



Voter Guide – Federal & State Races General Election – November 8, 2022

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Governor

The Governor is an elected constitutional officer and the highest state officer in Florida. A governor serves as the chief executive officer of a state. Everyday job duties include oversight of the state's executive leaders, policy review, as well as big picture budget management. Serves 4-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. The Governor's 2021 salary was \$134,181.

Charlie Crist



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

County: Pinellas

Age: 65

Hometown: St. Petersburg, FL

Campaign Twitter Handle: @CharlieCrist

Facebook: www.facebook.com/charliecrist/

Education: St. Petersburg High School (1974), Florida State University (BA, 1978), Cumberland School of Law (1981)

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Instagram: @charliecrist

LinkedIn: N/A

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? I am running for governor because I am the candidate who can defeat Gov. DeSantis. I am running to restore the voice of the people in Tallahassee, to restore the voice of reason

and civility in government, and to follow the Golden Rule so that all Floridians are treated with respect and dignity by their governor. I am running to protect our freedoms, the right for women to make their own decisions about their health care and their bodies, the right to vote, and the rights of LGBTQ+ Floridians.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? I will restore billions that have been diverted from the Sadowski Trust Fund back into housing affordability programs, and I will seek to repeal a DeSantis state law that permanently cut funding to the trust fund in half. I will appoint a housing czar to work with local governments on creating local housing affordability solutions. I will take on Wall Street firms that are buying up houses by helping local government limit their purchases and raising the documentary stamp tax on those purchases.

What would you do to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? My Clean Water for All plan includes reducing run-off by strengthening regulations and "best management practices" on agricultural lands, implementing recommendations from the harmful algal bloom task force, supporting water storage and wetland restoration on private property, removing all septic tanks and banning new ones in urban areas, and fully funding the Department of Environmental Protection. I will add 1 million new solar roofs and set ambitious renewable energy goals.

How would you expand voter registration and ensure access to the ballot for all eligible voters? I will reverse the DeSantis limits on mail ballots, allow Florida to automatically register to vote anyone who seeks a driver's license, move the primary election to spring to increase turnout, make Election Day a state holiday, make it easier for the governor and Cabinet to restore felons rights as I did as governor, and demand that lawmakers allow felons who have completed their sentences to register to vote as Amendment 4 intended while continuing to pay fines, court costs and restitution.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Yes, because women have a right to make their own health care decisions. On Day 1 of my administration, I will issue an executive order to protect the right to choose as it stood under Roe v. Wade, and I will start gathering signatures for a constitutional amendment to erase any doubt that abortions will stay legal in Florida. If DeSantis gets lawmakers to adopt new restrictions in November, I will veto every Republican bill until they are repealed.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? I support closing loopholes regarding background checks, cracking down on ghost guns and gun trafficking, requiring the reporting of guns that are lost or stolen, banning the sale of assault weapons, lengthening the waiting period for buying a gun from three days to five days, strengthening our red flag law so that family and household members can petition the court to remove guns from persons at extreme risk to commit violence, and allowing local communities to make decisions on gun safety.

Carmen Jackie Gimenez



Party: NPA

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 600 three Island Blvd #1210 HALLANDALE BEACH FL 33009

Campaign Website: carmenjackieforflorida.com/

Facebook www.facebook.com/CarmenJGimenezOficial

Campaign Twitter Handle: CarmenJackieFl

Campaign Phone: 7863174255

Age: 60

Education: Doctorate in Philosophy on Human Development (Honoris Causa), Ph.D. in Management Sciences, L.L.M. Intercultural Human Rights, Master In International Commerce and Trade, Bachelor in Business Mention Management, and more than 450 courses including Open Government, International Elections Observer, and many, many others

Hometown: CARACAS Venezuela

County: N/a

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/carmen-jackie-gimenez-statistician-successful-manager-open-government-93198338/>

Instagram: www.instagram.com/carmenjackiefl/

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? Restore peace, order, freedom & prosperity through a sustainable development plan to reestablish Human, Economic, Civil, Political Rights, decrease poverty rates, create employment opportunities, work to avoid roots of violence, creating abundance, implementing open government w/transparency, accountability, returning safety to schools, children & parent protection, unifying the population in favor of our community, society & state through our Florida Model for Sustainable Growth & Development.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? The situation with housing, jobs, immigration, the environment, Disney World, protected areas, lawlessness, school violence, division, dire food security situation based on lack of domestic production, exacerbated imports, high gas prices, school dropouts, human trafficking, among others, is a consequence of terrible bad decisions made by those in power. As a P.H.D. in Management Sciences, my plan of action includes aligning investors, businessmen, entrepreneurs, NGOs, communities, universities.

What would you do to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? I have already spoken with FEMA and NASA, and as a team, we will take the necessary steps to prevent the "handmade" disasters produced by Florida's lack of unified public policies and align them with our sustainable plan for Florida's expansion and growth. - I will return the vetoed funds for climate change impact and ask the President of the United States to help us multiply the funds available, so that we can immediately reverse the negative impact resulting from the deficit.

How would you expand voter registration and ensure access to the ballot for all eligible voters? The right to vote is an important civil and political right, having access to vote is a very important issue. As the head of the State Executive Branch, I will convene experts such as Vote11 and other organizations, whose experience guides us to implement best practices in the field, in terms of transparency, accountability and appropriate oversight measures. This is part of our model of sustainable growth and development in joy, peace, health, fraternity, and well-being.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Together in fraternity, legislators, law schools & other experts, we will take all necessary measures to ensure that all inhabitants have access to enjoy their Human, Civil, Political, Economic rights. We will veto those laws contained in arbitrary & discriminatory positions contrary to the best practices of protecting individuals, their families & friends, hurting diversity, affecting their freedoms, & thus the healthy/harmonious coexistence of the inhabitants of the state threatening security.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? The violence is a consequence of people's frustration with their lives, they can't find a way out of their problems caused by the very bad decision of the head of the State of Florida, understanding that Florida is in a very bad humanitarian situation itself. Once we start our Florida Development Plan violence will decrease, happiness and peace will return, the American Dream will be back with Carmen Jackie Gimenez as Governor.

