Shoot through the head 20 years ago by an escaped inmate while making a traffic stop.

Iris Johnson, 71
Stabbed, stabbed 18 times and shot after being kidnapped by a man who had been denied parole.

Cordelline Burch, 20
Raped, stabbed and beaten in her home 27 years ago by a man who paid to have her seen.

John Smith, 28
Shot in the head 25 years ago by a man who paid to have her seen.

Sharon Young, 26
Strangled to death with a telephone cord 21 years ago by her friend's boyfriend.

Lawnell Brown, 69
20 years ago by a man who had stolen her identity.

Kevin Reynolds, 19
Stabbed 17 years ago by a man who worked the same shift.

Kason Smith, 17
Shot in the head 25 years ago by a man by a man who had stolen her body.

Lori Cassey, 22
Strangled to death 34 years ago by a man who had stolen her vehicle.

Quintin Wright, 15
Strangled 36 years ago by a man who had stabbed her.

Howard Wethers, 71
Stabbed to death with a ice poker 14 years ago in his cab in the middle of a robbery.

Richard, 65, and Karen Vasquez, 46
Shot twice in their driveway 3 years ago by a man who robbed them.

Lynda, 41, and Jenn Showalter, 36
Murdered 12 years ago by a man who had planned to rob them.

Meliinja Allen, 13
Kidnapped, raped and strangled with a rope 1 year ago by a man who had planned to rob them.

Benito Martinez, 34
Shot dead 6 years ago by a man who wanted to rob them.

These are the 61 victims of killers waiting on our death row with an N-4 re-judiciary program. They appear in the order of their death.

Frank Grigs, 32, and Kristine Parton, 25
Kidnapped with a home-trained dog 2 years ago after being kidnapped by a man who needed to rob them.

Debra Davis, 46
Stabbed 20 years ago in her home by a man who had stolen her entire life's savings.

Daniel Delfino, 32
Shot in the chest nine times 3 years ago while his girlfriend was working as a prostitute.

Steven Hawker, 23
Shot in their home by a man who had attempted to rob them.

Charles Kivsh, 71
Stabbed 30 years ago by a man who had been denied parole.

Sevieron Fowles, 92
Stabbed 10 times in her bedroom 15 years ago by a man who had been denied parole.

Lawrence Henderson, 49
Shot 15 years ago in her store by a man who had been denied parole.

Case from our circuit.

Anthony Short, 61
Shot nine times in a house party for a man who had been denied parole.

Benita Gage, 66
Beaten and strangled 20 years ago by a man who needed to rob them.

Bernice Fiegel, 66
Shot in the head 14 years ago by a man who had been denied parole.

Raped and strangled 23 years ago in the home of a roommate.

Kevin McDonald, 16
17 years ago by an ex-boyfriend.

Charles, 34, and Carol McDonald, 34
Killed 15 years ago at a house party.

Stabbed 25 years ago while she was a carjacking.

Thomas Ford, 81
Stabbed 90 times in her apartment 5 years ago by a man who needed to rob her.

Renie Telemen, 82
Beaten with a hammer in her home 31 times 6 years ago by a man who needed to rob her.

Tressler, 48
Burnt 20 years ago when a man used a Molotov cocktail.

Case from our circuit.

John Legend, 46
Stabbed repeatedly on the head with a rock 5 years ago by a man who needed to rob him.

Sarah Selvidge, 42
Kidnapped, raped 15 years ago by a man who had been denied parole.

Derrick King, 35, and Randell Brown, 15
Bludgeoned with a business case in their home in 1977 while she was on a state prison program.

Debra Davis, 46
Stabbed 20 years ago in her home by a man who had stolen her entire life's savings.
These are the 57 victims of killers waiting on our death row as of a 2016 recommendation. They appear in the order of their death.

Robert Michaeldon, 28
Shooting four times, 41 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who shot him in his bedroom.

Lisa Carey, 24
Shooting twice 13 years ago outside of an Orange County drug store by a man who didn’t know her.

Theresa Burnham, 27, William Evans, 44, Darryl Bessey, 21
William was shot twice in the head 35 years ago by a man who didn’t know him.

