



Pinellas County Voter Guide – Countywide Races August 20, 2024

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US Senate

The United States Senate is a legislative chamber in the bicameral (two houses) legislature of the United States, and together with the House of Representatives makes up the United States Congress. Each state, regardless of population, is represented by two senators, who serve staggered six-year terms. A senator must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and a resident of the state he or she represents. The current salary (2018) for rank-and-file members of the Senate is \$174,000 per year

Stanley Campbell



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

I am a strong border candidate. I also vigorously defend DACA and support the Administration's position to extend ACA coverage to DACA recipients. This will streamline the expanded program and allow families to stay together while they complete the immigration process. My company has developed a Healthcare application (MIMI-Rx) which has the full immigration forms from the 5 different agencies within the system. We need to stop illegal border crossing while allowing for asylum seekers, those with families here, and the 21 million who have been here for generations to state their case. I would reach out to Mexican President Sheinbaum to coordinate a slow down or stop the movement of individuals through Mexico to help both our nations.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Yes. Our SUNSHINE state gets 70% of its energy from fossil fuels and we turned down \$2 billion for rail expansion. As an engineer with 14 patents, I know we can do better and we can protect our environment while reducing our utility bills. There are economic opportunities with new industries that innovate alternate approaches to construction, energy generation, and agriculture that can be deployed. The primary move will be the support of high-speed rail from Miami to Jacksonville, from Tampa to Orlando & from Jacksonville to Pensacola. It could produce 55,000 jobs for the construction alone while removing thousands of cars from our highways. The 21st Century Florida Transportation system would generate an economy able to sustain our growth.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

My first initiative will be to restore women’s constitutional right to choose voided by the Supreme Court as it relates to abortion before fetal viability (around 24 weeks) or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the healthcare provider. As a retired Navy pilot and Cyber expert, my second initiative would support the enhancement of our military’s Human Intelligence and cyber-attack detection capabilities. My Veteran’s Bill of Rights would address veteran’s healthcare, including mental health, allowing for civilian doctor visits at Medicare rates if the VA can’t see them within 20 days and a free education from any State College or University for their children.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

I support all efforts that support voting rights. As a Black man, I am well aware of historic and current efforts to suppress voting. States control how elections are run, but the federal government, through voting rights legislation (e.g. John Lewis Act) must ensure that the state’s meet basic standards of fairness and access.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

I support Question 4 here in Florida and would support federal action as needed to restore the rights to a woman to choose. These rights are so personal to me, because today I have both a wife and a son, who if we were in Florida today with the medical issues we had then, might not be with us today.

John Columbus



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

We need drastically fix the influx of undocumented immigrants. The way Congress has stalled any and all legislation to bolster security, and their failure to address the illegal crossings is negligent and dangerous. Our nation has always been a nation of immigrants, but too many are coming into the country and avoiding getting processed the right way. There needs to be comprehensive reform to immigration in this country, and it needs to start in the halls of Congress.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Each state has their own problems on how they are negatively affected by climate change. For example, I look to the repetitive flooding that happens in Miami. Insurance companies want nothing to do with Florida because of the risk levels climate disasters impose on our peninsula; this directly impacts inflation in the housing market So, yes, climate change is a direct financial threat to our nation, on multiple levels. I believe conservation and environmental

awareness initiatives will help us prepare for the rising water levels, and storm preparedness. When mother nature talks to us, we should listen, otherwise the cost could be more than just financial.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

#1: Conservation: We need to protect the one world we share, the future of humanity depends on the actions we take today. There are people in this world who don't care about our impact on the planet: this is irresponsible, selfish, and dangerous. As stewards of this planet, we need act.

#2: Education: In order to compete in the global arena, we need to bolster and support a top notch educational system. I believe we should encourage everyone, whether they are currently enrolled in school or not, to put down their phones, pick up books and read. Books are the whetstones for our brains that help us learn and critically think.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

I do support federal voting rights and believe there should be national standards. Orange County, FL, is where I'm registered to vote, and they have a wonderful track record with an excellent system & team in place. Unfortunately, this is not true for 100% of the country. We have seen in the past how some counties across the country are capable of crippling access to the ballot box. There are places in our nation that thrive on apathy to keep who they want in power; this type of behavior is directly linked to gaps in the educational system. Equal protections nationwide will result in freer, and fairer elections moving forward, and we can start by making election day a federal holiday!

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Neither support nor oppose

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Depending on how the legislation is written, maybe. As a 40-year-old male, I do not have the same perspective on this matter compared to others. I consider myself pro-life, but do not want to be labeled anti-choice; there are too many grey areas surrounding the subject to make a polarized binary decision. Florida voters will decide how they feel on this issue by voting "Yes" or "No," on Amendment 4, and regardless of how I personally feel on the matter, I will reflect the will of the people who elect me when I represent them in the United States Senate.

Keith Gross



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

We must secure our border immediately and deport those who have crossed illegally.

We must enforce the laws on the books and demand that no further funding be provided to our federal government until and unless it follows the law.

Shut down the border or shut down this government.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Climate change regulations are a threat to our freedom and finances.

Climate Change rules and regulations are about control, not about meaningfully helping the environment.

Climate alarmists are invariably power hungry bureaucrats and leftists.

We should not put pointless regulations on American businesses and American people while ignoring the threat posed by nations like China (who pollute the environment FAR more than the USA)

Most so-called green technologies cause great harm to the environment. We would be better off building well designed nuclear plants than wind farms and solar.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

1. Cut spending - dramatically and quickly.

We don't need this much federal government, and we can't afford this much federal government. We should have a small federal government with the bulk of government service provided by the states.

2. Restore Freedom & Constitutional Government. I will work to abolish the dozens of federal agencies that have no clear mandate in the US Constitution. We should have a small, simple federal government that respects our constitutional rights and follows the outline created by our nation's Founders.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

Yes. On a national level we need to implement a few key reforms:

1. Every voter must have a Voter ID that states who they are, and that they are a US Citizen.

2. Prohibit universal mail in ballots. (This simply invites mass fraud)

3. Print a trackable serial number on each paper ballot issued. We can put a serial number on every dollar bill in this nation, we can do it for ballots.

4. Ban all foreign election machines and foreign election software. These should have nothing to do with our voting process.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Oppose

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Oppose

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Abortion is, and always was, a state issue. The US Constitution does not provide the federal government with any authority to regulate abortion.

As your next US Senator, I will work to keep the federal government out of the issue entirely. If we keep the federal government out of the way, the states can do the right thing. This was the founders' vision.

Rod Joseph



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

I will support the pathway to citizenship for all immigrants that reside and working in this country for more than 10 years, I will support enforcing and secure our borders. I will penalize all that enter the United States without proper permission. I will advocate to rewards immigrants that came to this country and goes to school to better themselves.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

The federal government must take full responsibilities of climate change issue, is not about for or against pro or cons, why wait till something happen before we act. I believe we must take climate change very seriously and invest greatly in preventing it from becoming uncontrollable. After all if we not try to save our planet what else will we care about?

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

Women equality nationwide, there is still four state that does not ratify the women act, Florida is one of them where woman does not have equal rights as men. Also, economic equity I believe if we invest in educations within our community, it will benefit the country in the long run, our people are not educated enough to compete with the fast changing market of today.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

John Lewis voting act must be the law of the land, and the federal government must take its responsibilities to ensure that everyone exercise their voting rights as stated in the constitution.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

A woman right to choose is their business government should have nothing to do or say with it.

Debbie Mucarsel-Powell



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

We have to address the crisis at our borders. That's why, in the Senate, I would have supported the bipartisan border compromise. We have to fund border security to protect our national interests and to ensure the safety of our communities.

But we also need comprehensive immigration reform that preserves legal pathways to citizenship for people like me who came here under the Reagan Administration.

I'd also like to see our leaders in Congress come together to fight authoritarianism and stop organized crime in Latin America. To address the crisis at the border, we have to send funding to our border while also taking action to stop people from feeling like they need to flee their home countries.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Absolutely. Just look at the effects the climate crisis has had on Floridians. The climate crisis has raised our property insurance rates and hurt our fisheries and our oyster harvesters. I pay attention to what I'm hearing from Florida voters, and they're talking to me about the insurance and affordability crisis our state is facing. They're talking to me about climate change and how these extreme weather events are affecting our communities and our economies. During my time serving in Congress, I received a 100% score from the League of Conservation voters. They have already endorsed me for Senate, and I am committed to taking steps to stop climate change and protect our environment and economy.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

I am running for Senate to lower costs for Florida families, and to fight to protect our fundamental freedoms like protecting access to abortion. The government has no right to interfere and make decisions about women's health care. We have to stop Rick Scott from spearheading and voting for yet another national abortion ban in the Senate.

As Senator, I would support legislation to lower prescription drug costs and cap insulin costs. I would join proposals to cut the cost of property insurance by 25%. In my affordability plan, I also talk about supporting bills like the End Hedge Fund Control of American Homes act, which would stop hedge funds from driving up the prices of homes and edging out Floridian homebuyers.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

In Congress, I voted for advancing the Voting Rights Act by restoring preclearance requirements in areas with a history of voting rights violations. I was also proud to vote for the For the People Act in Congress which would have ended partisan gerrymandering and restored voting rights for all Americans with prior felony convictions. We need federal legislation to ensure access to polls and fair maps, and as your Senator this will be a top priority for me. In the Senate, I'll fight to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act – legislation that should have been passed long ago.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

I know that the decision to have an abortion is a decision that must be made between a woman, her family, and her doctor — not extremist politicians who want to criminalize health care providers. As a mother to two daughters, I am committed to fighting to protect every woman's right to make the decision that is best for them, and I will proudly support passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion, including by pausing the filibuster if necessary.

