

## Red-Light Cameras In Florida Justified

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Proponents of red-light cameras in Florida recently gained more evidence to support their cause. The state



Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles released results of a survey of local governments that use cameras to monitor intersections for red-light runners. The department, under a mandate from the Legislature, posed a series of questions to cities and counties with the cameras. The online, voluntary survey sought information about the use of cameras between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2012. The most relevant and compelling finding "With regard to crash data, the most

common outcome was a decrease in rear-end and side-impact crashes." A majority of agencies reported decreases in the total number of crashes at red-light camera intersections." Furthermore, the study relied on self-reporting and did not examine the myriad causes of wrecks. But the results are consistent with in-depth studies conducted by university researchers and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

According to the state Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles: 43 percent of local governments reported a decrease in side-impact crashes at intersections with red-light cameras. Fifteen percent reported no change in the number of crashes, 11 percent reported an increase and 30 percent said no data was available. 41 percent reported a decrease in rear-end crashes -- the type of wreck that opponents of cameras predicted would increase substantially. Twenty-two percent of respondents reported a rise in rear-enders, about 7 percent said "remained the same" and 30 percent lacked data. 56 reported a decrease in the total number of crashes at red-light intersections. Fifteen percent cited an increase; 10 percent said the total remained the same and 20 percent lacked data. The survey also found that vehicle owners who contest a citation for red-light running usually obtain relief. For example, it was reported that nearly 70 percent of violations under challenge were dismissed.

Red-light camera systems are sanctioned by the state Legislature but implemented by cities and counties. 70 percent of the cities and counties reported that sworn law enforcement officers participate, in some form, in the review of camera video and the issuance of citations. That percentage is high, but not high enough; sworn, well-trained officers should be involved in any citation issued. In contrast, 77 percent of the respondents said they did not have policies intended to ensure that citations -- especially those issued for improper right turns on a red light are examined in a "careful and prudent manner." Critics of red-light cameras claim that red-light cameras are being installed, and violations ticketed, solely to generate government for revenue. The cameras are part of an effort to improve public safety by making drivers aware of the costs and risks of running red lights. The authorization and installation of cameras were the results of a public-safety campaign led by Melissa Wandall of Lakewood Ranch, whose husband was killed by a red-light runner. Governments cannot afford to station officers or deputies at every hazardous intersection. The cameras provide a practical, sensible, and effective alternative that combined with other improvements in roadways and traffic-light signalization promotes safety.

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with the authorization, installation, and enforcement of citations derived via red-light cameras. Do you personally believe the implementation of this technological device is an accurate resource in deterring unsafe drivers? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate Venn Diagrams to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. Deductive reasoning is the process of reasoning logically from given facts to a conclusion whereas with inductive reasoning we simply utilize patterns to make predictions. Design and solve three algebraic equations, which models situations as described in the passage above. Using deductive reasoning, meticulously justify each step with specific reasons such as properties, definitions, and rules not limited to but to include the distributive, associative, and communicative properties of real numbers. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5; MA.912.A.3.2)**
3. Sarasota is located approximately 230 miles northwest of Miami. Big Cypress National Preserve is located on the eastern route about 13/20 or 65% of the total distance. Illustrate a sketch to represent this situation. Employ the ruler and/or segment addition postulate to determine each segment length and tell whether they are congruent. Label the locations appropriately and determine the distance between Big Cypress and Miami. Is the solution reasonable in the context of the original situation? Explain your reasoning. **(MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.3; MA.912.G.1.1)**
4. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized terms: *prudent*, *sanction*, *myriad*, *mandate*, and *proponents* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
5. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Ambivalence* (am-biv-ah-lents) (n.) Indecision. Experiencing contradictory emotions. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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