

GETTING FROM SEPTIC TO SEWER

**How to Find the Right Solutions for
Your Community AND Get Re-elected**



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Jackson Blue Springs

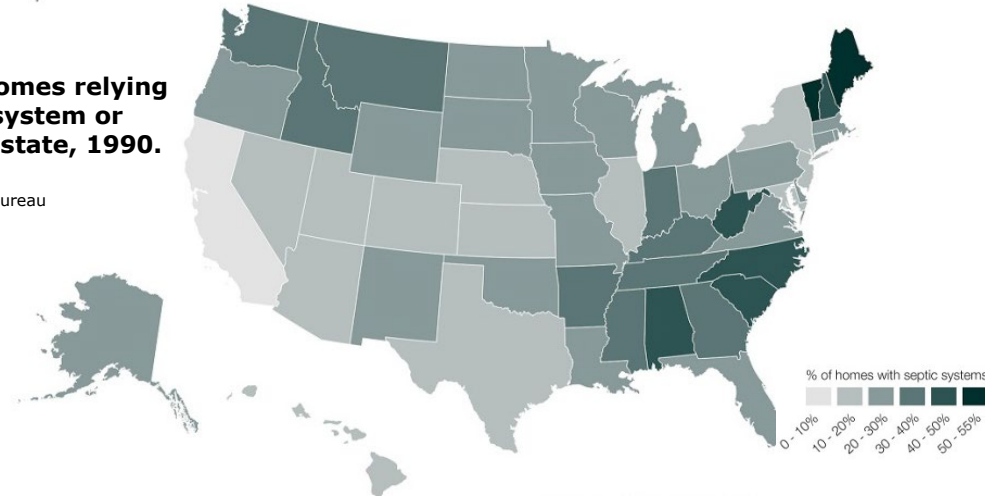
Silver Springs



- In use since the turn of the 20th century
- Housing boom outgrew the rate of sewer construction
- Today septic systems serve more than 1 in 5 households in the US

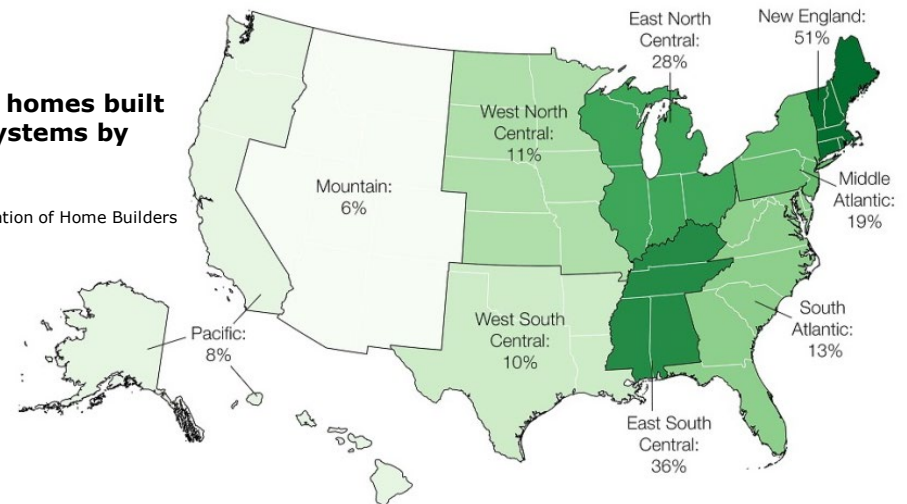
Portion of homes relying on a septic system or cesspool by state, 1990.