Brian Rush



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

First, I support the bi-partisan 2024 Senate Immigration Bill to ensure a secure border and substantially reduce uncontrolled illegal immigration. Second, I support President Biden's recent 2024 Executive Orders to reduce the number of illegal immigrants coming across the border, while also allowing legal refugees to be admitted to the U.S. Third, I favor increased legal immigration and I favor stopping illegal immigration. The United States must protect legal immigrants and refugees, while also securing the border and stopping illegal immigration. Fourth, uncontrolled illegal immigration is dangerous, expensive and unsustainable, and is an unfair burden on many cities and states. Fifth, the U.S should issue temporary work permits.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

It is nearly certain that temperatures are rising over most of the earth and that water temperature in the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico are substantially higher. Warmer oceans translate into higher risks for hurricanes, tornadoes and floods, which directly increase storm damage and insurance costs. Higher temperatures also reduce work hours for outdoor workers in the summer months, which reduces worker productivity. Rising temperatures will necessarily increase infrastructure costs to develop new clean energy and power plants. Healthcare and agriculture costs will also rise. The above costs to the economy, caused by climate change are a significant financial burden to the nation's economy, which the U.S. government must address.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

First, the U.S. Congress must financially secure the nation's safety net programs, especially Social Security, Medicare, Nursing Home Care, Veteran's Benefits and Children's Health and Nutrition programs.

Second, the U.S. Congress should create a Federal and State Partnership to stabilize the nations insurance markets and reduce insurance costs, while also strengthening insurance companies' ability to pay all homeowner claims and assist homeowners in hardening and strengthening their building structures against wind and flood. Every state in the Union faces substantial risks associated with natural disasters, and the above Federal and State Partnership will substantially reduce insurance costs across the nation, especially in Florida.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

Yes. I support a new Federal Voting Rights Act to protect voting rights for all citizens in the U.S. State governments should not be allowed to impose unfair restrictions on voter registration, vote by mail programs, early voting and election day voting. Certainly, State and local officials should be prohibited from increasing any voters' costs as a condition for voting. Finally, State and local officials should not unfairly purge voters' registration from the voting roles, as a means of reducing the eligible voters.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Yes. I support a Federal statute guaranteeing reproductive freedom, so that women and their health care providers alone can make reproductive health care decisions without government interference, prior to fetal viability. In any event, I strongly oppose allowing any politician or any judge to make any decisions to limit women's reproductive freedom. These decisions should be left to the woman and her health care providers, who are most involved with this difficult decision.

Rick Scott



Party: Republican

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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

- candidate declined to respond -

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

- candidate declined to respond -

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

- candidate declined to respond -

US House District 13

U.S. Representatives are elected every two years (no term limits) to serve the voters of a specific Congressional District. A Representative must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state he or she represents. Duties include passing laws, serving on committees, electing the leadership of the House of Representatives, and originating all matters of taxation. Representatives maintain offices in their home district and in Washington, D.C., where they provide extensive constituent services. The current salary (2018) for a member of the House is \$174,000 per year.

Sabrina Bousbar



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

For decades, Congress has failed to pass meaningful immigration reform thanks to political gridlock, and as a result, the U.S.'s outdated immigration system is collapsing under the weight of modern day challenges. Rather than setting aside partisanship and focusing on solutions, Anna Paulina Luna is part of the problem. She opposed a bipartisan immigration bill that was endorsed by Border Patrol that would've addressed the crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border because Donald Trump told her to so they can keep using the crisis for political gain. The American people deserve an immigration system that works and enhances our security. I will work to fix our immigration system and deliver the resources that border and immigration personnel need.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

The climate crisis isn't some far off issue that will hurt our communities decades from now – it's here now, and we must tackle it with the urgency it demands. I do believe that climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation. We need to invest in mitigation and resiliency efforts to ensure we are able to build an economy that helps all of us. My passion for boosting resiliency and preparing for the future are precisely why I pursued and earned a Master's degree in Emergency & Disaster Management from Georgetown University, with a specialization in mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. For me, this is about protecting the community that raised me and that I love and delivering for the people of Pinellas.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

From attacks on reproductive rights and our democracy, to the affordability crisis and gun violence epidemic, we face urgent, wide-ranging challenges today. Anna Paulina Luna is pursuing a national abortion ban, undermining our democracy, and failing to act on the issues facing Pinellas. First, I will protect and expand reproductive rights. Secondly, I worked in the Biden White House following January 6 and know just how fragile our democracy is. We must defend democracy from such attacks by protecting the right to vote, banning gerrymandering, and stopping corporations and billionaires from buying elections. I've dedicated my life to service and will take that same drive to Congress to keep our communities safe, healthy, and strong.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

U.S. democracy is at a dangerous inflection point as extremists attack voting rights and undermine our institutions. Voter suppression efforts in Florida and across the country seek to discourage and prevent eligible voters –from seniors to students to people with disabilities and people of color– from making their voices heard. We must stand up against these threats by ensuring free and fair elections, with a peaceful transfer of power, and protecting the right to vote so that all eligible Americans have equal access to the ballot box. When in Congress one of the first things I will do is co-sponsor the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. I'll be a steadfast champion for voting rights so that everyone can exercise their constitutional right.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Across the country, states including Florida have mounted an assault on women's healthcare. Florida's new six-week abortion ban restricts access to reproductive care for millions of women. The law is cruel by design and biologically nonsensical, falling within a timetable before many women even realize they are pregnant. As someone who has always wanted a family, this hits close to home. It's impossible to not weigh these challenges as a young woman. That's why I'm running - to make sure my generation and future generations don't feel this burden and have the freedom to decide if, when, and how they want to start or grow a family. In Congress, I will always stand up for women, work to federally codify Roe, and end the cruel abortion bans.

Liz Dahan



Party: Democratic

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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

As the granddaughter of immigrants and living proof of the American Dream, I believe we must establish a clear pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, reform the employment-based immigration system to attract more young talent from around the world and protect families who come to this country to seek a better life.

Immigration is what makes our country great, but the last comprehensive immigration reform was enacted almost four decades ago! A lot has changed since then, and we can't keep letting partisan politics interfere with our national security. I support reforming the asylum system, adding critical border and immigration personnel, and investing in technology to catch illegal drugs before they enter our country.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Yes. In fact, I know it is. Climate change is a serious financial threat to our nation's economy, but no state has more to lose than Florida. Our unique vulnerability to rising sea levels, hurricanes, and coastal erosion has already had real economic consequences. These challenges require bold legislative measures aimed at reducing carbon emissions, investing in renewable energy, and enhancing our natural defenses.

I have worked around the globe to advise business and government leaders on the impacts of climate change. Now, I'm going to deliver legislative solutions to protect our beaches for the next generations, improve our aging infrastructure, and make Pinellas County a leader in renewable energy.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

Codify Roe v Wade - I would immediately work to establish a clear and consistent legal framework that protects access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion, regardless of one's state of residence. We must ensure that everyone has the right to make personal health decisions without undue government interference, preserving privacy and autonomy over our bodies.

Supreme Court Term Limits - Now more than ever, we need to rebuild public trust in an impartial and fair judiciary. Term limits would mitigate the influence of any single ideological bent over an extended period and enhance the accountability and adaptability of our highest court, reflecting the evolving values and norms of our society.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

Yes, I support federal voting rights legislation, because I believe in our democracy and the rights of every American and Floridian to fully participate. In Florida, we have already seen various legislative efforts that could potentially restrict voter access. These measures will disproportionately affect elderly voters, minorities, and those in rural areas.

This is why we must act now and pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. I plan to use all the tools that we have available in Congress to expand access to voter registration and access to the ballot for all Americans.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Absolutely. It is past time to codify abortion access federally. The protection of reproductive rights is critical to maintain our democracy. After all, women and pregnant people cannot be full participants in our democracy and economy unless they have the full ability to make decisions for their own bodies. Congress has no business legislating women's bodies.

Whitney Fox



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What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

I support securing our borders with advanced technology and increased manpower to deter illegal crossings. We must crack down on human traffickers and drug cartels exploiting our broken system. At the same time, we need comprehensive immigration reform to create a fair and efficient process for legal immigration. Addressing root causes of migration, such as violence and poverty, and ensuring swift, fair adjudication of asylum claims are essential for maintaining order and security. Any solution will require compromise and the ability to work across the aisle.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Absolutely. In Florida, we're seeing more frequent hurricanes, flooding and risks to our tourism industry. But the impacts are nationwide. Extreme weather events cause billions in damage and disrupt supply chains. Farmers face unpredictable growing seasons, threatening food security and inflating the cost of groceries. Coastal cities, like ours, grapple with rising seas, endangering trillions in real estate. The insurance industry is failing, especially in Florida, leading to skyrocketing premiums. We need bold action now to protect our economy, create clean energy jobs, and secure a stable future. Smart investments today will save us enormous costs down the road and position America as a leader in the renewable energy economy.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

My top priorities are protecting our fundamental freedoms and tackling the affordability crisis head-on. I'll fight tooth and nail to safeguard women's reproductive rights, including access to IVF and birth control. No politician should come between a woman and her doctor. And I'm committed to lowering costs for everyday Floridians. That means standing up to corporate greed, fighting inflation, and working to make housing, healthcare, and especially homeowner's insurance more affordable. The insurance crisis is crushing families - it's time for real solutions.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

You bet I do. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy, but it's under attack. We've seen it right here in Florida with the Legislature's efforts to undermine the Voting Restoration Amendment in 2018. Restrictive voting laws

hit Black voters, students, seniors, and people with disabilities the hardest. It's not right, and it's not fair. Voting is a cornerstone of our democracy. We need the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to ensure every eligible American can easily cast their ballot. No more games - let's make our democracy work for everyone.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

As a mother of two girls, this issue is deeply personal. It's outrageous that my daughters are growing up with fewer rights than I did. We absolutely must codify access to abortion at the federal level. Women's healthcare decisions belong to women, not politicians. I'll fight with everything I've got to protect reproductive freedom, including the right to choose. It's about privacy, it's about healthcare, and it's about trusting women to make their own decisions. This isn't just a women's issue - it's a human rights issue.