Ron DeSantis



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address:

Campaign Website: rondesantis.com/

Facebook www.facebook.com/RonDeSantisFlorida/

Campaign Twitter Handle: RonDeSantisFL

Instagram: www.instagram.com/rondesantisfl/

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

Insufficient 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 would you do to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

How would you expand voter registration and ensure access to the ballot for all eligible voters? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

Attorney General

Description: Chief law enforcement officer of the state, responsible for enforcing laws, protecting consumers, protecting civil rights, and defending the state in court actions. Is one of the three elected officials who make up the Governor's Cabinet. Serves 4-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. The 2021 salary was \$132,841.

Aramis Ayala



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: Post Office Box 691581OrlandoFL32869

Campaign Website: www.aramisayala.com

Campaign Twitter Handle: @AramisAyalaFL

Hometown: Windermere

Campaign Phone: (407)235-4298

LinkedIn: Aramis D. Ayala

County: Orange

Instagram:AramisAyalaFL

Age: 47

Education: University of Michigan '97, Juris Doctor- University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law '01, MS-University of Central Florida '09

Facebook: Aramis Ayala

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? Floridian's fundamental rights are being attacked and big corporations continue to corrupt the process. We need a fighter, As Florida's next Attorney General I will fight to protect our constitutional rights, build safer communities, and establish an economy that works for everyone. When elected I will make an immediate difference protecting women's rights and bodily autonomy. I will also ensure that our voting rights are protected and our democracy not only survives but thrives.

Will you pledge to uphold constitutional amendments approved by the voters? Support

The fines and fees system disproportionately impacts people of color and people living in poverty. What would you propose to change this situation? Yes. As a former Assistant Public Defender, Assistant State Attorney and elected State Attorney I witnessed first-hand the poverty penalty it is impact on Black, Brown, and poor people. We must start addressing this harmful practice that eliminates driver's license suspensions based on failure to pay

court fines. Additionally, juveniles should be exempt from these fees in order to avoid the lifelong trap and cycle of incarceration often unrelated to violent crime.

How would you enforce the Florida Sunshine Law and Public Records Law to ensure public access to governmental meetings and records? Enforcement of Sunshine Law and Public Records Law must be consistent. The failure to consistently investigate and enforce the law send the message that it is flexible and easily undermined. Justice requires consistency. As Attorney General I would promote legislation that increases penalties for violations of Sunshine and Public Records Laws. The increased penalties would prove how serious of a crime it is to investigators, prosecutors, and those who may be tempted to violate the laws.

How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the special agents dedicated to investigating alleged election law violations and ensuring transparency on their findings to the public? It will be important to hear from and include local election officials in the process. They have taken seriously their obligation to the people of Florida, long before what seems to be a manufactured problem, as best. The effectiveness will be based upon comparing investigative activity, looking for consistency and not discriminatory a practice. At all times, my office will remain a distinct entity so that our findings will be independent and will not require approval from another agency.

Many Floridians are concerned about becoming a victim of consumer fraud or identity theft. What additional protections, if any, will you pursue as Attorney General? One of the first things I am prepared to launch when I take office is an investigative unit that focuses on insurance company practices in Florida. Not only are we facing high insurance premiums, many have paid for coverage for years, only to see companies pack up and close business. This has left far too may Floridian's paying the price of fraud. Focusing on economic injustices will lead to more freedom and justice for all.

Ashley Moody



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address:

Campaign Website: www.ashleymoody.com/

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Campaign Twitter Handle: AshleyMoodyFL

Instagram: www.instagram.com/ashleymoodyfl

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

Will you pledge to uphold constitutional amendments approved by the voters? Candidate declined to respond

The fines and fees system disproportionately impacts people of color and people living in poverty. What would you propose to change this situation? Candidate declined to respond

How would you enforce the Florida Sunshine Law and Public Records Law to ensure public access to governmental meetings and records? Candidate declined to respond

How will you evaluate the effectiveness of the special agents dedicated to investigating alleged election law violations and ensuring transparency on their findings to the public? Candidate declined to respond

Many Floridians are concerned about becoming a victim of consumer fraud or identity theft. What additional protections, if any, will you pursue as Attorney General? Candidate declined to respond

Commissioner of Agriculture

Description: The Commissioner safeguards the public through testing and inspection of food products, regulation of deceptive and unfair business practices, reduction of wildfires, promotion of environmentally safe agricultural practices, and management of public lands. The Commissioner also supervises the issuing of various state vocational

licenses licenses to carry concealed weapons or concealed firearms. Is one of three members of the Governor's Cabinet. Serves 4-year term with a limit of 2 consecutive terms. The 2021 salary was \$132,841.

Naomi Blemur



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

County: Miami-Dade

Campaign Phone: (347)7345395

Age: 43

Campaign Mailing Address: 685 Northeast 126th Street North MiamiFL33161

Hometown: North Miami

Campaign Website: naomiblemur.com

Campaign Twitter Handle: <https://twitter.com/NaomiforFL>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NaomiforFL>

Education: Queen's College- Accounting & Economics, Masters in BA from Barry University

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/naomiblemur/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/naomiforfl/>

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? As the granddaughter of farmers, a community advocate, a local business owner, and a mother, I am running because we need a strong leader in Tallahassee that will advocate for small farmers, clean water, renewable and sustainable energy, and a better environment for our families and children. My two most important causes are to create community farming and advocate for small farmers to get access to capital.

What steps would you take to address food insecurity? I want to analyze what our state is able to produce and expand on Community food farming. As a commissioner of agriculture, I will build a robust community food farming that will empower families across the state to grow their own fruits and vegetables. I will advocate for and support the development of those small, family owned market businesses.