Cesar Di Rano, 23, Al Doreno, 23, Cristiano Walters, 21
Shooting in the head 35 years ago by a man who didn’t know him. Salvi answered the doorbell and was shot in his head 41 years ago in his Orange County home by a young man who didn’t know her.

Robert Lee Givens, 20 Naval Shipyard in 1986 by a man who couldn’t read.

Alfredo Devos, 26, and Robert Collado, 26
Alfredo was shot and killed in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know him.

Kevin Carr, 41
Had his head shot in the street 28 years ago by a white supremacist.

Robert Lee, 20, and Rich Crenshaw, 23
The two were shot and killed inside their Orange County home by a man who owed them money.

Toni Cothran, 24
Stabbed twice in a restaurant 38 years ago in an Orange County mall by a man who didn’t know her.

John Shoob, 47
Shooting twice 38 years ago in a restaurant by a man who didn’t know him.

Manik Stov, 24
Shot twice 20 years ago in her father’s used car lot by a man who didn’t know her.

Manasseh, 60, Barbara, 50, and Noura Kavvus, 20
Shot twice in the head 35 years ago in their Orange County home by a man who didn’t know them.

Dunca Cannon, 35
Shot three times 25 years ago by a man during a home invasion robbery.

Shellie Williams, 78
Robbed and shot to death 20 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Claire Ann, 20
Shooting to death 21 years ago by a man who didn’t know her.

Lisa Smith, 75
Robbed and shot 20 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Oliver Larkins, 27
Stabbed in the back 25 years ago by a man who didn’t know her.

Lee Taylor, 26
Shooting 21 years ago at her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Lawrence Coates, 32
Stabbed 21 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Brownie White, 24
Shot five times 19 years ago in an Orange County drug store by a man who didn’t know her.

Charles Hobo, 23
Robbed and shot to death 21 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Brownie White, 24
Shot five times 19 years ago in an Orange County drug store by a man who didn’t know her.

Susan Ramjac, 29
Shot five times 19 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Linda Jaramillo, 24
Stabbed 21 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Michaela Monteleon, 5 months
Repeatedly beaten and dropped 20 years ago on her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Sandra Delco, 26
Shot three times 23 years ago by a man during a home invasion robbery.

Brian Atkins, 26
Shooting twice 21 years ago by a man who didn’t know her.

Gary Hedges, 21
Shot twice 23 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Michelle Fennell, 20
Shooting to death 31 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Randy Pancoast, 26
Shot five times 20 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Karen Koon, 23
Shot nine years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Samantha Rangel, 20
Shot five times 19 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Stuart Hart, 26
Shooting 21 years ago at his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Ana Maria Colon, 25
Shot five times 19 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Alicia Smith, 75
Shot 21 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Judy зад, 25
Shooting 21 years ago at her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Wayne Penno, 19
Shot twice 20 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Bobby Hart, 26
Shot twice 20 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Eenie De Leon, 20
Stabbed 21 years ago at her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

George George, 21
Shot five times 19 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Susan Larkins, 27
Shot five times 19 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

James Beavis, 29
Shot five times 19 years ago in his Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Timothy Kett, 29
Shot five times 19 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Larreicka Mcrae, 20
Shot five times 19 years ago in her Orange County home by a man who didn’t know her.

Lakendrasection

The program includes language that speaks to the State Attorney’s Office, the Attorney General’s Office, and the Sheriff’s Office, among others. The program was developed through a grant from the State Attorney’s Office. The program will end in April 2017.
Redefining Justice
How taxpayers foot the bill for unequal outcomes

BY KATIE JARROD
Assistant Associate Managing Editor

Villahermosa: Kidnapper made list of victims who wanted to visit victim before he was killed.

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The珊瑚群岛，vast and unspoiled，was the perfect place for the Avenger's mission.

As the jet soared through the clouds, Captain America couldn’t help but smile. This was what he lived for, the thrill of the chase, the satisfaction of bringing criminals to justice. He glanced over at Black Widow, her eyes focused intently on the radar screen before her. She was as tough as they came, a skilled strategist and a formidable combatant.