John Liccione



Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 6800 Gulfport Boulevard South ste 201-116 South Pasadena FL 33707

Campaign Phone: 4436988156

Campaign Website: voteliccione.org

Campaign Twitter Handle: x.com/JohnLiccio69230

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/johnlicc4c/

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/johnliccione4congress/

Campaign YouTube URL: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWirncxJVA4E2r4mCu33rig>

What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

I believe when it comes to immigration, it's not about choosing between compassion and safety—it's about finding solutions that achieve both. The immigration reforms that I propose are aimed at keeping immigrant and Americans citizens and families safe--and to create win-win solutions that protect the interests and dignity of all. From my experience as a U.S. Air Force/NSA intelligence analyst, I know that with the proper implementation robust vetting processes, anti-trafficking initiatives, and advanced detection methods, we can create a secure environment where we can all prosper.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Yes, climate change is a significant financial threat to our nation's economy. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events, like hurricanes, causes billions in damages annually, disrupting businesses and communities. Rising temperatures lead to higher consumer energy costs for air conditioning, straining household budgets, and the increased energy demand for cooling further exacerbates the climate crisis. Harm to agriculture from changing weather patterns results in rising consumer food prices. Additionally, climate change threatens Pinellas County beaches, which are vital for tourism and our local economy. Investing in sustainable practices and clean energy can create jobs and protect our health and that of the environment.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

Although national issues are important to me, I believe I can be more impactful by addressing issues that directly affect Pinellas County residents. Two main priorities are red tide abatement and the rising cost of prescription medications, both of which significantly impact health, especially for seniors. Red tide affects our beaches and air quality, posing health risks. Strengthening federal program for red tide abatement will help keep our beaches pristine and air clean. Additionally, by expanding existing federal programs, like those focused on new forms of drug manufacture, we can make prescriptions more affordable for everyone. My legislative efforts will focus on these priorities to improve health and quality of life for all.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

Yes, I support the passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot. Specifically, I advocate for the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and will work to secure bipartisan support. Ensuring every eligible citizen can vote without unnecessary barriers is fundamental to our democracy. Race-based gerrymandering by Republican state legislators must be subject to federal judicial and DOJ oversight. In District 13, gerrymandering diluted liberal and black community votes, effectively handing the seat to the GOP. By protecting and expanding voting rights, we empower marginalized communities and protect democracy, ensuring every voice is heard in shaping our nation's future.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Yes, I support a federal law codifying access to abortion. Ensuring women can make decisions about their own bodies is fundamental to gender equality and personal freedom. A federal law would provide consistent access to safe and legal abortion services nationwide, protecting women from restrictive state laws. It would also uphold Fourth Amendment privacy rights, keeping personal medical decisions private between a woman and her doctor. Non-standard access between states is particularly unfair to low-income women who cannot afford to travel for care. By codifying this right, we ensure all women can make informed choices about their health and futures.

Mark Weinkrantz



Party: Democratic

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 447 Safety Harbor FL 34695

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Campaign Website: www.markyourballots.com

Campaign Twitter Handle: MarkYourBallots

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/markyourballots

Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/markweinkrantzforcongress

What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

Creating pathways to legal citizenship is the only way that we remain competitive as a nation. As more workers retire, we must clear a path for immigrants to continue to help us build our economy in a manner which also provides them with safety and respect.

I would also seek to fund more efficient processing of asylum seekers by adding immigration judges. System delays give people who cross the border unlawfully the opportunity to disappear into the community.

However, we must be mindful of how we discuss this issue. Anti-immigrant rhetoric is dangerous and we must remember that welcoming immigrants is how our nation was built and how it continues to grow.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Climate change is one of the largest threats to our economy. Extreme climate events are costing the nation an estimated \$150 billion each year. Areas such as agriculture, energy, and labor will also continue to be impacted and reduce our Gross Domestic Product by up to 4% if we do not work to reduce the impact.

The good news is that addressing climate change presents an economic opportunity of its own. Transitioning to more climate-friendly technologies is creating thousands of new jobs in research, manufacturing, and implementation. We must work both domestically and alongside other global leaders to face this threat head-on for the good of our economy and for our entire planet.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

We are seeing the most basic rights of women being limited by a specific political agenda. Millions of Americans have no local safe access to abortion. We must pass laws to restore the protections of Roe for both women and their doctors. Failing to do so would damage the lives of women, their families, and healthcare providers.

We must also honor our commitment to care for Veterans and their families including reducing Veteran suicide, improving equity for women and LGBTQ+ Veterans, and ending Veteran homelessness. We must protect the funding for our men and women in uniform and seek to expand the vital services that they need when they transition home after serving our nation.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

We must absolutely pass national laws to ensure that all adult citizens have access to cast their ballots. At the top of my agenda will be passing laws to preserve our Democracy, including the John Lewis Voting Rights Act to remove interference with our right to vote. This is the foundation for everything else we need to work to accomplish.

When I saw the storming of the Capitol on January 6th, I knew I had to do something to honor the oath I took when I was commissioned in the Air Force. It is a matter of duty to protect this nation from all enemies, foreign and domestic. I see it as my responsibility to do everything I can to protect our institutions and the rule of law.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Strongly support

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Ending the protections of Roe has resulted in the threat of jail for women and their doctors. A national abortion ban is the opposite of "pro-life". Any restrictions on abortion should be between a woman and her doctor and we must pass laws to clarify this. The idea that they are making these decisions lightly or need government interference is wrong and I will stand firmly for women's access to all forms of reproductive healthcare.

Certain people looking to control women have created a culture of fear surrounding this type of care. It is not enough to promise that people will not be arrested. We have to fully protect abortion healthcare providers and give them the resources they need to safely provide care to women.

US House District 14

U.S. Representatives are elected every two years (no term limits) to serve the voters of a specific Congressional District. A Representative must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state he or she represents. Duties include passing laws, serving on committees, electing the leadership of the House of Representatives, and originating all matters of taxation. Representatives maintain offices in their home district and in Washington, D.C., where they provide extensive constituent services. The current salary (2018) for a member of the House is \$174,000 per year.

Ehsan Joarder



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 2238 Passion Flower Way Apt 202 Odessa FL 33556

Campaign Phone: 5618600357

Campaign Website: JoarderForCongress.com

Campaign Twitter Handle: Ehsanjoarder

Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/joarderforcongress/

Campaign Facebook URL: Facebook.com/ejoarder

Campaign YouTube URL: www.youtube.com/@ehsanjoarder

What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

I support reforms that enhance and streamline legal immigration. This includes:

1. Streamlining the Process: Simplify and expedite the legal immigration process to make it more efficient and accessible for qualified individuals.
2. Merit-Based System: Implement a merit-based immigration system that prioritizes skills and contributions to the economy.
3. Border Security: Strengthen border security to prevent illegal immigration while ensuring that the process for legal entry is clear and fair.
4. Guest Worker Programs: Expand and improve guest worker programs to meet the needs of our economy, particularly in industries facing labor shortages.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

I believe climate change is a natural phenomenon that we have limited control over. While we should be mindful of our environmental impact, I do not see it as a significant financial threat to the economy. Instead, our focus should be on practical solutions that balance environmental stewardship with economic growth, ensuring that any policies implemented do not hinder our economic progress.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

My top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term are:

1. Strengthening Border Security: Implementing robust measures to secure our borders and enforce immigration laws, ensuring the safety and sovereignty of our nation.
2. Reducing Healthcare Costs: Promoting policies that lower healthcare expenses and increase access to quality care for all Americans, making healthcare more affordable and efficient.

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

I believe in ensuring fair and secure elections for all Americans. While I support efforts to improve voter registration and access to the ballot, any federal voting rights legislation must balance accessibility with measures that protect the integrity of our elections. It's crucial to implement standards that prevent fraud while making it easier for eligible voters to participate in the democratic process.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Strongly support

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Oppose

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

I oppose the passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion. I believe that abortion laws should be determined by individual states, allowing them to reflect the values and beliefs of their residents while ensuring that local communities have a say in this critical issue.

Neelam Perry



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 2850 34 st N St. Petersburg FL 33713

Campaign Phone: 7274039923

Campaign Website: www.ntperryforcongress.com/

Campaign YouTube URL: @NeelamTanejaforCongress

What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

Legal immigration only. Border security

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

No. It's an issue to be researched and prepared for but it's presumptive now and not an imminent threat -

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

Legal and Judicial reforms

Stop inflation
Stop invasion by illegal immigration

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

Yes. Stop voter Fraud

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Oppose

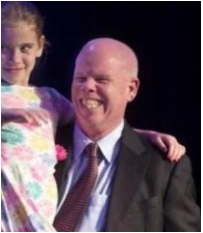
Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Oppose

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Women's rights are as important as the unborn child. The Federal Government should be able to provide oversight on the State Government

John Peters



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: johnpetersforcongress.com/

What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

- candidate declined to respond -

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

- candidate declined to respond -

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

- candidate declined to respond -

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

- candidate declined to respond -

Robert Rochford



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 9812 Monaghan St Thonotossasa FL 33592

Campaign Phone: 8136107500

Campaign Website: www.rocky4congress.com
Campaign Twitter Handle: @Rocky4Congress
Campaign Instagram URL: www.instagram.com/Rocky4Congress
Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/RockyforCongress
Campaign YouTube URL: www.youtube.com/@Rocky4Congress

What reforms to the US immigration system do you support? Why?

A comprehensive Immigration Bill of this magnitude must be bipartisan. It requires a coalition from both sides. I intend to lean on veterans in Congress (focused on the job at hand, willing to negotiate and compromise when necessary). Most Americans want a comprehensive Immigration Bill. Regardless of how we arrived at the current state of immigration, first, we deport those who committed crimes (severity TBD). Then establish a path to legalizing those who are here with a Green Card (they must work & pay taxes; no welfare programs for a given period of time; if you break the law you get deported (severity TBD)). We must require a properly manned arm of enforcement and mandate State and Local cooperation or lose federal funding.

Do you believe climate change is a financial threat to the economy of the nation? Why or why not?

Yes, the climate changes. Most recent glacial period of the current ice age ended about 11,000 years ago. We should be talking about how to mitigate the impact of climate change. Instead, we're presented choices that are expensive, threaten our economy, and may pose risks we don't fully understand, all hidden in the extreme Green agenda. In Florida, we should adapt solutions to limit damage due to tropical weather systems and flooding (limit coastal development, make those who build along the coast self-insured, buy for public use undeveloped coastline to create a buffer, and restrict development in river flood plains and bottomlands. Adapting to climate change should be done methodically as an evolution not an "end of the world" revolution.