What are the key issues of concern for Florida consumers, and what ideas do you have to improve the Division of Consumer Services? Families and individuals being unable to purchase homes is the largest issue facing Florida consumers, forcing them into an unregulated renting environment. Additionally, too many firearms are making it into the hands of those who shouldn't have them through unregulated loopholes. These issues are consumer regulation issues and are among the first I'd address. I would advocate for a statewide tenant bill of rights and vet concealed weapon licenses applications because our lives depend on it

What is the most important issue facing agriculture and forestry in Florida? Please explain why it is important. Drought, produce protection, and our farmer's mental health. Our markets need to protect our farmers and reduce consumption from other countries on what we can produce. Droughts are affecting livestock and farmers' mental health triggering an increase in suicide rate; this is an issue that has gone unaddressed and is severely impacting our agriculture industry.

What measures do you propose to better manage agricultural runoff of fertilizers and other pollutants which contribute to harmful algae blooms and reduced water quality? I would advocate to invest in water recycling & recollection. I will hold the parties responsible for the contaminated water, responsible and meet with experts to educate farmers on best practices to avoid pollutants being in ground water and other running water.

Wilton Simpson



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address:

Campaign Website: www.wiltonsimpson.com/

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

What steps would you take to address food insecurity? Candidate declined to respond

What are the key issues of concern for Florida consumers, and what ideas do you have to improve the Division of Consumer Services? Candidate declined to respond

What is the most important issue facing agriculture and forestry in Florida? Please explain why it is important. Candidate declined to respond

What measures do you propose to better manage agricultural runoff of fertilizers and other pollutants which contribute to harmful algae blooms and reduced water quality? Candidate declined to respond

Chief Financial Officer

Adam Hattersley



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: 701 S. Howard Ave #106-823 Tampa FL 33606

Campaign Website: www.adamforflorida.com/

Facebook www.facebook.com/HattersleyforFL

Campaign Twitter Handle: HattersleyforFL

Campaign Phone: 813-659-8215

Age: 44

Education: BSE and MSE, Aerospace Engineering, University of Michigan

Hometown: Riverview

County: Hillsborough

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/adam-hattersley-9497971/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/hattersleyforfl/

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? Service has been the main focus of my professional life (from nearly a decade in the US Navy to serving in the Florida House of Representatives), and the CFO's office hasn't had a true public servant occupying the position since Alex Sink finished her term. Florida's citizen's need a watchdog on the

Cabinet that is going to look out for their interests instead of the political interest of the CFO's party. Major issues: Insurance and Government Accountability

What do you believe is driving Florida's property insurance crisis? What do you plan to do as the CFO to remedy the situation? Bad regulations/regulators, poor legislative framework, and a CFO's office that doesn't protect consumers. We need an Insurance Commissioner who has a strong background in insurance, and who prioritizes consumer protection. Additionally, we have to revamp current regulations to make FL attractive for both insurance companies AND consumers to see benefit from the industry, that way we can bring new providers back to the state, lower risk, increase competition, and reduce rates for policyholders.

What do you think should be done to stabilize the housing and business insurance markets against major environmental disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and fires? Look at what other states in similar risk zones have done to be successful, and implement those good policies. Nearly all other southern states face the same hurricane risk FL does, yet we are the only ones in an insurance crisis. We can't be afraid to adopt working policies just because the idea didn't originate in the CFO's office.

The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated a major flaw in the Florida unemployment system, in both technical and monetary compensation aspects. What would you do to fix both problems? Re-design the system from the ground up with beneficiaries in mind, instead of the current system (which is a roadblock to assistance).

Identify improvements that you would make to the State Board of Administration. Take partisan politics out of the decision-making process - for example, FL could have divested from Russian companies at the start of the Ukraine invasion. Instead, the SBA stayed in Russia (and in fact has increased investments there) even in the face of nearly 90% losses - seemingly only because Democrats asked them to divest.

Jimmy Patronis



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: www.joinjimmy.com/

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

What do you believe is driving Florida's property insurance crisis? What do you plan to do as the CFO to remedy the situation? Candidate declined to respond

What do you think should be done to stabilize the housing and business insurance markets against major environmental disasters, such as hurricanes, floods and fires? Candidate declined to respond

The Covid-19 pandemic illustrated a major flaw in the Florida unemployment system, in both technical and monetary compensation aspects. What would you do to fix both problems? Candidate declined to respond

Identify improvements that you would make to the State Board of Administration. Candidate declined to respond

State Representatives

Description: Serves 2-year terms with a limit of 4 consecutive terms. There are 120 House members. The 2021 salary is \$29,697 plus (travel and subsistence). Only requirement is to pass a balanced state budget.

State Representative 58

Bernard Fensterwald



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Age: 71

Education: B.A. Vanderbilt (1973); J.D. Tulane University School of Law (1976); M.Ed. Virginia Tech (2002)

Hometown: Dunedin, Florida

County: Pinellas

Instagram: www.instagram.com/realsolutions4florida/

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Campaign Website: www.realsolutions4florida.com

Facebook: [www.Facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082437001343](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100082437001343)

Campaign Twitter Handle: www.twitter.com/fensterwald

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? I am running for the Florida House of Representatives to try and lessen the political rancor that is enveloping our state and our nation and to develop and promote real solutions to real problems that Floridians face every day. As a small business owner, there are several issues that I would like to work on that would benefit Floridians: 1) the twin problems of affordable housing and homelessness and 2) the growing crisis of the cost and availability of homeowner's insurance.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? The first thing that needs to be addressed is the Legislature's historical practice of raiding funds earmarked for affordable housing (Sadowski) for unrelated purposes. This must stop. Following that, we need to coordinate additional funding for affordable housing on a regional basis, utilizing federal, state and local sources.

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections? Access to the ballot box is a key element of our democracy. Despite the fact that the 2020 election in Florida was very secure, unnecessary steps have been taken by the Legislature to make ballot access harder, not simpler. We need to constantly improve our mail ballot system. To broaden voter participation, I would favor either moving Election Day to a Sunday or making the current Election Day a national holiday.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? They don't call Florida the "Sunshine State" for nothing. Our utilities should not be allowed to monopolize the sun. Home based solar energy systems need to be promoted, not discouraged. This can be helped by requiring our utilities to credit solar energy put into the grid at its full value (100% net metering). The quality of our state's water sources continues to decline, threatening our health, our wildlife and our tourist-based economy. We need to tackle this issue with more than lip service.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Yes. I will not support any legislation that would further restrict a woman's right to choose. I will support laws that would protect a woman's right to choose and/or make safe procedures available. I sense that contraception may soon be under attack, so codification of a right to contraception would be advisable.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Many issues are best solved at the local level. There have now been several instances where local decisions have been overridden by the Legislature at the behest of a campaign contributor, i.e. limits on cruise ships in Key West. A constitutional amendment may be necessary to better define the relationship.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? I will not support any effort to broaden gun ownership in Florida. I support common sense laws to make gun ownership and use safer, i.e. red flag laws. I support more funding for mental health services.