Nick Fury, the director of S.H.I.E.L.D., had tasked them with tracking down a high-level villain who had been causing chaos in Central Park. Theiji was known for his cunning and his ability to evade capture, but Captain America and Black Widow were determined to catch him.

As they flew over the city, the jet encountered heavy turbulence. Theiji had been using his superior technology to track them, but Captain America knew that their training and experience would be the deciding factor.

Theiji tried to outmaneuver them, but Captain America was ready. He pulled a U-turn and flew into the heart of the city, where theiji thought he would be caught off guard. But Black Widow was already on the lookout, her eyes scanning the streets below.

With a precision that amazed even Captain America, Black Widow signaled Captain America to take a left turn. They were moments away from capturing theiji. Theiji’s vehicle was visible on the radar, speeding through the city streets.

Captain America knew he had to act fast. He punched the throttle, and the jet shot upwards, gaining on theiji’s vehicle. Black Widow signaled to Captain America to lower the jet’s altitude. They were almost in position.

Captain America flew lower, drawing closer to theiji’s vehicle. Black Widow signaled again, indicating that they were ready to make the move. Captain America nodded, and the jet descended rapidly, its nose pointing towards theiji’s vehicle.

In a burst of speed, Captain America pulled up beside theiji’s car, and Black Widow fired her bow, striking theiji directly. Theiji was taken by surprise and was powerless to resist.

Theiji was restrained, and theiji was in custody. Captain America and Black Widow exchanged a triumphant glance, knowing they had done their job.

As they flew back to base, Captain America couldn’t help but admire Black Widow’s skills. She was a true partner, and together, they were unstoppable.
Florida’s death row inmates have been executed at Florida State Prison in Starke.

The Florida Supreme Court on Thursday commuted the death penalty for John Alladi and John P. Green, two inmates on Florida’s death row.

The court ruled that the two inmates are eligible for commutation because they have shown signs of rehabilitation and have demonstrated a commitment to turning their lives around.

The court’s decision was based on a review of the inmates’ records, which showed that they have been productive while incarcerated and have demonstrated a willingness to turn their lives around.

The court commuted the death penalty for Alladi and Green to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

This decision is significant because it follows a trend among Florida’s highest courts to commmute death sentences in recent years.

Florida’s Supreme Court has previously commuted the death penalty for nine other inmates who have shown signs of rehabilitation.

Judge Sarah Zabel, who handled the case, said in a statement: “We have listened to the testimony and the arguments presented to us, and we believe that it is in the best interests of justice to commute these sentences.”

The court’s action comes after a wave of public criticism of Florida’s death penalty system, which has been under scrutiny for years.

In recent years, Florida has executed more inmates than any other state, and there have been several cases where death row inmates have been found to be innocent.

The court’s decision is likely to have implications for other inmates on Florida’s death row, who have been seeking commutations and clemency.

The court’s ruling is expected to be appealed to the Florida Supreme Court, which will have the final say on whether the commutations are upheld.

The court’s action comes as Florida’s death penalty system is under scrutiny.

In recent years, there have been several cases where death row inmates have been found to be innocent, and there have been calls for reform of the system.

The court’s decision is likely to have implications for other inmates on Florida’s death row, who have been seeking commutations and clemency.
Measuring Justice

What are a killer’s chances of landing on death row? It depends on where they’re prosecuted.

The likelihood that a first-degree murder will result in a death sentence varies greatly from one judicial circuit to another, a Daily Sun investigation into 10 years of unequal sentencing practices found. The Daily Sun analyzed prosecutor aggressiveness and success rates across the state’s 20 judicial circuits for murders between 2005 and 2015. In other words, how many times could they have sought the death penalty and how many times did they get it. The results show that a killer’s chance of landing on death row ranges from almost zero to 1 in 3, depending on where the crime was committed. Here are the odds broken down by circuit, along with the number of defendants sentenced to die in each location for murders that occurred during that time frame.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Circuit</th>
<th>Death Sentence Cases</th>
<th>Death Sentence Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Circuit</td>
<td>1,140</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Circuit</td>
<td>1,076</td>
<td>1 in 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Circuit</td>
<td>970</td>
<td>1 in 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Circuit</td>
<td>968</td>
<td>1 in 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Circuit</td>
<td>850</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Circuit</td>
<td>845</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Circuit</td>
<td>675</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th Circuit</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>9th Circuit</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th Circuit</td>
<td>520</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>11th Circuit</td>
<td>470</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
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<td>12th Circuit</td>
<td>430</td>
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<tr>
<td>16th Circuit</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
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<tr>
<td>17th Circuit</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th Circuit</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1 in 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**
- The circuit with the highest number of death sentences was the 4th Circuit, with 1,140 cases, followed by the 3rd Circuit with 970 cases.
- The circuit with the lowest number of death sentences was the 18th Circuit, with 200 cases.
- The overall death sentence rate in Florida was 1 in 20.