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term.

National Security comes first! We must end illegal immigration! Our national debt is rapidly approaching \$35 TRILLION! We must not only balance the budget but also undo much of the extreme regulation that has caused the size of the Government to grow exponentially. We can start by dissolving the Department of Education (this should be left in the capable hands of the States. The IRS. The tax codes are a joke and speak to decades of mismanagement. An overhaul is a priority. The economy. So many Americans are struggling to care for their families. They are making very difficult decisions about food, medicine, gas for the car, etc. We must return to energy independence. We need real leadership to fight for all and dismiss the radical left!

Do you support passage of federal voting rights legislation to provide national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot? Why or why not?

I stand for laws that support allowing every registered citizen of the United States the right to vote. As we have seen in the past, there are those that will cheat. Why would we ALL not want laws that limit voting for Federal Elections to only US Citizens. With the requirement to show ID for almost everything today, why not ensure that those that are participating in our election process are truly US Citizens. I am a firm believer that if you do not support voter IDs verifying citizenship, then you are advocating for cheating. Period.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception?

Oppose

Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

Oppose

EXPLAIN: Do you support or oppose passage of a federal law codifying access to abortion?

The U.S. Supreme Court struck down *Roe vs Wade*, not because it was unlawful, but because the laws that govern abortion belong to the States. I am personally Pro-Life. The States will each pass laws associated with abortion and in Washington I will work to provide women with options and increased support. First, I believe the adoption process is completely broken, and I am working with several local groups on introducing common-sense legislation to help families and eliminate fraud and wasteful fees and rules. The foster care system is also in need of repair along with Child Protective Services. I intend to present my first piece of legislation called Protect our Children that will address adoption and a CPS overhaul.

State Senator 21

Serves staggered 4-year terms with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. There are 40 Senators. The 2023 salary was \$29,697 (plus travel and subsistence). Only requirement is to pass a balanced state budget.

Ed Hooper



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: www.ed4senate.com/

Campaign Mailing Address:

What are the two most important challenges facing Florida and, if elected, what actions will you take to address them within your first six months in office?

- candidate declined to respond -

Insufficient affordable housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis?

- candidate declined to respond -

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections?

- candidate declined to respond -

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and natural resources?

- candidate declined to respond -

What is your stance on access to abortion?

- candidate declined to respond -

What legislation would you support to better protect our youth and the public at large from gun violence?

- candidate declined to respond -

What is your plan to ensure that all Florida students have access to a high-quality education?

- candidate declined to respond -

John Siamas



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: siamas4statesenate.com

County: Pinellas

Education: Masters of Science

Hometown: Oldsmar

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61560771252765>

Campaign Phone: 7275046105

Campaign Mailing Address: PO BOX 265 Oldsmar FL 34677

Age: 44

What are the two most important challenges facing Florida and, if elected, what actions will you take to address them within your first six months in office?

Insurance costs and HOA Abuse and corruption. I will introduce the HOA Accountability Act and the Insurance Reform Act.

Insufficient affordable housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis?

Update our zoning laws

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections?

Unless a majority of the constituents of the 21st district believe that legislative actions are necessary, then no action is required. I represent the constituents of the 21st district and will do whatever a majority of those constituents want me to do.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida’s environment and natural resources?

A major issue facing the constituents of the 21st district is red tide. I will take whatever means necessary to stop and prevent red tide. This hurts the residents and the businesses that that rely on tourism and the beaches.

What is your stance on access to abortion?

My stance on abortion does not matter, what matters is what a majority of my constituents believe in and if a majority of those constituents want to change the current laws on abortion, then I will be obliged to do so.

What legislation would you support to better protect our youth and the public at large from gun violence?

I have spoken with many constituents, and we must first have a conversation about mental health. We need to discuss mental health before we have the discussion on gun violence.

What is your plan to ensure that all Florida students have access to a high-quality education?

We must modernize our education system and incorporate AI and other technological advances to the everyday operations of the education system. In addition, we need to provide the teachers the resources they need.

Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections

The Supervisor of Elections is the official designated by Florida law and the county charter to administer elections and voter registration for Pinellas County. Other duties of this office include maintaining voter rolls, management of candidate qualification and finance reporting, management of election equipment, polling locations, and the reporting of election results. The Supervisor of Elections is also responsible for the administration of department staff, the hiring and training of poll workers, and the coordination of election activities with all municipalities throughout Pinellas County.

Term: 4 Years, Salary: \$194,037/year

Julie Marcus



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Education: Bachelor’s in Political Science

Professional Experience: Elections Administrator for over 20 years; Certified Elections and Registration Administrator

Campaign Mailing Address: 9800 4th St. N. Suite 200 Saint Petersburg FL 33702

Facebook Facebook.com/electjuliemarcus

Campaign Email: Julie@votejuliemarcus.com

Public Service: May 2020 - Appointed Pinellas Supervisor of Elections; November 2020 - Elected Pinellas Supervisor of Elections

Campaign Phone: 727-201-5456

Campaign Website: Votejuliemarcus.com

Beyond your educational background, what qualifies you to be the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections?

With more than 20 years at the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections office, I advanced from Voter Outreach Manager to Chief Deputy Supervisor, and now Supervisor. I've administered more than 325 elections, conducted dozens of audits and recounts, and implemented advanced security measures. As a Certified Elections Administrator, my leadership ensures secure, transparent, and accessible elections.

What factors do you think most impact equitable access to the ballot box and what measures would you support to improve equitable access to the ballot for all eligible voters in Pinellas County?

Equitable access to the ballot depends on effective voter outreach, education, registration processes, and accessible voting methods. I have advocated for voter-friendly legislation to improve access and participation for all eligible voters in Pinellas. I support comprehensive voter outreach programs, promote mail ballot requests, place secure mail ballot return locations within 3 miles of voters, ensure all polling locations are ADA-compliant, and provide bilingual voting materials.

Since the passage of the Voting Rights Restoration Amendment to the Florida constitution in 2018, there has been considerable legal back-and-forth regarding the enfranchisement of people with prior felony convictions. How will your office reach out to and support these citizens to help them understand their eligibility and how they can register to vote?

My office provides citizens with prior felony convictions clear, accessible information on our website and through voter outreach efforts. Resources for verifying sentencing obligations are available at VotePinellas.gov, ensuring eligible voters understand their rights and can participate in elections. Additionally, we guide individuals to verify their eligibility by contacting the state and encourage them to apply for an advisory opinion if unsure.

The new rules for voting by mail require all voters to re-request their mail ballot each general election cycle. This means voters will have to request new ballots after the November 2024 general election. What outreach will you conduct to encourage voters to re-request their vote-by-mail ballots in time for the March 2025 municipal elections, and beyond?

In 2022, voters could re-request mail ballots by checking a box on their certificate envelope, but this option is no longer legal. Pinellas currently leads the state in mail ballot requests. Our outreach efforts include using paid media, working with news outlets, emailing voters, promoting ballot requests on VotePinellas.gov, and sending direct mail to encourage voters to complete the new required form. These efforts will help to ensure voters are aware of the need to re-request their mail ballots and provide clear instructions to facilitate that process.

Misinformation and disinformation can confuse voters and erode their confidence in the electoral process. What are your top concerns with respect to mis- and dis-information about voting and elections, and what steps would you take to mitigate the spread of mis- and disinformation?

Concerns include erroneous information about voting methods, processes, and deadlines. To address this, my office provides accurate, timely information on VotePinellas.gov and through local media. We issue regular updates, fact-check claims to the extent appropriate, and ensure voters receive reliable information to maintain confidence in the electoral process.

In recent elections, Pinellas County had few early voting locations compared to other large counties and correspondingly low rates of early voting. Would you expand the number of early voting locations in Pinellas County? Why or why not?

Pinellas' outstanding turnout—highest among Florida's large counties—is a testament to my strategic approach to elections. While it's easy to assume more early voting sites increase turnout, the reality is more nuanced. Data shows Pinellas voters prefer mail ballots, boosting turnout. Early voting locations are within 5 miles of every voter, ensuring accessibility. I added two more sites based on data-driven decisions. Further expanding sites demands careful evaluation to maintain accessibility, legal compliance, and the secure, convenient voting options our voters deserve.

Chris Gleason



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Education: Bachelor of Liberal Arts, University of Massachusetts, Concentration in Legal Studies and Psychology

Professional Experience: I am an Army veteran with expertise in internet software, data, and finance technology. I have dedicated years to investigating election integrity, regardless of party affiliation. Additionally, I played a vital role in the development team that created the data used today across the entire mortgage lending industry.

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 431 Largo FL 33779

Campaign Email: gleasonforpinellas@gmail.com

Public Service: Board Member- Red Apple Adult Training Center

Campaign Phone: 727-316-5522

Campaign Website: gleasonforpinellas.com

Beyond your educational background, what qualifies you to be the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections?

I have personally been involved in extensive data analysis related to the administration of elections, both in Florida and across the nation. My primary focus has been on identifying issues with processes, technologies, and data, in addition to identifying instances of fraud. My knowledge is based on evaluating data acquired through public records requests and working with grassroots groups across America. I have personally observed both excellent election administration and criminal elements administering elections.

What factors do you think most impact equitable access to the ballot box and what measures would you support to improve equitable access to the ballot for all eligible voters in Pinellas County?

Equitable ballot access means nothing if the ballots and the votes contained on those ballots are not accurately counted, are being deleted, or are being illegally adjudicated. After all, it matters not, who votes, rather what matters is who counts the votes, and the manner in which the votes are counted. We must ensure that every legal ballot and vote is counted accurately and transparently, guaranteeing honest and trustworthy elections that are open to audit and transparent to all.

Since the passage of the Voting Rights Restoration Amendment to the Florida constitution in 2018, there has been considerable legal back-and-forth regarding the enfranchisement of people with prior felony convictions. How will your office reach out to and support these citizens to help them understand their eligibility and how they can register to vote?