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) We need to address the issue of homeowner's insurance now. I would convene a time sensitive bipartisan commission to come up with common sense solutions. Another immediate problem is addressing water quality issues, particularly red tide and pollution that is affecting manatees and other marine mammals. Recreational water quality is an important consideration of our tourist based economy.

Kimberly Berfield



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Education: University of Central Florida. B.A.; Northeastern University, MBA

Hometown: Clearwater

County: Pinellas

Instagram: @Kim.Berfield

Campaign Mailing Address: 2519 N McMullen Booth Road Suite 510 #136 Clearwater FL 33761

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Facebook: @BerfieldforFLHouse

Campaign Phone: 7272448947

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Candidate declined to respond

State Representative 59

Berny Jacques



Party: Rep

Campaign Website: <https://bernyforflorida.com/>

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Candidate declined to respond

Dawn Douglas



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: <https://electdawndouglas.com/>

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined?

Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence?

Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic)

Candidate declined to respond

State Representative 60

Audrey Henson



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Mailing Address: <https://audreyhenson.com/>

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

Candidate declined to respond

Insufficient 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 address climate change?

Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined?

Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence?

Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic)

Candidate declined to respond

Lindsay Cross



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

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Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/LindsayCrossFL>

Campaign Twitter Handle: @lindsaycrossfl

Campaign Phone: 727-201-3248

Age: 44

Education: MS, Environmental Science and Policy, University of South Florida

Hometown: Lansing, MI

County: Pinellas

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lindsaycrossfl/>

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? Our state is facing many issues, from climate change and poor water quality to inequities in healthcare accessibility and education. With 20 years of experience as an environmental Scientist, I will use my collaborative style to find statewide solutions to address water quality, health conditions, and economic prosperity. I also want to tackle affordability issues, including skyrocketing rent, rising homeowners insurances, and increased utility costs. I look forward to being a fighter for the people of Pinellas.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? The Legislature must fully fund the Sadowski Affordable Trust Fund and not siphon money for other initiatives like resiliency or water quality per SB2512 (2021). The state should support and not pre-empt local governments that are implementing strategies to increase affordable housing stocks. This may include reduced or waived impact fees, streamlined permitting, zoning changes, or full or partial donations of land for partnering developers.

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections? Despite no evidence of widespread voter fraud, Republicans have passed intimidating anti-democracy bills the past 2 years. I would reverse the changes in SB90 and SB524 that make it more difficult for people to vote, by limiting access to mail-in voting and ballot drop boxes, as well as penalizing people that provide water for voters in line. I would also push for expanded vote-by-mail opportunities, early voting, automatic voter registration, and same day voter registration.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? First, we must fully enforce existing water quality regulations and implement common-sense pollution prevention recommendations like a statewide septic inspection program, more accountability for corporate polluters, and protective human health standards. The Legislature must stop raiding and fully fund the Land and Water Trust Fund to protect and restore our drinking water sources and natural lands. Finally, we must adopt renewable energy goals and address the root causes of climate change.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Yes. Contraception and abortion are critical to women's health, and politicians should not restrict access to these services. I will stand against any attempts to limit the freedoms of women to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? No. The needs and priorities for each of Florida's 67 counties are unique and I believe that the best government is the one that is closest to the people. I respect the authority of local governments that seek to keep their communities safe and prosperous by enacting local regulations or ordinances that are supported by their local residents.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? I support broader adoption of common-sense gun reform. I am strongly opposed to permitless-carry legislation and believe that there should be expanded background checks and efforts to

keep guns out of the hands of criminals and domestic abusers. I support the 2nd Amendment, but I am deeply concerned with the increase in gun violence among young adults, especially in our schools.

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) To address affordability, we must crack down on fraudulent roofing companies and ensure that people with older, functioning roofs can maintain coverage. I would restore full funding to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and incentivize local efforts to increase affordable housing stocks. I will expand production of renewable energy and protect jobs in the solar industry. I will champion legislation to aggressively limit water pollution to protect the health of our environment, people and economy.

State Representative 61

Janet Varnell Warwick



Party: Dem

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County: FL

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Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? I have given a powerful voice to the underdog in our justice system for decades and am now running for office to protect our waters, our wallets, and women. First I am uniquely qualified to introduce informed regulation that will protect our waters and coastline. I will limit the pollutants that feed Red Tide, pollute our waters and kill sea life. Second, decades of protecting the rights and freedoms of women, consumers, and workers in the court system have prepared me to fight this all-out attack on women's rights.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? Wall Street investors have destroyed Florida's housing market and demand 3 actions immediately: 1) Increase the housing supply by increasing funding for affordable housing including subsidies for the working poor and create tax incentives for small to mid-size developers while limiting corporate market manipulation. 2) Revamp our weak landlord/tenant regulations that incentivized corporate landlords to charge tenants unregulated fees while they increased rent. 3) Regulation of short-term rentals.

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections? Automatic voter registration, online voter registration, and same-day voter registration. Remove the requirements for restitution payment for former felons. We also must provide robust education so the population can understand political and social issues to participate in modern life and the economy, protect their rights and freedoms, and resist tyrants and demagogues. Florida's education system is so critically underfunded and over-a that we are failing in that critical component.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and address climate change?