Data: U.S. Census Bureau



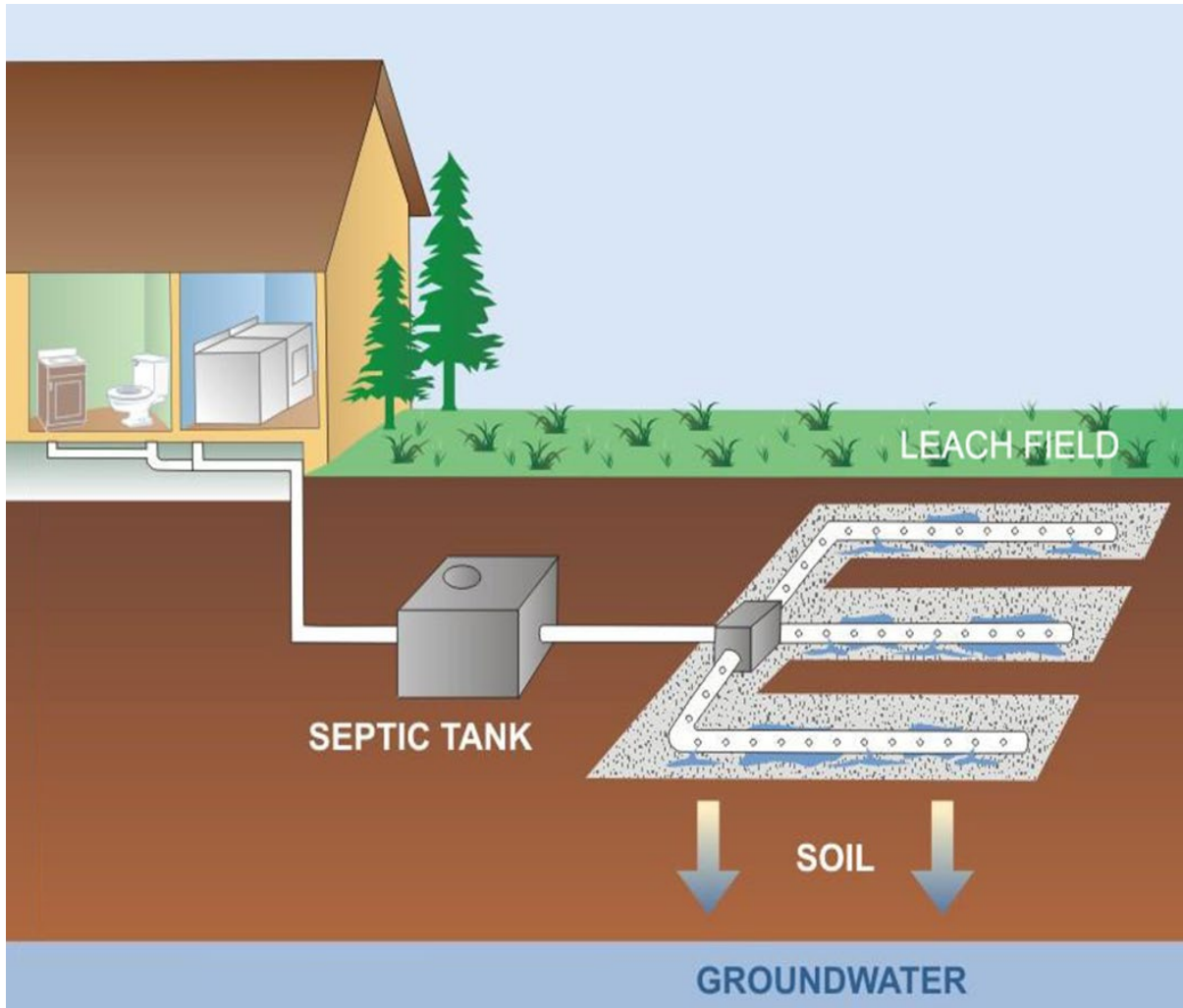
Share of new homes built with septic systems by region, 2013.