Voter disenfranchisement in Florida is a much larger issue than anyone realizes. People who have paid their debt to society should be able to vote and own firearms. Actual voter disenfranchisement is also impacting voters who are not felons and have done everything legally required of them to vote. In the 2020 election over 450K voters had their ballots illegally deemed 100% Blank. More troubling was the Election Crimes Unit prosecuted felons who were told that they were eligible to vote but were not. Yet, the Election Crimes Unit did nothing about the Blank Ballot disenfranchisement.

The new rules for voting by mail require all voters to re-request their mail ballot each general election cycle. This means voters will have to request new ballots after the November 2024 general election. What outreach will you conduct to encourage voters to re-request their vote-by-mail ballots in time for the March 2025 municipal elections, and beyond?

Our voter rolls are a mess, and I have personally evaluated them on numerous occasions. The findings were beyond shocking and completely unacceptable. We must conduct a full audit of the voter rolls. With my extensive nationwide experience in uncovering fraud in the voter rolls and mail-in-voting I am uniquely best qualified to rectify this massive problem.

Misinformation and disinformation can confuse voters and erode their confidence in the electoral process. What are your top concerns with respect to mis- and dis-information about voting and elections, and what steps would you take to mitigate the spread of mis- and disinformation?

I have been personally targeted by the misinformation and disinformation big tech censorship complex. I was digitally de-platformed by Mark Zuckerberg, as well as entities including the Center for Internet Security, Twitter, Google, and other core Internet infrastructure companies. This was done based on misinformation/disinformation weaponization by bad actors. I possess significant evidence of these nefarious activities and have brought my findings to the Federal Elections Commission and the Florida Secretary of State.

In recent elections, Pinellas County had few early voting locations compared to other large counties and correspondingly low rates of early voting. Would you expand the number of early voting locations in Pinellas County? Why or why not?

According to the Florida Constitution, there are very specific dates and times for elections. Early voting and vote by mail violate the Florida constitution as the elections are not being held as they are specifically prescribed. Thus, early voting and vote by mail are completely unconstitutional.

Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners- District 3 At Large

Seven commissioners sit on the Board of County Commissioners in Pinellas County. Three of the commissioners are elected at-large (which means they are voted on by all county residents) and four are elected by the registered voters within each single-member district. The Board governs all unincorporated areas of the county, and is responsible for setting the millage rate (the amount of tax levied on real estate or other property) for the entire county. The Board approves the budgets of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Sheriff, and the Supervisor of Elections, and serves as the Emergency Medical Services authority, the Fire Protection authority, the Countywide Planning authority, the Water & Navigation Control authority, and also manages countywide Mosquito Control Services.

Term: 4 years, Salary: \$119,439

David Scott Leatherwood



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: David@leatherwoodforpinellas.com

Facebook Facebook.com/leatherwoodforpinellas

Instagram: Instagram.com/LeatherwoodforPinellas

Education: Florida State University Bachelor of Fine Arts

Professional Experience: 10 Film Industry Professional, Assistant Producer Dolphin Tale 1 & 2, 8 years political activist, Political Media Writer/Producer Don Jr. Melania Trump Kari Lake Madison Cawthorn Anna Paulina Luna, Producer for The Benny Show, Producer for The Trish Regan Show

Public Service: 2020 Trump Campaign, MDA,

Campaign Mailing Address: 5235 4th Ave south St Petersburg FL 33707

Campaign Website: www.leatherwoodforpinellas.com/

Why are you running for this position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

- candidate declined to respond -

What specific ideas do you have to increase the supply and quality of affordable housing and to preserve existing affordable housing? How would you propose these ideas be funded?

- candidate declined to respond -

Considering preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, on which issues do you think the current relationship is most problematic?

- candidate declined to respond -

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections?

- candidate declined to respond -

Public transportation is limited in Pinellas County. How will you work to improve access for the entire county?

- candidate declined to respond -

Vince Nowicki



Party: Republican

Biographical Info:

Facebook www.facebook.com/VoteVinceNow

Campaign Mailing Address:

Campaign Website: www.votevince.com/

Why are you running for this position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference?

- candidate declined to respond -

What specific ideas do you have to increase the supply and quality of affordable housing and to preserve existing affordable housing? How would you propose these ideas be funded?

- candidate declined to respond -

Considering preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, on which issues do you think the current relationship is most problematic?

- candidate declined to respond -

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections? (600 characters)

- candidate declined to respond -

Public transportation is limited in Pinellas County. How will you work to improve access for the entire county?

- candidate declined to respond -

6th Circuit Judge Group 9

The Florida Circuit Courts are trial courts of general jurisdiction in Florida. The Circuit Court handles cases involving felonies, family law, civil issues, probate issues, juvenile cases, and appeals from County Court. Florida's 6th Judicial Circuit covers Pinellas and Pasco counties. It includes 45 judges at the circuit level. It is one of 20 judicial circuits in Florida and 94 circuits in the United States. To qualify for the post of circuit judge, a candidate must be an elector of a county within the circuit and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Florida for the preceding five years. Judges are selected via nonpartisan election.

Term: 6 Years, Salary: \$182,060/year

Nicole Pearlman



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Facebook www.facebook.com/nicolepearlmanforjudge

Campaign Phone: 727-231-4759

Professional Experience: January 2008 - January 2012 6th Circuit State Attorney's Office; January 2012 - Present Denmon Pearlman (Formerly Denmon Denmon)

Campaign Email: pearlmanforcircuitjudge@gmail.com

Public Service: Rotary Club of Safety Harbor Noon, Cub Scout Den Leader

Education: B.A. in Criminology and B.S. in Psychology from University of Florida, and J.D. from Stetson College of Law

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 20252 St. Petersburg FL 33742

Campaign Website: www.pearlmanforjudge.com/

Do you believe all Florida residents have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can or should be done to provide wider and better access?

In Family Law there are forms with instructions for pleadings necessary to file in a Family Law proceeding; however, the issue I have seen is the ability to get a court date. There are strategies that I have seen in my practice that can help with this issue. One strategy is the double booking of trials to account for cases that may resolve at the last minute, so large blocks of open and viable litigation time do not go to waste. Another successful strategy is coming in before, or after, hours or even on the weekends to hear emergency motions, to quickly handle time sensitive issues.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury? How many and what types of cases?

As a prosecutor for the first four (4) years of my career I had the opportunity to try approximately 60 jury trials and many non-jury, or bench, trials. These cases ranged from simple Misdemeanor possession or DUI all the way up to Capital Sexual Battery. After I left the State Attorney's Office, I went to a private firm, where for the past 12 years I have been practicing mainly in Family Law. I have tried more than 35 Family Law Trials which are bench trials.

Have you ever had to support a legal position that was contrary to your personal moral belief? If yes, please explain in detail.

During my time as a Prosecutor I had a case in which due to the Statute, a young 23 year old defendant I was prosecuting was facing a mandatory life sentence. In my case the Defendant had all of his belongings stolen while he

was in prison, and after he was released, he saw the Victim in the case with his shoes which had been stolen. The Defendant took the Victims keys and wallet by gun point to get his belongings back, and he physically struck and injured the victim with no major injury. I do not believe it justified life, but I did my job enforcing the laws of the State of Florida.

Many criminal defendants are poor, and as a result they find themselves represented by public defenders. Public defenders in turn find themselves with significant caseloads. What can a judge do to ensure that such a situation doesn't lead to inadequate representation?

There are procedures in place for the Court to address the Defendants directly to ensure they are satisfied with their representation, understand procedurally everything that is occurring, and clarify what is happening at hearings. It is a balance to make sure the cases are being moved forward, which in turn helps with the high caseloads, and making sure the Defendant's are properly represented. The Judge must be able to control the Courtroom to ensure the attorneys are properly prepared for every proceeding. However, at the same time know when a continuance is necessary to ensure justice.

What changes can the court system make to better approach issues with respect to juvenile offenders?

There are an extensive amount of safeguards in place for juveniles, however, a focus to include more mental health treatment and tools to address the underlying mental health issues, and not just with the juvenile offenders, but also with the parents and guardians of the juveniles is essential. Unless the families are involved and given the same tools and opportunities to help their children overcome the issues they are facing, the recidivism rates will continue at current levels.

Do you have any current conflicts of interest, and are you willing to acknowledge that if you have any cases that would create a conflict, you would immediately recuse.

The only conflict of interest I can foresee at this point would be my Husband and his firm. There is already precedent for this in this Circuit, and there would be an automatic transfer of divisions for any case which would be before me in which my Husband, or his firm, is retained on. However, I have no issue if I feel that a conflict should arise in any other situation to recuse myself to make sure the system is as fair as possible.

Kate Spurlock



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Facebook www.facebook.com/votespurlock

Campaign Phone: 727-219-9995

Professional Experience: Assistant State Attorney in the Special Victims Unit, Sixth Judicial Circuit. I currently handle cases the Special Victims Unit ranging from child sex cases, human trafficking, online exploitation of children, and homicides with children victims. I have tried over 70 jury and nonjury trials and handled thousands of cases in my tenure.

Campaign Email: contact@votespurlock.com

Instagram: www.instagram.com/votespurlock

Public Service: I volunteer at Loft 181 (provides clothing and essential items to girls in foster care and human trafficking victims), committee member of Raising Relief Foundation, brand ambassador for EmpowHERment, volunteer or partner with: Feeding Tampa Bay, Alzheimer's Association, Hands Across the Bay

Education: Bachelor of Science in Business Marketing, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, 2009; Juris Doctorate, Florida Coastal School of Law, 2015

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 17651 Clearwater FL 33762

Campaign Website: www.votespurlock.com

Do you believe all Florida residents have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can or should be done to provide wider and better access?

No, I acknowledge that there are discrepancies of access to the legal system among Florida residents. However, I do not believe it is appropriate for myself, as a judicial candidate, to opine on the specifics of reform that should be implemented.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury? How many and what types of cases?

Jury Trials: 58

Non-Jury Trials: 15

Have you ever had to support a legal position that was contrary to your personal moral belief? If yes, please explain in detail.

No, in my role as an Assistant State Attorney, if I believed that handling or filing charges was not the right thing to do under the law, I would advocate against filing charges or to dismiss a case.