I support protection of our waters and ecosystems through best scientific practices. This includes better wastewater treatment, green agriculture and proper stormwater management while holding polluters accountable making them pay the true costs of their pollution. We need a water quality Czar to protect our most precious resource. The State DEP is NOT industry independent and is corrupt. I would incentivize clean energy manufacturing and use to complement the huge incentives in Federal I.R.A.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

I support codifying access to contraception and abortion and to amending our state's constitutional right to privacy that would enshrine those rights. The single most important factor for women's advancement in society is our ability to control our health and fertility. Without that, we are trapped by the realities and costs of pregnancy, childbirth & childrearing. These aspects of womanhood become an unbearable burden if pregnancy is forced upon us at the wrong time in our lives.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined?

I support Home Rule in MOST cases. The best government is a government closest to home where you have a closeness to the people and direct accountability. This is a thread of common sense that runs through the very fabric of our system of governing. Similarly, "unfunded mandates" hurt counties, cities & school boards. The State should only make the rules when it truly impacts our shared environment, statewide economy, or individual human rights. Preemption must come with the funding.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Growing up on a farm and as a US Army veteran, I'm no stranger to firearms. Given that perspective, I support common sense gun laws, meaning that we don't need to require permits to buy a 12-gauge shotgun, but the more dangerous the weapon the more restrictions are necessary. We must strengthen our background check system, and provide funding to expedite those processes. We must also close the gun show and online purchase loopholes.

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) 1) The environment is Florida's biggest attraction, but also its biggest challenge. People move here or visit because of our environment but it is in serious decline. I am already taking action through a series of lawsuits to protect our environment and would introduce legislation and regulations to address this immediately. 2) Wall Street Private Equity firms and institutional investors are wreaking havoc on our housing market. I would stomp out market manipulation through targeted legislation.

Linda Chaney



Party: Rep

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined?

Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Candidate declined to respond

State Representative 62

Michele Rayner



Party: Dem

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Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? Now more than ever, it is important that we have bold leaders in Tallahassee. We have a governor and a republican led legislature that is out of control. While serving you in the state house, I've been called Ron Desantis' worst nightmare. I'm going back to continue the bold and fearless leadership that the people of District 62 and Florida deserve. The two most compelling issues that I feel I can make a difference on once I'm re-elected are affordable housing and food deserts.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? I believe we need to seriously address rent stabilization and also allow local governments to incentivize developers by granting them the ability to waive fees associated with development if the developer is committing to building affordable housing. I filed a bi-partisan bill regarding this my first year in the legislature.

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections? I filed a bill for Automatic Voter Registration that would make two transformative changes to voter registration: 1. Eligible citizens who interact with the DMV are registered to vote unless they opt-out. 2. The DMV would transfer voter registration information electronically to election officials. Your registration follows you as you move & update your license. This boosts registration rates, cleans up the rolls, and reduces the potential for voter fraud, all while lowering costs.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? During my time in office I have partnered with Sierra Club when it comes to issues of environmental justice and issues

of gyp stacks. Specifically, I partnered with Sierra Club regarding issues of Piney Point and the plant near Fairmont Park Elementary. We live in the sunshine state, but fall terribly behind in our investments in renewable energy. As your representative, I will support equitable renewable energy and legislation that protects our waterways.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

Yes. A woman's right to choose must be protected and we in Florida must stay vigilant so that this wave of barbaric and unconstitutional chaos does not reach our shores.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Those who work for local government are public servants and their ability to craft and enact local policies and implement programs that best addresses their local issues should be protected. The state legislature, led by Republicans, have passed legislation every session to strip away the power from local municipalities. This has to be addressed in future sessions to give municipalities their powers back to do what they were elected them to do.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? I have filed bills regarding safe storage and the "Stand Your Ground" law. I have co-sponsored bills to ban assault weapons and to strengthen school safety. Gun violence is preventable. I believe we need to pass legislation that institutes universal background checks and strengthen the red flag laws. The majority of Floridians support these measures, we need to have legislators to have the political will to pass this policy.

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Affordable Housing and Food Deserts. I would build upon HB 1013/SB 628 and implement more legislation and appropriation to expand the urban agriculture program.

Jeremy Brown



Party: Rep

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Candidate declined to respond

State Senate

State Senator, District 16

Darryl Ervin Rouson



Party: Dem

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Education: Xavier University/ University of Florida

Hometown: New Orleans, Louisiana

County: Pinellas/ Hillsborough

Instagram: Darryl Rouson

Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? I am running for re-election of District 16 to continue to capitalize on the progress I've made for my constituents in the upcoming Legislative Session. Two of the things that I am proud to be a champion for is the work that I have done in pioneering attention with regards to Mental Health & Addiction awareness, and my continued efforts to keep Florida safe and Floridians productive with better Gun Control laws.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? I support all efforts to keep Floridians comfortable and above water just as I did last year by protecting funding for Affordable Housing options in the Tampa Bay area. Also, last legislative session we passed reforms that would slow down the rise of Homeowners Insurance hoping to help alleviate some of the pressure felt by homeowners in Florida.

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections? Protecting the convenience of voting and the absentee process in communities of color will enforce solutions for the rising voting crisis on the rise.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? I've opposed dangerous legislation that would legalize fracking, a harmful method of extracting oil, which can destroy our environment and even cause localized earthquakes. I've also made it a priority of mine to protect our beautiful ecosystems in Florida by supporting legislation to create a taskforce to monitor sea level rise and climate change, and by advocating for the increase in use of renewable energy, including solar power.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? I opposed the bill regarding abortion on the floor in last session. I think any decision of what should happen with a woman's body should be left to that woman, her doctor, and her God.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? I favor Home Rule, our respect to the balance of power should favor local elected officials.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? One measure of reform I supported already was the rejection of permit less

carrying. I do not believe that guns should be without proper documentation and registration. I also support ending the sale of military-style weapons for street usages.

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) As I mentioned before, protecting Floridians from inflation in home and automobile insurances are vital to keeping people maintained beyond just having their heads above board. Inflation is affecting us all right now and insurance companies are taking advantage. One of the things I will work hard on is repealing PIP and replacing it with mandatory Bodily Injury coverage.