Data: National Association of Home Builders



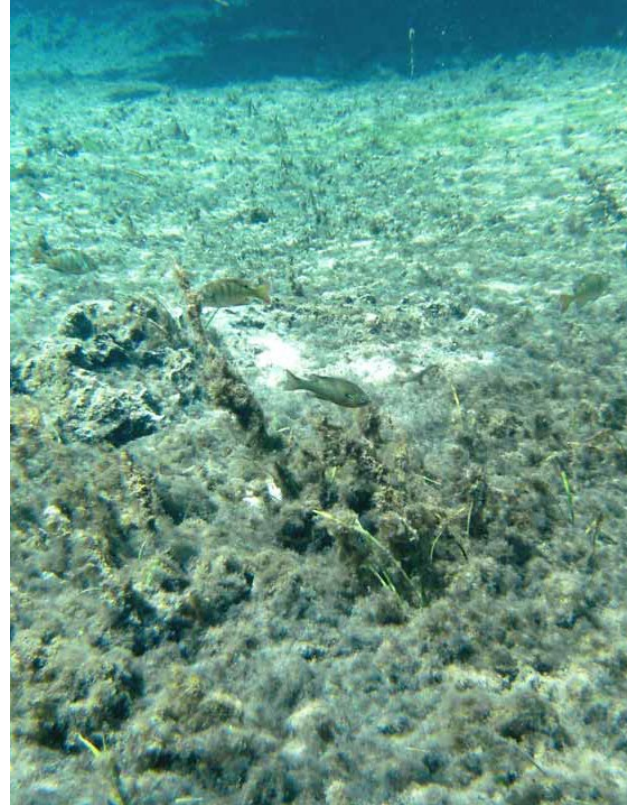
- Approximately 2.6 million septic tanks are in Florida
- 12% of the septic tanks in the US are in Florida
- Approximately 30% of the state relies on septic tanks





- Many septic systems are failing
- Even those in perfect operation discharge nitrogen at high levels

- Septic systems have been put in sensitive areas
- 2016 Springs Protection Legislation identified FDEP, Local Governments, and Utilities as responsible parties
- 2016 massive algal bloom in the Indian River Lagoon
- FDEP went on a state tour to discuss the CHALLENGES!



- Regulators
 - FDEP
 - FDOH
 - WMDs
- Local Governments/Utilities
- Environmental Groups
- Property Rights Groups
- Builders/Realtors
- Legislators
- John Q. Citizen



- Engineering (not really)
- Cost & Funding
- **Sustained Political Leadership**
- Public Education and Acceptance
- On-going Proliferation of New OSTDSs



- A controversial topic at best
- Local commitment is expected
 - Mandatory connection ordinances
 - Matching funds
 - Utility rate structures to address future needs
- Focus on the future



“
“IN OUR EVERY
DELIBERATION, WE MUST
CONSIDER THE IMPACT OF
OUR DECISIONS ON THE NEXT
SEVEN GENERATIONS.”

THE GREAT LAW OF THE IROQUOIS CONFEDERACY

- How to pursue septic to sewer and get re-elected
 - Timing is everything
 - Build a coalition of champions
 - Use your local sparkplugs
 - Balance environmental protection and economic development
 - Use available regulatory and academic support
 - Know the facts
 - Funding is key