Many criminal defendants are poor, and as a result they find themselves represented by public defenders. Public defenders in turn find themselves with significant caseloads. What can a judge do to ensure that such a situation doesn't lead to inadequate representation?

As a Judge, it is important to be educated on everyone's constitutional rights and to be sure that every person charged with a crime has their rights protected and that the individual has the appropriate due process given to their case. It is a Judge's role to ensure that any attorney appointed to represent someone charged with a crime is diligently handling the cases they are entrusted with.

What changes can the court system make to better approach issues with respect to juvenile offenders?

As a judicial candidate, I do not believe that it is appropriate to opine on juvenile justice reform.

Do you have any current conflicts of interest, and are you willing to acknowledge that if you have any cases that would create a conflict, you would immediately recuse.

I do not have any conflicts of interest.

6th Circuit Judge Group 14

The Florida Circuit Courts are trial courts of general jurisdiction in Florida. The Circuit Court handles cases involving felonies, family law, civil issues, probate issues, juvenile cases, and appeals from County Court. Florida's 6th Judicial Circuit covers Pinellas and Pasco counties. It includes 45 judges at the circuit level. It is one of 20 judicial circuits in Florida and 94 circuits in the United States. To qualify for the post of circuit judge, a candidate must be an elector of a county within the circuit and must have been admitted to the practice of law in Florida for the preceding five years. Judges are selected via nonpartisan election.

Term: 6 Years, Salary: \$182,060/year

Cornelius Christopher Demps



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/dempsforjudge/

Campaign Website: www.dempsforjudge.com/

Education: Bachelor of Science, Industrial Engineering, Florida State University 2007; Juris Doctor, Stetson University College of Law 2010

Facebook www.facebook.com/DempsforCircuitJudge

Campaign Email: dempsforjudge@gmail.com

Campaign Mailing Address: 32789 Eiland Blvd 107 Wesley Chapel FL 33545

Public Service: President of the George Edgecomb Bar Association, Boys and Girls Club of Laccochee, North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce, Carmel Friendship Church of Wesley Chapel, B.O.Y.S. Court of Pinellas County

Professional Experience: Assistant State Attorney, Assistant Attorney General, Corporate Litigator, and Law Firm Owner

Campaign Phone: 813-603-1046

Do you believe all Florida residents have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can or should be done to provide wider and better access?

We all must work together to improve access for all citizens to ensure that those who seek the courts for justice have all the help they need. In the George Edgecomb Bar Association, we host our Annual Legal Rights Workshop to provide the community with the legal guidance they need. During my tenure as president, we also provided free wills to homeowners to ensure homes were properly passed down to future generations. But more assistance is needed. As a judge, I would instruct someone to seek help from a pro bono clinic. We must find ways to provide Zoom Court access to those without cars.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury? How many and what types of cases?

I have tried over 60 jury trials in my career including 35 as the lead trial attorney. I have also handled over 200 briefs in appellate courts including before the Supreme Court of Florida and have argued 30 times in oral arguments before appellate judges including the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit. I have also handled hundreds of hearings and bench trials in criminal and civil cases in state and federal courts such as probation violations, suppression hearings and summary judgments

Have you ever had to support a legal position that was contrary to your personal moral belief? If yes, please explain in detail.

My fellow prosecutors and I were charged with enforcing a zero-tolerance drug policy. While I do believe that drug traffickers should be fully prosecuted where the facts and evidence warrant such an approach, I believe that those suffering from drug addiction may benefit from treatment rather than incarceration. I prosecuted an identity theft case where I chose to place the defendant on probation for drug addiction treatment rather than incarceration. The victim of this crime agreed with my decision and this defendant told me I saved her life. She is addiction free now.

Many criminal defendants are poor, and as a result they find themselves represented by public defenders. Public defenders in turn find themselves with significant caseloads. What can a judge do to ensure that such a situation doesn't lead to inadequate representation?

Judges must continually monitor the progression of each criminal case to ensure that every defendant's constitutional right to effective counsel is protected. Public defenders are skilled attorneys. But all lawyers have the potential to make a mistake. As a trial and appellate prosecutor, I have seen what can happen when the ineffective assistance of counsel occurs. A judge can ensure that a defendant is receiving adequate representation by making sure the accused is fully aware of every critical stage of a criminal case.

What changes can the court system make to better approach issues with respect to juvenile offenders?

Assisting families with the awareness of local mentorship programs. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If the courts can work in conjunction with bar associations and other non-profit organizations who provide mentorship assistance, then we in the legal profession can become more proactive in teaching young men and women about how to make the right decisions for their lives rather than becoming reactive when the wrong decisions are made.

Do you have any current conflicts of interest, and are you willing to acknowledge that if you have any cases that would create a conflict, you would immediately recuse.

I do not have any current conflicts of interest and if a conflict were to arise while presiding over a case, I would follow the law and seek guidance from the judicial canons in order ensure that a litigant's opportunity to a fair and neutral decision maker is not jeopardized.

Jennifer Dubbeld



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: www.jenndubbeld.com/

Education: J.D- Thomas Cooley Law School, B.A.- University of South Florida

Facebook www.facebook.com/votejen4judge.com

Campaign Email: jenn@votejen4judge.com

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 18151 Clearwater FL 33762

Public Service: Attorney at the Public Defender's Office, Volunteer Mediator and Arbitrator with the Florida Bar, Board member on the Intervention and Appeals Committee at Madeira Beach Fundamental Middle School, Mentor at Osceola Fundamental High School, Mentor with Lawyers for Literacy

Professional Experience: Assistant Public Defender for 17 years; Began legal career at a boutique law firm and title company doing family law, title work, and business/contractual law

Campaign Phone: 727-344-9026

Do you believe all Florida residents have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can or should be done to provide wider and better access?

As an assistant public defender, I am appointed to cases where people cannot afford to retain a private attorney to represent them in criminal court. Everyone has access to a lawyer in the criminal court system, and I have not seen any issues with the courts refusing to appoint a public defender to an individual charged with a crime and potentially

facing jail or prison. With regards to other aspects of the law, the clerk of court does a fantastic job providing required forms and guides online to help those that can't afford an attorney.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury? How many and what types of cases?

I have tried many cases in front of a judge and jury. I have tried 48 cases, and this number is likely higher (I didn't start keeping track of my trials until well into my career), and of those cases, I have 32 jury trials and 16 bench trials. I have tried many complex cases. I have tried multiple Capital Sexual Battery cases, L & L Molestation, Attempted Murder, Aggravated Assault, Trafficking in Drugs, Possession of various drugs, Dui's, Improper Exhibition of a Firearm, Trespass and more

Have you ever had to support a legal position that was contrary to your personal moral belief? If yes, please explain in detail.

Not that I can think of. I firmly believe in the Constitution, and I am proud to take a stand daily to protect our Constitution and individual rights.

Many criminal defendants are poor, and as a result they find themselves represented by public defenders. Public defenders in turn find themselves with significant caseloads. What can a judge do to ensure that such a situation doesn't lead to inadequate representation?

Considering the fact that I am a public defender with a high caseload, I know that it is VERY important to be organized and efficient with my time each day. It is important for judges to understand the difficulty each public defender faces daily, and by listening to the public defender's request in court and working with them with scheduling hearings, motions and trials, this assists to ensure adequate representation.

What changes can the court system make to better approach issues with respect to juvenile offenders?

I think that it is important to take the time with each juvenile offender when they first come into the juvenile court system and take a hard look at what lead them to the point where they are. Stopping juvenile offenders when they first enter into the court system should be the main goal. Once juveniles are repeat offenders in the juvenile court system, they are much more likely to become criminals in the adult system.

Do you have any current conflicts of interest, and are you willing to acknowledge that if you have any cases that would create a conflict, you would immediately recuse.

As an assistant public defender, I don't get to pick my cases. I look at each case objectively, and I never allow for my personal feelings or beliefs to interfere with the legal advice that I provide to my clients. There isn't any type of case that I would have a conflict with, however, if a conflict arose, I would immediately recuse myself.

Nick Fiorentino



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Instagram: www.instagram.com/fiorentino4judge/

Campaign Website: www.Fiorentino4Judge.com

Education: Juris Doctor Degree from Stetson College of Law, BA from the University of South Florida, AA from St. Petersburg College

Facebook www.facebook.com/fiorentino4judge

Campaign Email: VoteNickForJudge@gmail.com

Campaign Mailing Address: 10225 Ulmerton Rd. Suite 12B Largo FL 33771

Public Service: I am a member of the Seminole Lake Rotary Club, I have been the secretary of the club for the past 2 years and am about to start my third year. I am also on the Rotary District Finance Committee. I serve on the board of Hero to a Child formerly known as the Guardian Ad Litem Foundation. I serve on the IAC Committee at a Madeira Beach Fundamental.

Professional Experience: I am the managing partner at Ciarciaglino, Gell & Fiorentino, P.A. I practice in the areas of Family, Probate, Civil and Criminal Law. I am also a Florida Supreme Court Mediator, a Qualified Parent Coordinator, and an Arbitrator. I have been a critical incident attorney for local law enforcement for the past 18 year.

Campaign Phone: 727-898-8000

Do you believe all Florida residents have adequate access to legal help and the legal system? If not, what can or should be done to provide wider and better access?

I believe that the biggest hurdle to adequate legal access is the available financial resources of a party. All parts of the process cost money whether it is to hire an attorney, to request records, or to hire experts. We have wonderful legal aid organizations in our circuit to assist with this, however, they are limited in what they can provide. To provide better access, we need more attorneys to give of their time to do pro bono work. I have done this throughout my career and believe if more attorneys are willing to provide pro bono services more citizens would have access.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury? How many and what types of cases?

Yes, I have tried approximately 35 cases where I have been the lead attorney. I have tried family, civil, administrative and domestic violence injunctions cases. Because the majority of my practice has been in family law, we many times need to be involved in temporary relief hearings, these are mini trials but do not count in a trial count. However, they are just as important as trials as you are calling witnesses, presenting evidence and asking the court to make a decision.