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**Where murders are most likely to get death sentences:**

- **All circuits except the 13th Circuit:**
  - Death sentences were sought in over 90% of capital cases.
- **The 13th Circuit:**
  - Death sentences were sought in only 40% of capital cases.

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**Numbers for circuits with multiple circuits released, incomplete, or did not supply info in time to the Daily Sun:**

- The district attorney for the 9th Circuit did not respond to questions about death penalty cases.
- The district attorney for the 18th Circuit did not respond to questions about death penalty cases.

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**Conclusion:**

While the overall death sentence rate in Florida is 1 in 20, there are significant differences between judicial circuits. Some circuits have a much higher likelihood of seeking the death penalty, while others have a much lower likelihood. This highlights the need for a more uniform approach to sentencing across Florida's 20 judicial circuits.
New Era of Justice
State Supreme Court: Juries must be unanimous on death penalty

By KATIE SARTORUS | Daily Sun Associate Managing Editor
State lawmakers failed their latest attempt to keep executing prisoners without a unanimous jury recommendation, the Florida Supreme Court ruled Friday, widening the 8-0 threshold that became law in March. Now no sentences can be returned to the circuits unless all 12 jurors agree, an all-death penalty state but Alabama and Delaware require, Alabama is set to execute two of its 181 inmates later this fall, including a man sentenced to die by a judge after his jury deadlocked on a life sentence. The Florida Supreme Court will hear arguments Dec. 7, retaining the 13 men remaining on the death row until its decision. Unanimity will help Florida “achieve the important goal of bringing its capital sentencing laws into harmony with the direction of society and with federal law,” justices said in a 6-3 majority opinion. As for Florida’s 84 condemned killers, “The courts will enforce what legislators said Robert Durman, executive director of the nonprofit Death Penalty Information Center. “That will take us an enormous amount of court time, at an enormous cost to taxpayers,” Seven-four percent of Florida death row inmates — 284 of 385 — received more than a unanimous vote for death, according to an exclusive Daily Sun investigation into all 385 physical cases, mainly stored at the Florida Archives and Florida Supreme Court.

TORNADO, RAIN, WALLOP NORTHWEST
Some residents were reported and thousands of people without power as crews in the region began for what’s expected to be an ominous storm early Saturday.

STATE UPDATE

Is it cold, an infection or just allergies?
Sometimes it’s hard to tell one symptom from another.

Winter Checkup

Sneezing and a runny nose could indicate allergies, but a runny nose and coughing could be a virus and, if these symptoms persist longer than 10-14 days, typically lasts, it could be a bacterial infection, which generally requires antibiotic therapy. Here are a few tips to fly over if you’re stuck or simply avoiding a cold.
40 inmates whose juries fell

1st: 1 in 4.76

Graves. “This, by far, is the Friday ruling, Dunham said.

Santa Rosa and Walton Suwannee and Taylor Columbia, Dixie, Hamilton, Circuit than any other, Citrus, Hernando, Lake, has already executed at least to address the question when the jury breakdown for a death to the Sun. 30 percent of those who have been condemned with 13 percent of their 38 percent of those, 18 percent of their 23 percent of those. The circuit produced one

11th: 1 in 291

The Harvard study does not cite in the Harvard study. It does not provide the full, accu-
sively seeking the death penalty for 13th Circuit, representing

16th: Zero

have been condemned with 18 percent of their 58 times. The 8-4 jury vote for death.

6th in 110

5th in 114

First-degree murder cases.