Christina B. Paylan



Party: Rep

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Candidate declined to respond

State Senator, District 18

Eunic Ortiz



Party: Dem

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Age: 34

Education: Tarpon Springs High School, 2006 - High School Diploma; St. Petersburg College, 2006 - Associates of Arts in Mass Communications; University of Florida, 2008 - Bachelors in Telecommunications (Broadcast Journalism); New York University, 2012 - Masters in Business and Communications; Thesis: Social Media is a Vital Tool for Local Government Communication

Hometown: Palm Harbor, FL

County: Pinellas

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Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? We deserve leadership that understands what we are facing and governs for all of us, not just a select few. We need to build more housing that is affordable & address skyrocketing insurance costs. Every school should be fully funded safe places where our children can learn & our educators should be paid adequately. I am committed to banning drilling off our coast & considering well-researched plans for alternative transportation. Healthcare is a fundamental right that I will protect families' private decisions.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? We must fully fund the Sadowski Trust Fund and discontinue the raid of this fund to cover our general revenue budget. We must support home-rule and allow local governments to creatively develop our cities and counties that account for our rapid regional growth. We should think creatively about incentive programs for developers and realtors that provide affordable housing units. Lastly, we must ensure we're attracting good-paying jobs.

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections? There was a rise in voting by mail in the 2020 elections, and Republican's gave a knee-jerk partisan reaction by scaling back how voters can cast their ballots through SB90. This is also voter suppression which I will vigorously fight to repeal. We must protect Amendment 4 which restores the right to vote to our returning citizens and ensures every Floridian has equal access to their ballot.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? We need environmental leaders at the helm and involved in the development of environmental policy. Protecting our local waterways is crucial to the health and safety of our residents, food consumption, and jobs for seafarers. Voters passed the Florida Water and Land Conservation Initiative in 2014 to dedicate funding to the Land Acquisition Trust, which has not been followed through by the Legislature. I will advocate for the preservation of the voters' will during the budget process.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Yes. Every woman should have the choice and access to both an abortion and affordable contraception without interference from government as the decision is between her, her doctor, and her faith. As an activist, I've shown up and participated in protests calling for government to stop interfering with our right to choose. As State Senator, I'll vote down and advocate against bills that hinder reproductive freedom.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Local government is uniquely positioned to make decisions that address many issues. State government should provide general oversight and parameters, but should allow local governments to exercise their legislative authority that accounts for the diversity of our state's communities.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? We need comprehensive gun reform as a matter of public safety in Florida. No

one is committed to confiscation of firearms unless in cases of domestic violence and there's a threat to human life. There should be parameters on obtaining a firearm and storage including background checks and closing the gun show loophole.

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Housing - We must fully fund the Sadowski Trust Fund and discontinue the raid of this fund to cover our general revenue budget. We should think creatively about incentive programs for developers and realtors that provide affordable housing units. Choice - Every woman should have the choice and access to both an abortion and affordable contraception without interference from government as the decision is between her, her doctor, and her faith.

Nick DiCeglie



Party: Rep

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Candidate declined to respond

State Senator, District 21

Amaro Lionheart



Party: Dem

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Hometown: Miami

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Why are you running for this elected position? What are the two most compelling issues on which, if elected, you feel you can make a difference? I am running for office because we must restore civility, compassion, common sense & sanity back to politics and the government in Tallahassee. There are many issues that I am running on everyone of them are just as critical but I will name a couple out of the many the first being Women' Reproductive Rights & The Economy. I will make an immediate impact once elected by strengthening & rolling back the insanity that has come from Tallahassee which attacks women & girls. Work with feds to Invest in small businesses.

Insufficient housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis? Once elected I will immediately begin the process holding joint meetings with the developers in our communities to establish 20% of all new developments to allow for affordable housing for working class families. I will also work with my federal contacts to bring in federal funds and resources to develop housing for Floridians making home ownership a reality for many folks. I believe every American should have piece of the American Dream and I will work relentlessly to make that a reality.

What legislative actions are necessary to improve voter access to the ballot and promote voter participation in elections? Voter Rights are part of God given rights. I will push legislation that will turn Florida into a birthright citizenship state. All Floridians are automatically registered to vote at birth. I will also push legislation that will keep those rights from being revoked by the state. I will work with my colleagues at the state and federal levels to make Election Day a holiday that will give Americans a day to vote and participate in their democratic process.

What legislative action would you propose to protect Florida's environment and address climate change? The environment is critical not only to the well being of the ecological order of life but our economy. I will begin by holding town hall meetings across our affected communities, combine that with expert testimony from environmental scientists I would launch legislation hearings with these testimonies and data to craft a bill that will deliver results that bring relief to the afflicted communities.

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Yes, I fully support all access and protections that support women's reproductive rights which includes contraception and access to other services.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? I believe that there is a balance where Federal, State, County and Municipal exist in if there's is an abuse occurring at the city or county level then the state should be able to intervene on behalf of the people of said city or county, or The feds. We once saw government overreach one the biggest was the dark times of Jim Crowe Era America Feds had to send the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division escorted nine black students enter the all-white Central High School. It's a fine balance.

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? I believe in common sense gun laws that protect our citizens. Anyone who buys a firearm must take a mandatory gun training and safety courses including time on the range. Instructors & sales staff will be required to be certified and will be able to identify individuals who display them and prevent them

from ever getting their hands on a firearm to use them against the interests of public safety. All Private Guns sales must be completed through a licensed Federal and State dealer.

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) The two biggest issues Florida right now that need to be addressed in the next few months is reducing the cost of insurance premiums and addressing the housing markets prices that have simply made Florida unaffordable to Floridians. I work with Future CFO Adam Hattersley and Governor Charlie Crist to leverage that multi billion dollar surplus reinforced with federal funds to create a catastrophic fund that will immediately produce results. The second issues is addressing the housing market.