Have you ever had to support a legal position that was contrary to your personal moral belief? If yes, please explain in detail.

Yes, as an attorney you need to present your client's case which may not always be in line with what you believe, however, if the law is on their side, you have an obligation. As with being a judge, you will need to apply laws that you may not agree with, however, to do the job properly you must apply the law fairly and consistently with how it is written. I have had cases especially in family law where I did not agree with how a client wanted to proceed as it was not in the best interests of the child and after counseling my client they did not agree, I have withdrawn from the matter.

Many criminal defendants are poor, and as a result they find themselves represented by public defenders. Public defenders in turn find themselves with significant caseloads. What can a judge do to ensure that such a situation doesn't lead to inadequate representation?

We have some very good public defenders and I think it is very important for judges assigned to the criminal bench to not only run their calendars, but be mindful of the attorneys appearing before them on both the Public Defender and the State Attorney side. Usually these are newer attorneys and they may need guidance and mentoring from the court and other more experienced attorneys. I think it is important for the Judge to be a monitor to make sure everyone is being adequately represented.

What changes can the court system make to better approach issues with respect to juvenile offenders?

When I was chair of the Marital and Family Law Section of the St. Petersburg Bar Association, we held a conference on Adverse Childhood Experiences. This conference focused on the effects of childhood trauma and how it effects children throughout their life. I believe there needs to be more focus on prevention and treatment of childhood trauma to help prevent children from becoming offenders. As the system focuses more on childhood trauma, I am hopeful that we will have less juvenile offenders.

Do you have any current conflicts of interest, and are you willing to acknowledge that if you have any cases that would create a conflict, you would immediately recuse.

I do not believe I have any current conflicts of interest, however, if any become apparent to me or are ever raised, I would recuse myself from those matters pursuant to the Rules of Judicial Administration and the Judicial Canons. It is imperative that everyone is treated respectfully, fairly, and impartially when they appear in court.

Pinellas County School Board Member - District 1 At Large

The Pinellas County School Board is responsible for the administration of the county's schools in accordance with state law and the rules put forth by the State Board of Education. The School Board adopts policies and sets priorities for the district. It also adopts and oversees the annual budget, hires and evaluates the superintendent, and manages the collective bargaining process for employees of the district. The School Board consists of seven members: three who are elected at-large (which means they are voted on by all county residents) and four who are elected by the registered voters within each single-member district. All seven Board members will represent the entire district upon their election. The Board appoints a superintendent who serves as chief administrative officer of Pinellas County Schools. The Board also employs the School Board Attorney, who reports directly to the Board.

Term: 4 Years, Salary: \$53,205/year

Laura Hine



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: www.VoteLauraHine.com

Campaign Phone: 7278719642

Campaign Email: info@votelaurahine.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/hineforpinellas/

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14562 St Petersburg FL 33733

Professional Experience: US Navy, Surface Warfare Officer, 5 years 8 months General Contractor / Construction, 10 years Museum Director, 3 years Elected School Board Member, 4 years (1 term)

Education: U.S. Naval Academy, B.S. Aerospace Engineering, University of South Florida, MBA in Finance and International Business

Public Service: St Thomas Episcopal Church Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Northeast Little League Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital PTA North Shore Elementary & John Hopkins Middle School

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

1. Teacher recruitment and retention. For top student outcomes we need top teachers, and they need a salary commensurate with the importance of the role as well as a climate and culture of respect and support.
2. Focus on early childhood learning and closing the persistent achievement gap, hand in hand. If a child falls behind during the earliest years of his or her education, the chances of catching up as years go by are slim.
3. Commitment to academic excellence and career pathways for all students at all schools. A child should not have to win a lottery. Excellence in every school.

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff?

We're doing better than many counties in this regard. At this time in 2022, we had 208 teacher vacancies; in 2023, it was 177; currently it's 91 - less than 1 per school. Having said that, we must continue to work on improving salaries and providing a supportive culture of excellence in all schools. The politicization of education has not been helpful with recruitment and retention of teachers statewide. It makes it much more difficult for our dedicated classroom teachers to do their jobs. Let's keep divisive politics out of the schools and work harder to respect those with differing opinions.

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

I support wide access to age-appropriate literature in schools, as recommended by the Florida Department of Education's ELA reading matrix. I agree with having our library catalogs available online for review and providing a process for residents to object to a title. Pinellas County has an effective process in place to request review of materials. From our data regarding challenges to books and opt-out requests, we know that parents with students in our schools - including me - overwhelmingly trust their teachers and schools to make good choices for media and academic materials.

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

I am opposed to partisan elections for school board members, just as our Founders were. They were clear that schools should be local and nonpartisan; not subject to political winds. Bringing partisan politics into our public schools brings divisiveness and instability and we have important work to do (excellence). Let's not increase the level of political partisanship in our schools. Our goal should be a strong, united front for pursuing excellence for all schools and all students.

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

In 2024 the distinction between these types of schools is their accountability to the Florida taxpayer. All taxpayers are equally supporting each type of school, yet only traditional public schools are accountable to academic and school safety standards and demonstrating return on investment. As a school board member, we can advocate for funding in,

yes, though we are responsible for the allocation of resources. We must ensure that we are optimizing financial allocation as well as communicating economic realities to our state and community.

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

It starts with respect – a fundamental value I hope we instill in every student attending our public schools. It requires zero tolerance for bullying and abusive behavior. It calls for encouraging and educating our students to value kindness and dignity for others and to resist the impulse to dehumanize individuals you feel are different from yourself.

We include parents and guardians in this effort. Collaborating with them, assuring that their opinions and values are heard and respected, and establishing the behavior and environment expected in school to achieve 100% student success.

Danielle Marolf



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: votedaniellemarolf.com/

Campaign Mailing Address:

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

- candidate declined to respond -

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff?

- candidate declined to respond -

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

- candidate declined to respond -

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

- candidate declined to respond -

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

- candidate declined to respond -

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

- candidate declined to respond -

Pinellas County School Board Member - District 4 Single Member

The Pinellas County School Board is responsible for the administration of the county's schools in accordance with state law and the rules put forth by the State Board of Education. The School Board adopts policies and sets priorities for the district. It also adopts and oversees the annual budget, hires and evaluates the superintendent, and manages the collective bargaining process for employees of the district. The School Board consists of seven members: three who are elected at-large (which means they are voted on by all county residents) and four who are elected by the registered voters within each single-member district. All seven Board members will represent the entire district upon their election. The Board appoints a superintendent who serves as chief administrative officer of Pinellas County Schools. The Board also employs the School Board Attorney, who reports directly to the Board.

Term: 4 Years, Salary: \$53,205/year

Eileen Long



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Facebook www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552307186620&mibextid=LQQJ4d

Professional Experience: 34 years of teaching

Education: University of South Florida

Campaign Mailing Address: 2019 Southpointe Dr. Dunedin FL 34698

Public Service: 8 years on the school board serving the entire district

Campaign Phone: 7279532977

Campaign Website: www.eileenlong2024.com

Campaign Email: rlong1404@tampabay.rr.com

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

To increase early literacy. K-2 will be using a program U Fly and we have the PELI grant to help with this undertaking.

Hiring and maintaining great teachers. Providing teachers with strategies to help in the classroom. Promote the Referendum to ensure teachers AND support staff receive a pay increase. I also believe in the Arts and technology to ensure a well-rounded student. The Arts, music, theater provided students with an opportunity. and lastly to improve discipline in this county. We have a behavior committee that I strongly support and want to work with.

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff?

Hire teachers that believe in the mission of PCS. We need to provide new teachers and experienced teachers with new strategies that are proven to be effective. But most important is to increase teacher and support staff salaries with the approval of the new referendum. It is not a huge increase but will have a huge impact on education.

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

We have the Listen and Learn meetings throughout the county. This gives the community opportunities to come out and engage the superintendent and board members, Any issue can be discussed. We have had a process in place for books that parents can opt out their student from the lesson and an alternative assignment will be given. We have added several processes to ensure that a student cannot check out a book if the parents does not want them to read certain books. Classrooms have already gone through a book removal. Some have removed their books so they don't have to worry.

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

I believe school boards should not be political. We are here for all students regardless of race, religion and sexuality. We must educate ALL students to the best of their ability. And ensuring this will benefit all residents in the county.

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

Public schools must share the fundings we receive with Charter Schools and now vouchers with Private Schools. I believe that competition is good. However, I believe the standards should be equal across the board. Taxpayers should know that the Public Schools are held to a much higher standard. If schools are receiving money, they need to be transparent just like public schools

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

LGBTQ students are human beings just like everyone else. They need to feel safe in schools and feel they are welcome just like everyone else. Many of these students need to find someone in the school that they can talk to express what they are feeling. Some of these laws are preventing social workers and other adults from jumping in and helping these individuals. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in teenage suicide. These laws should be revisited, and we need to look at ways to help these students and parents feel valued.

Erika Picard



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Facebook www.facebook.com/picard4schoolboard

Professional Experience: ESE Teacher, Middle School Counselor, High School Counselor, Realtor for 7 years, Business Owner

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education (w/minor in communication); Master's degree in School Counseling

Campaign Mailing Address: 851 Village Way Palm Harbor FL 34683

Public Service: Served as VP on my child's school PTA; SAC Member at my children's school; Member of a local private school's Board of Education

Campaign Phone: 7275016861

Campaign Website: www.erikapicard.com/

Campaign Email: ErikaPicard4SchoolBoard@gmail.com

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

- 1) Making sure our teachers pay is not affected in a negative way by the passing/Not passing of the referendum dollars
- 2) I want a full review done on ALL tests that are given at high schools (even all schools) to see where we can cut back. We spend too much of our school resources testing our students and I do not believe it is all necessary. Teachers are testing too much and out of their classrooms not teaching. Students are out of their classrooms testing and not learning. Enough is enough!
- 3) Fiscal accountability/Vetting the programs we buy and they are in one year and out the next.

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff?

Make sure our teachers have the supports they need to be able to do their job and teach! As a school counselor, I do not feel supported when the county continues to pile on all of their requests, on top of a caseload of 620 students. It's unrealistic to think I can get my job done well. This is a reality the schools are facing. There are so many issues students are facing and our schools need supports!