The likelihood that a first-degree murder will result in a death sentence varies greatly from one judicial circuit to another, a Daily Sun investigation into 10 years of unequal sentencing practices

The Harvard study does not

Representative Broward and

Speaker Richard Corcoran,

police statement. “It makes no

Representatives Franklin.

“Their loved ones were not

Said Corcoran in a statement.

This decision is indicative

The Harvard study mun-
tion comparable in severity to

6th in 114

Justice Committee has
decided to do nothing

3rd in 3.3

32 in its 133 cases. Nine went

The Harvard study does not

to death row. Florida lawyers wrote

“Their killer, Thomas

Nogay’s father, Cliff, 79, was

(time.

The Harvard study mun-
tion comparable in severity to

The Harvard study does not

1st in 1.76

3rd in 11.82

the Harvard study. It does not provide the full, accu-

sively seeking the death penalty

The circuit did not release

16th in 1.26

were already underway in our
circuit, Graves said, and

mistakes will be costly.

The Harvard study does not

The circuit did not provide

To the opposite effect.

Hillsborough County, had

for 13th Circuit, representing

The Harvard study does not

The Harvard study does not

The Harvard study does not

The Harvard study does not

The Harvard study does not

The Harvard study does not

The Harvard study does not
Next Era of Justice

Florida’s death penalty evolution will be costly and complex

By KATIE ZAMORE
Daily Sun Managing Editor

It’s been 20 agoulating Christmas, and Mary Ann Nagle is still waiting.

No, 73, is just now able to talk publicly about her parents’ New Year’s Eve stabbing by a drowning neighbor — and she wants the state to finally get his penalty right.

“I know it sounds sick, but I was really looking forward to the day I could lock up his eyes and watch him die,” said Nagle of the Village of Virginia Trice. “I could live with a life sentence. If I had to hear him, I’d be unable to do anything productive. You know what I mean? The doubts haunt us like an island, and not. Then, you’re on your own.”

Her frustration is unyielding and yetbitrary even on a pair of December mulled this year spent new appraisal for Florida’s 1984 condemned killers.

Nagles, rather than judges, should have the final say on death, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in January.

It’s a situation that could overwhelm the state’s legal system, add to the record number of 200 cases or cases for Florida to reconsider whether they still want a death penalty.

Florida for JUSTICE

OUR JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HAS 15 OPEN CAPITAL CASES

Questions about Florida’s death penalty continue to exist, and even the most experienced death row prisoners don’t know what to expect. Brad King, the state attorney for our judicial circuit, says he’s not sure how many new rulings will impact his capital cases. He said the count now is “going to be a learning process for us, and the system as a whole.”

As health officials investigate a recent cluster of infections in Browardville, Texas, Florida has been cleared of locally transmitted cases since early December.

Fighting Zika

It has been nearly a year since the World Health Organization declared the Zika virus a public health emergency of international concern, after reports of thousands of birth defects it caused in Brazil last year. In that time, public health officials have worked to understand how the virus works and help prevent spreading and infection.

NO. 1 ZIKA DIDN’T GO AWAY

Overall, the global risk has not changed, according to the World Health Organization, which notes that even if the virus does not cause birth defects in some countries, the virus could spread to pregnancy areas where conditions are ideal for mosquito-borne viruses. Because of this, vigilance remains high.

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Inside the Nation's Largest Federal Prison

The Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, located just north of Fort Pierce, Florida, houses more than 12,000 inmates, according to the Bureau of Prisons report released in August of 2021. The complex is managed by the Federal Bureau of Prisons and operates in compliance with federal standards concerning the treatment of prisoners. The facility is one of the largest and most populous prisons in the United States, providing a stark contrast to the nation's prison system as a whole.

Thousand of vehicles come and go daily at the Coleman Federal Correctional Complex, located just north of Fort Pierce, Florida. The complex is one of the largest and most populous prisons in the United States, providing a stark contrast to the nation's prison system as a whole.

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Measuring Justice

What is the chance a murderer will pay with their life? It depends on where they’re prosecuted.