Ed Hooper



Party: Rep

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

Insufficient 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 address climate change? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a state law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues or how should it be redefined? Candidate declined to respond

Mass shootings grab headlines and spark calls for action. What legislation would you support to better protect people from gun violence? Candidate declined to respond

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? (Your response may expand on a previous answer or relate to a new topic) Candidate declined to respond

US Senate

Val Demings



Party: Dem

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Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. In the United States Senate, I will prioritize the issues that matter most to Florida families like lowering the cost of living, including gas prices and housing, and fighting to make our communities safer. Everyone should be able to work hard, play by the rules, and achieve the American Dream, and they deserve to achieve the American Dream while living in safe communities. As Orlando's Chief of Police, we were able to reduce violent crime by 40%, the largest reduction in the city's history. I know what it takes to do the hard work, fight the tough fights, and get things done, and that's exactly what I'll do in the United States Senate.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? We know that we need to rebuild trust in our democracy. As a law enforcement officer of 27 years, I know how important it is for people to have trust in the institutions of our country, and how precious that trust is. In the United States Senate, I will work to rebuild trust and foster faith in our democracy. I would support legislation to combat attempts to misinform voters trying to make their voices heard in our elections, secure the right to vote, and make participating in our elections more accessible for more citizens. We must hold America to its promise and ensure that we truly are a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

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? My friend and former colleague John Lewis said the right to vote was precious, that it was almost sacred. The right to vote is the cornerstone of our democracy and we must do everything in our power to protect it. As a law enforcement officer, I spent 27 years enforcing the laws, and now I get to write them. In the United States Senate I will fight to pass voting rights legislation that protects the right to vote and establishes national standards for voter registration and access to the ballot box.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? I spent 27 years at the Orlando Police Department, so believe me when I say that I take any and all threats to the people of Florida very seriously. I do believe that climate change is an emergency and that Florida stands to pay a terrible price in the form of stronger hurricanes, sea level rise, and more. Unless we act, climate change will cost countless lives and trillions of dollars in damage, not only in Florida, but across the country. In the United States Senate, I will proudly support climate legislation that will create jobs and grow our economy by investing in new green tech and other efforts to stop climate change and prepare for its impacts.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Only good federal legislation codifying our rights into federal law will protect our rights. In the House of Representatives, I've fought to pass legislation that would protect a woman's right to choose and keep interstate travel for those seeking reproductive healthcare legal. Anti-choice extremists want to use our law enforcement officers to jail women and doctors, instead of the criminals that they should be trying to catch. I spent 27 years in law enforcement, and I will fight to ensure that our officers can focus on fighting crime and keeping our communities safe, not targeting women and doctors. I will always stand up for a woman's right to choose, and fight to pass federal legislation that codifies Roe and access to contraceptives.

Marco Rubio



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

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Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. Candidate declined to respond

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? 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 see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

Dennis Misigoy (LPF)



Party: Libertarian

Biographical Info:

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Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/electmisigoy

Campaign YouTube URL: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoH9zHLgYR5C_geM6UTdYfQ

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. End US involvement in all wars abroad and bring 100% of American troops home. Drastically reduce "defense" spending and adopt a foreign policy of peace and free trade with all nations. End the Federal Reserve and its reckless and inflationary monetary policy as well as cutting the irresponsible federal spending which has largely driven it. Eliminate all barriers to the use of alternative currencies so that a free market can provide Americans with the sound money that governments and central banks are unwilling to offer.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? None. The antidote to misinformation is accurate information, not censorship. The first amendment protects the freedom of speech and the press, and any effort to undermine those would do incalculable harm. The federal government, which has a well-established habit of lying and hiding information, cannot be trusted with any special power to prevent others from expressing contradicting narratives. This would be the death of any whistleblower calling out corruption in our government.

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? No. This is a function of the states, which are far better situated to understand the dynamics of and challenges faced by their respective populations.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? No. While I support common sense efforts by individuals to exercise responsible stewardship over natural resources, alarmist warnings about catastrophes have proven themselves to be unfounded for half a century or more, and the proposed measures to deal with them would create needless hardships for a great portion of our population. I would support a complete withdrawal of US military forces from around the world. Today the US military has a larger carbon footprint than more than 100 entire countries. If it were a country itself, it would be in the top 50 polluters. This is a natural consequence of acting as policeman of the world, but it comes at great costs, which include a massive carbon footprint.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? No. Whether viewed as a healthcare issue or as one of criminal law punishing homicide, the US Constitution does not grant the federal government any authority to govern either. I would support a repeal of any federal law which limits access to contraception, up to and including dismantling regulatory agencies such as the FDA, which have stood in the way of most over-the-counter contraception options.

Tuan TQ Nguyen (NPA)



Party: NPA

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Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/TQletsbeamerican

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. - Immigration Reform. - Education Reform

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? Candidates should be barred from running for office if were found to be willingly to spread misinformation (after debunked).

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? The only (federal) requirement (if any) shall be voters must be U.S. citizens and must show proof of U.S. citizenship. The rest (early voting, mail in, primaries etc..) should be left to the states.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? Yes. The wave of weather-related catastrophes has been accelerating during the last decade. I would support laws that will GRADUALLY phase out fossil fuels and promote recycling industries.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? I only support abortion in case of rape, incest and when the pregnant women's health is in danger. I am a moderate prolife.

Steven B. Grant



Party: NPA

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Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. Term limits for Congress and campaign financing reform are my priorities. Our Democratic Republic cannot sustain itself with Congress's failure to regulate career politicians. Our national debt increased by \$20 Trillion Dollars in the past decade because elected leaders failed to act fiscally responsibly. The aristocracy of established political leaders and lobbyists acting in their best interests is hurting the citizens of the U.S. Term limits would require a peaceful transfer of power and allow elected leaders to share their knowledge in other aspects of our government and economy. A person may campaign for the same position after sitting out one term increasing competition, the backbone of our capitalistic society.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? Our Constitution under the First Amendment provides Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or the press. However, the Federal Communications Commission protects our society from obscene, indecent, and profane content; in addition, provides resources against potential fraud. I believe the FCC should be able to protect our society from fraudulent broadcasts that fail to disclose opinion-based content. These disclosures would be similar to the Children's Television Act and commercial media providers (TV, internet, or radio) who broadcast news or talk programs must identify the show's content as an opinion and/or verified by an editor with support from evidence.