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

I like the "Listen and Learns" that are district already has started doing. It gives families opportunities to ask the questions they are wanting to ask. I am a fan of surveys as well. I believe they are insightful for the county to hear from all stakeholders. Everything is a conversation and I plan to have an open door/open ear policy to communicate anyone's concerns.

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

I would love politics to not be involved with school board races. However, I think most people can agree that is just not the case anymore on both sides of the parties. I like having a non-partisan race, as I believe it requires people to actually do their research on each candidate instead of voting only party line. However, some people say it is hard to find information on candidates about where they stand on issues, which may hinder them to vote all together. People need to do their research

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

One of my concerns for our public schools is what happens if all the "good families/students" leave for private/charter schools?? I believe in a competitive market, however, and I believe this will drive public schools to make sure we are highly accountable with our funds and making sure we stay a competitive entity in education options. Our district must think outside the box constantly to make sure we are utilizing our funds effectively. We need board members with innovative ideas and members who have a "with-it-ness" to make sound decisions to retain families and teachers in our schools.

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

I believe in all students having a safe learning environment and one that fosters the educational experience.

Pinellas County School Board Member - District 5 Single Member

The Pinellas County School Board is responsible for the administration of the county's schools in accordance with state law and the rules put forth by the State Board of Education. The School Board adopts policies and sets priorities for the district. It also adopts and oversees the annual budget, hires and evaluates the superintendent, and manages the collective bargaining process for employees of the district. The School Board consists of seven members: three who are elected at-large (which means they are voted on by all county residents) and four who are elected by the registered voters within each single-member district. All seven Board members will represent the entire district upon their election. The Board appoints a superintendent who serves as chief administrative officer of Pinellas County Schools. The Board also employs the School Board Attorney, who reports directly to the Board.

Term: 4 Years, Salary: \$53,205/year

Kathleen "Katie" Blaxberg



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: KBlaxberg@gmail.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/BlaxbergForPinellas/

Professional Experience: Katie served as District Aide for Rep. Chris Latvala, supporting education and school safety legislation. She is active in her community, serving on PTA, various boards and works with numerous charitable organizations.

Education: Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Science. University of South Florida

Campaign Website: www.katieblaxberg.com/

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 20252 St Petersburg FL 33742

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

1. I am honored to have Sheriff Gualtieri's endorsement and I am confident that Pinellas is at the forefront of school safety initiatives. Mental health, resiliency and coping skills are crucial for student safety. Addressing cyberbullying and social media use is a priority. 2. I understand the challenges parents face when choosing a school that best fits their student. I am committed to making that process easier to understand and navigate. 3. I want to ensure that teachers have the resources and support they need, including competitive salaries and a positive work environment.

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff?

Compensation: By supporting the referendum, the district is able to recruit & retain high-quality teachers and provide support for professional development. Funds from the referendum contribute to teacher salaries, accounting for approximately 12% or \$6300. Creating and maintaining a positive work environment is crucial. A positive and supportive work environment can greatly impact staff retention. Schools should focus on fostering a culture of respect, collaboration, & appreciation for their employees. Offering high-quality professional development opportunities can also help reduce turnover.

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

I will seek parental input and understand that parental involvement improves classrooms, schools and the district. There must be a collaborative approach between parents and the board to address issues and concerns. Continuing the practice of public comments, televised meetings and overall transparency between the board and parents is a priority of mine. Additionally, having consistent office hours and an open door policy is of the utmost importance to me I am acutely aware that parents are their children's best advocate and access to public servants essential.

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

It is important to recognize that our children's classrooms should be a place of learning, growth, and development, free from the influence of partisan politics. It is crucial for educators to create a safe and inclusive environment where students can freely express their thoughts and ideas. However, it is essential for voters to have a voice and participate in the democratic process. Ultimately, the decision on Amendment 1 should be left to the voters.

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

The primary difference is how these types of schools are funded and governed. Charter schools and vouchers give parents alternative options to traditional public schools. As a school board member, I will advocate for adequate funding for public schools to ensure that all students have access to a high-quality education. This includes advocating for sufficient funding for programs and services that support student success.

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

Creating a safe and respectful learning environment free from discrimination and bullying is essential for the safety of students in schools and classrooms. By implementing these strategies, schools can create a positive learning environment for LGBTQ+ students while still adhering to Florida laws. It is important to prioritize the well-being and inclusion of all students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Brad DeCorte



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Email: electbraddecorte@gmail.com

Facebook www.facebook.com/brad.decorte

Professional Experience: Tarpon Springs Middle School - Language Arts 2000-2022

Education: Bachelor of Arts in English - San Diego State University; Education Degree - National University, San Diego, CA

Campaign Website: braddecorte.com

Campaign Mailing Address: 30725 US HWY 19N #209 Palm Harbor FL 34684

Campaign Phone: (727)410-5173

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

My top three priorities for the upcoming year include: 1. Ensuring All students receive the support they need to reach their potential; 2. Cultivating an environment in which students, parents, and staff feel valued; 3. Early childhood educational programs staffed by trained professionals. We need to ensure that we have professionals to help students who may be dealing with issues that students must deal with. I would ensure that counselors actually have time to counsel students and we stop using them as a test coordinator. Neighborhood activities for families.

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff?

We will continue to have staff shortages as long as teachers and staff do not feel valued. They should not have to fight every year for better pay and better working conditions. We need to stop adding more and more responsibilities while at the same time denying them what they need to accomplish their job. As a former teacher, I understand how teachers felt when responsibilities were added without consideration as to the pressures being added to teachers and staff. Testing is another stress inducer for our staff. We need to look at reducing the pressures put on teachers and staff.

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

As more people get involved in curriculum and material choices in schools, we need to set up open forums to determine what stakeholders are thinking. We need to reach out to the entire Pinellas community. We will need to get a complete idea of what the entire community is thinking. We need to address the entire community when discussing books to restrict. I am opposed to removing books completely. Restricting books is an option. The restricting of books

needs to be an action of the entire community, not a small section of the community. We also need to teach complete and accurate history.

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

I am against Florida Amendment 1. Party affiliation is something that is not necessary in school board races. Party should not determine who is on the board. This bill will make our school board elections and boards more contentious. Everyone is impacted by school board decisions, and we don't need party affiliation to get in the way of what is best for our students. That is what we should be focused on. Public education is already under attack. It needs to be students, staff, parents NOT party.

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

I believe that public money should be kept in public schools. I understand that the use of vouchers is supposed to make public schools compete with the private sector, but when needed funding is taken from public schools to enrich private schools it hurts public schools. Needed funding is being stripped from the schools that need it the most. I intend to do what I can to convince our students to stay with the public schools and help us build the best schools possible. Charters are another matter to look into. We need to keep our students in public schools. Public Money, Public Schools.

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

Working around HB1557 and 1069 will make it difficult to achieve a positive learning experience for our LGBTQ+ students will be difficult but is necessary for our students. We need to do whatever we can to ensure our students have a positive experience. We need to ensure we have safe places that our students can go when necessary. We also need to continue to have GSA groups in our schools. Places that our students feel safe and secure. This will also go along with restricting books. We should not be banning any books since many students need to see characters that represent them.

Stacy Geier



Party: Non Partisan

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: www.votestacygeier.com/

Campaign Mailing Address:

What are your top 3 priorities for the district in the upcoming year and what specific action will you take to address each of them?

- candidate declined to respond -

Teacher and other staffing shortages are a pervasive problem throughout Florida. What are two or three suggestions you have for the recruitment and retention of staff?

- candidate declined to respond -

As people become more involved in the details of curriculum and material choices in schools, how would you go about finding out what families, students and teachers in our school community are thinking? How would you handle competing issues and views, for example, about requests to remove certain books from libraries or classrooms?

- candidate declined to respond -

Where do you stand on Florida Amendment 1- Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards?

- candidate declined to respond -

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? How will you ensure adequate funding of public education?

- candidate declined to respond -

How will you ensure a positive learning experience for LGBTQ+ students while at the same time abiding by Florida laws such as HB1557 and HB1069?

- candidate declined to respond -

Pinellas County Referendum #1 - Economic Development Property Tax Exemptions for New Business and Expansion of Existing Businesses

Ballot Language:

Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Pinellas County, Florida be authorized to grant, pursuant to s. 3, Art. VII of the State Constitution, property tax exemptions to new businesses and expansions of existing businesses that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in Pinellas County?

Synopsis:

This measure would extend the power of the Board of County Commissioners to grant county property tax exemptions for certain qualifying businesses that create new capital investment and new full-time jobs in the county.

The Board of County Commissioners currently has the power to grant these exemptions, based on a referendum that voters passed in August 2014. This referendum would extend that power for an additional 10 years. If this referendum is not approved, the county's power to grant these exemptions will expire on August 27, 2024.

The purpose of these exemptions is to provide an incentive for businesses to create new jobs in the county and to assist local businesses with expansion. There are different criteria for different types of businesses and for new or existing businesses, but in most cases, a business must establish 10 or more new jobs to employ 10 or more full-time equivalent employees, paying a qualifying average annual wage.

Any property tax exemption reduces the potential tax revenue available for funding county services and infrastructure. Each application for this exemption must be approved by an ordinance, and the anticipated fiscal impact of a particular exemption will be reviewed and considered by the Board of County Commissioners at that time. The Board of County Commissioners has absolute discretion to grant or reject an exemption. The exemptions have no impact on what the company is currently paying in county taxes.

Tax exemptions may be granted for up to 10 years and up to 100% of new capital improvement and/or equipment purchases, based on a tiered exemption structure. The exemption only applies to county property taxes (specifically County General Fund and/or MSTU taxes), and does not exempt the business from paying school tax or taxes levied by any other entity. A business that fails to meet performance requirements may have the exemption revoked.

Supporters: This referendum was approved by all members of the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners.

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would: Extend the authority of the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners to grant county property tax exemptions for qualifying businesses.

A No Vote Would: End the authority of the Pinellas County Board of Commissioners to grant county property tax exemptions for qualifying businesses as of August 27, 2024.