The likelihood that a first-degree murderer will result in the maximum death sentence of life without parole varies greatly from one judicial circuit to another. The Daily Sun analyzed sewerage aggressions and convicted first-degree murder cases in the state’s 20 judicial circuits for murderers between 2001 and 2013. In other words, the number of times death was sought or in prison instead of a lesser sentence. The result show that a killer’s chance of landing a life or death sentence ranges wildly from almost zero to 72 percent of the time in Tampa. There are two broken down by circuit of the number of defendants sentenced to life and death.

![Diagram showing death penalty data for different circuits in Florida.](image)

**Latest inmate to leave death row**

After 14 years on death row, for killing a pregnant, 31-year-old Lee County woman, Freddie Hall was ordered executed to life by the Florida Supreme Court in September. He was 52 years old, as well as a record that he was a high-school dropout and severely as a child, made him eligible for executive clemency. The ultimate result Hall was sentenced numerous times as a life conviction, and his 30 years impose to life. The landmark for mitigated eligibility to 54. Gov. Rick Scott and Gov. Bob Markey both agreed on death warrants for Hall. In the 1980s, but his execution was stayed pending appeal.

![Life sentence in response to the defendant’s plea.](image)

**Follow the full series online**

Two days after the first installment of this investigation published, the U.S. Department of Justice and Florida released the first mixed report. An investigation commissioned by the Department of Justice’s violence reduction branch, various interest groups asked for data analysis. Among them was the Florida Department of Law Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Justice. The Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics released data on the website of the Daily Sun, tracking the number of life sentences and death sentences. The Department of Justice’s office at [url](https://www.bjs.gov/index.cfm?ty=cd&tid=550) is defining Justice.

![Diagram showing life and death sentences for different circuits in Florida.](image)

**The Villages Daily Sun** | Saturday, December 17, 2016 | A11

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*Graphic by Amy Aristos and Adam Rogers, Daily Sun*
Redefining Justice

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled this year that Florida judges, not juries, should have the final say about whether murderers should die for their crimes, and parolees will not be required to risk their lives while they are on death row, and they clear up a source of great legal challenge for the future. But Florida's capital sentencing practices are plagued by a lack of other elements that would ensure fairness when a killer's life is on the line. Experts say lawmakers heading back to the drawing board in 2017 should key in on five areas to combat the growing doubt around the purpose and justice behind the death penalty in the Sunshine State.

1. STANDARDIZE PROTOCOLS FOR SEEKING DEATH ACROSS THE STATE

The U.S. Constitution, as interpreted by the U.S. Supreme Court, provides equal protection for all citizens. But equality in Florida's death penalty is nonexistent across the 20 judicial circuits, on an exclusive Daily Sun investigation shows. A killer's chance of landing on death row ranges from almost zero in Miami to 1 in 3 in Fort Pierce. "For deadly intent, equal," said Ashley Nellis, senior research analyst at The Sentencing Project. "And there's just too few sentences for people who are sentenced to death."

Secondly, it's the Florida Supreme Court Clerk who solely determines when an inmate has exhausted all appeals. Finally, the governor decides which inmates will die in Florida's death row inmates will be sent to the lethal injection chamber. Those three individuals carry tremendous clout when it comes to sending a killer to die in Florida. First, only a state attorney decides which first-degree murder cases will be tried as death penalty cases. It's easier to seek a death sentence here than anywhere else in the country.

In Florida, the logic over which death row inmate will die next is legally cloaked in secrecy from the public, the convicted and the convicted's families. The justice system alone makes the call, and there is no discernible pattern to who dies. "We can pick anyone we want," said Romp, "lawyers who represent (death row inmates) are facing huge, to do legal scrapping. There's no no one really has any idea how it works." "Romp said "no criteria" exists in a process in which the governor makes the determination. All information surrounding clemency is considered confidential and protected, learning only room for speculation amid concern for equal justice. Florida is one of only two states in which the executive branch issues death warrants in capital cases. Other states only upon the judicial branch to issue those death warrants, with either the trial court, the state supreme court or the highest court of appeals making the determination. "I'm not sure the legislature will pay more attention to that than that," Romp said of the need for more transparency, but added that with a very conservative governor and legislature, "I don't see them willingly doing anything."