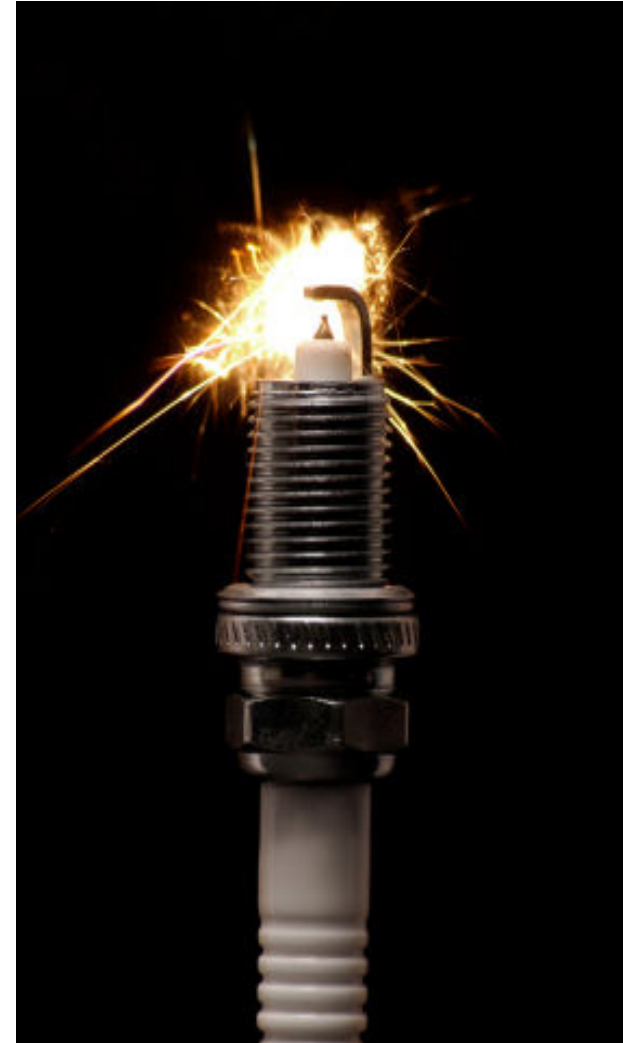


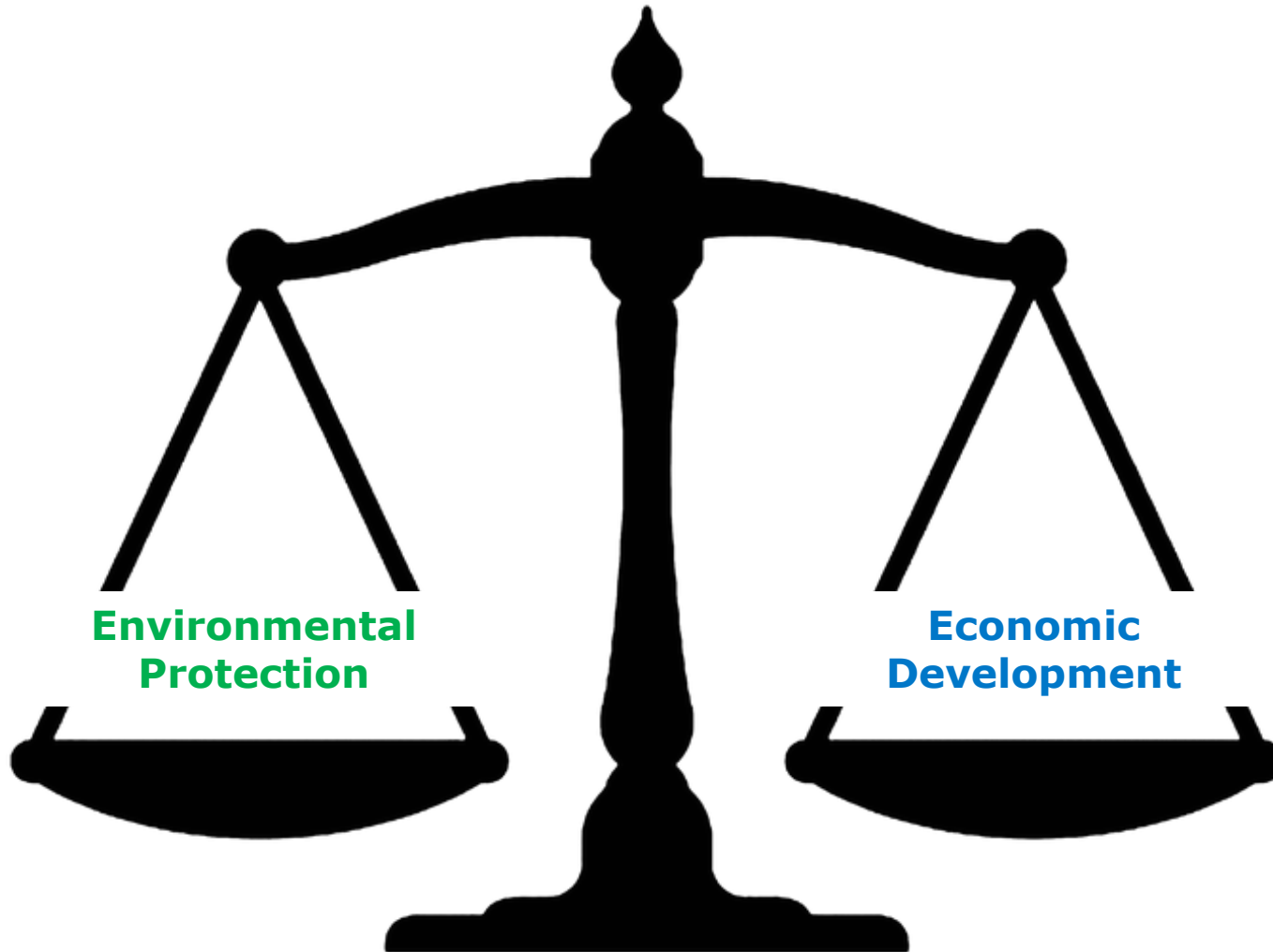
- Set the stage
- Take advantage of media stories
- Manage your council/commission agenda
- Don't do anything drastic right before elections





