

Noah Valenstein, J.D.

Expert in water policy and politics at Florida Gulf Coast University

Fort Myers, FL, US

Noah Valenstein is the former chief resiliency officer and head of the Department of Environmental Protection for the State of Florida.

Biography

Noah Valenstein, J.D., is the first Presidential Fellow in Water Policy for The Water School at Florida Gulf Coast University. Before he joined The Water School, Valenstein served as secretary for the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and as the state's chief resilience officer. Appointed in 2017, he was the first DEP secretary to serve two consecutive governors. As secretary, Valenstein focused on water quality, Everglades and springs restoration, coastal resiliency and conservation. As only the second chief resiliency officer in Florida's history, he created the Office of Resilience and Coastal Protection at DEP, developed the agency's resilience grant program, and secured funding for climate change and resilience initiatives in Florida. He has more than 10 years of combined government experience.

Areas of Expertise

Environmental Policy and Politics, Water Policy, Environmental Policy, Everglades, Agricultural Policy, Environmental Policy and Law, State Government, Coral Reef Conservation

Affiliations

Florida Bar : Member, Florida Chapter of The Nature Conservancy : Trustee, Florida Communities Trust : Board Member, Fairchild Botanic Garden : Trustee, Bonefish and Tarpon Trust : Board Member, Biscayne Bay Commission : Commissioner, appointed by Gov. DeSantis

Selected Event Appearances

Panelist: Is rapid growth compatible with resilience in Southwest Florida?
American Water Resources Association Conference

Education

Florida State University
J.D.

University of Florida
B.A. Environmental Policy

Accomplishments

Florida Chief Resiliency Officer

Valenstein was appointed by Gov. Ron DeSantis. He held the position through May 2021.

Secretary of Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Valenstein was appointed to the position by Gov. Rick Scott. Valenstein remained in the role during the first two years of DeSantis' administration.

Suwannee River Water Management District Executive Director

Valenstein was appointed by Gov. Rick Scott. He held the position until his appointment as DEP secretary in 2017.

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