

Gary Ritter  
Assistant Director of Government & Community Affairs  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation

Since 2014, Ritter has represented the Florida Farm Bureau Federation and its membership before the South Florida Water Management District and local governments in south Florida. In this capacity, he is actively involved in the development of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual, the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, including the EAA southern storage component, implementation of state Basin Management Action Plans, and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Best Management Practices (BMP) program, as well as state water supply planning throughout the region.

Prior to joining Florida Farm Bureau, Ritter enjoyed a 36-year career with the South Florida Water Management District.

Additionally, Ritter has served as a member of Florida's Biosolids Task Force and currently serves on the Governor's MCORES Task Force for the Southwest-Central Corridor in Florida.

Regionally, Ritter is a member of the Loxahatchee River Management Council, the Indian River Lagoon National Estuaries Program Management Council, and the Career Source Heartland Board & Chair of Youth Services Council.

Ritter has resided in the city of Okeechobee for 43 years and served as a City Councilman recently from 2014 to 2018. He is also on the Board of Trustees of HCA Raulerson Hospital in Okeechobee.