- One that initiates or gives impetus to an undertaking
 - Passionate advocate
 - Respected collaborator
 - Tenacious influencer





- Educated resource
- Unbiased perspective



- Educated resource
- Unbiased perspective
- Regulatory insistence



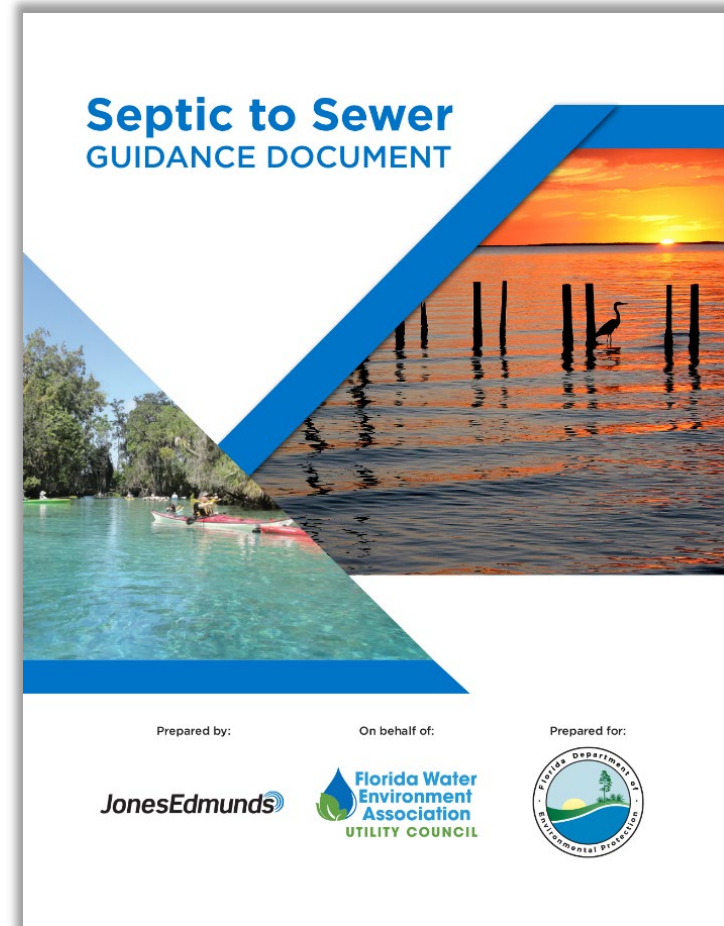
- Understand the technical details
- Know where to get the back up data
- Understand the regulatory requirements
- Understand the legislative mandates



- Grant funding may be available
- Consider fairness to all residents
- Low income alternatives



- Septic to sewer is being implemented successfully in some areas
- Other areas are facing challenges
- It requires long-term commitment at local and state levels
- We have to get the word out
- Funding is key!



THANK YOU



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