

# The Gainesville Zero Waste News

## New Florida Law Bans Intentional Release of Balloons Outdoors

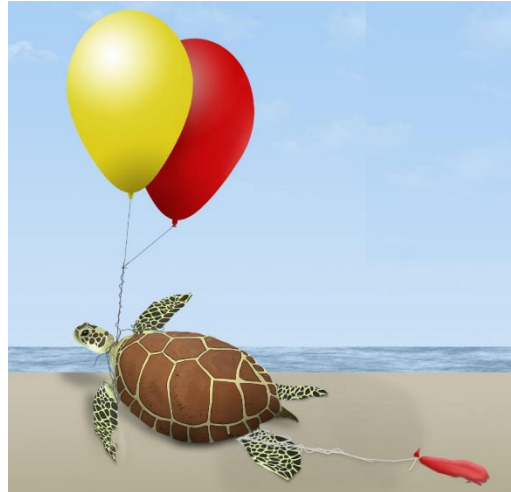
As of July 1, 2024, **the intentional release of balloons outdoors is banned throughout Florida.** This new state law parallels the City of Gainesville's existing ordinances prohibiting anyone from intentionally releasing plastic confetti, glitter, or balloons outdoors.

Signed into law on June 24, 2024, the new statute prohibits individuals from intentionally releasing a balloon inflated with a gas lighter than air, categorizing such actions as littering and imposing significant fines on violators. This state law addresses a pressing concern about litter in our environment. **Plastic litter poses a grave risk to fish, turtles, and other animals, as these creatures can mistake balloons for food, leading to blockages in their airways or intestines.**

There are plenty of eco-friendly alternatives to releasing balloons, glitter, or confetti that don't result in litter, such as:

- Bubbles
- Kites
- Wind Socks
- Cloth Flags & Bunting
- Pinwheels
- Seed Balls
- Planting a Tree

These alternatives offer a way to celebrate and mark special occasions without endangering our wildlife or natural habitats.



###