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? The 15th and 19th Amendment of the Constitution provides the right to vote regardless of race, color, previous condition of servitude, and sex. Whereas, some States and the Supreme Court have historically created unjust barriers for citizens to register to vote and access the polls. The Voting Rights Act created and allowed demographical gerrymandering for the purposes of keeping a political party in power. As Senator, I would support a voting rights bill to provide for national standards and access to the ballot to include early voting and mail in ballots. Plus, I believe the redistricting based upon ethnicity has allowed for the continued discrimination of citizens and would require new districts to be completed by independent committees.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? Climate change is an inevitable aspect of living on planet Earth, I believe the increase of air pollution has led to the following symptoms: hotter summers and colder winters; more severe and frequent natural disasters; and severe health issues for all people. The air, land, and water pollution for the past two centuries has accumulated to epic levels and climate change is affecting the planet negatively. As Senator, I would propose and incentivize a sustainable and resilient economy by providing grants for expanded recycling and clean incineration programs; nominally increasing taxes on polluting products (such as increasing the federal gas tax one cent a year); and restoring our forests and creating urban greenspaces.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? I support the constitutional liberty of privacy, specifically the ability for persons to make informed medical decisions. Congress needs to codify the right to family planning services. Family planning is an essential aspect of life and no government should abridge an individual's freedom to make their own medical and life decisions. The Supreme Court ruling of *Hobbs v. Jackson* allows for the criminalization of abortion, I disagree with this ruling. The ruling creates a no-win scenario even worse when a woman has an unwanted pregnancy or an unhealthy fetus from accessing approved medical procedures that are in their best interest. As Senator, I would advocate for the constitutional right for privacy to make informed medical decisions.

Eric Lynn



Party: Dem

Biographical Info:

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Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/voteericlynn

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. My top two legislative priorities are 1) fighting for economic policies to help middle-class families get by - such as a \$15/hr minimum wage and middle class tax cuts like the Child Tax Credit and the Earned Income Tax Credit; and 2) Codifying Roe's Protection of Women's freedom to make her own health decisions into law.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? I would proudly support Senator Amy Klobuchar's bipartisan bill the NUDGE Act which would direct the National Science Foundation (NSF) to work with the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) to conduct a study to identify ways to prevent the spread of harmful content and it would also require social media platforms to implement recommendations and publicly disclose information about their compliance, the impact of the interventions, and other statistics related to required changes and content on their platforms. This would simply be a first step in combating misinformation, but it's an absolutely necessary start.

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 would absolutely support federal voting rights legislation to protect the right to vote. Our country is built on democracy, and democracy is built on the right to vote, and fair and equal access to that right for all.

After what we saw on January 6th, and with the former defeated President Donald Trump and my Republican opponent Anna Luna continuing to spread the Big Lie, it's clear that Republicans are prepared to continue to undermine and chip away at this right. Florida and other states across the country have already passed legislation restricting ballot access and making it more difficult for black and brown communities to vote.

We cannot accept this, and in order to protect our American values we must protect the right to vote.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? Climate change is absolutely a threat to our country and may be our greatest threat. We're experiencing record high temperatures across the country, here in Florida we're experiencing unprecedented sea-level rise which has led to record amounts of flooding damage to communities and properties.

It's also a huge threat to the state of Florida because our environment is directly linked to our economy. I've already announced the first policy I would file in Congress - Preventing Another Piney Point Disaster - which would end the practice of using chemical storage facilities as for-profit assets and require all elements of oversight and relocation of these facilities to have sign-off from the EPA and the Army Corp of Engineers.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Yes, this will be a top priority of mine in Congress. We cannot continue to allow the Supreme Court to go against the views of the majority of Americans and we must protect a woman's freedom to make her own health care decisions without interference from the government.

Women fought for this right, the right to make their own decisions about their health, and we must protect it and it's clear the only way to do that is with federal legislation codifying Roe, ensuring access to abortion and contraception.

Anna Paulina Luna



Party: Rep

Biographical Info:

Campaign Website: <https://www.voteannapaulina.com/>

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. Candidate declined to respond

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? 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 see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? Candidate declined to respond

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Candidate declined to respond

Frank Craft (LPF)



Party: Lib

Biographical Info:

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Campaign Facebook URL: www.facebook.com/FrankCraftForCongress

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. My top priorities revolve around solving the problems surrounding inflation. First, we need to set an actual budget, which is not the same as an OMNIBUS spending bill. We need to methodically set a budget that calls for spending fewer dollars than we bring in. By not operating at a deficit (something we haven't done in my adult lifetime), we can chip away at the National Deficit and eliminate the need to "print" more money.

I would like to offer some criminal justice reform. My priorities will be eliminating Civil Asset Forfeiture that allows for law enforcement to steal your cash, car, home, etc. without even charging you with a crime; they just have to be suspicious. I would also like to remove victimless crimes from federal law.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? None. The Sedition Act of 1918 has allowed the FBI to arrest war protesters and critics of the government since its formation. This has not helped build trust in our government. Passing new laws that allow the Federal Government to define truth will create legal and illegal speech, in violation of the First Amendment, and will grow distrust in government.

Imagine locking someone up for arguing that there weren't weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. In the lives of many living today, the idea that all races are equal was considered misinformation by the government. The government has shown it is a bad judge of what is and isn't truth.

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? No, it is important for each state to control their own election processes. If the Federal Government has the ability to control how the elections are run that put them into office, we will see a new wave of corruption. Imagine the Trump government setting election standards in 2020 or the Biden government setting the election standards in 2024. I bet you have a problem with at least one of those and that is a major reason we should not give over that power.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? Climate change is a challenge, but at 1.5 degrees C of warming per 100 years, it's not an immediate threat. If the Federal Government enacts a War on Climate Crises with the same tenacity and effectiveness as the War on Drugs or Poverty, we're going to be doomed. Innovators chasing green goals will lead to success. Boyan Slat created new technologies to clean the Great Pacific Garbage patch and is also working on cleaning the 1,000 rivers that account for 80% of the pollution in the ocean. Plug Power's innovations with hydrogen fuel cells and goals to use hydroelectricity to create liquid hydrogen could mean automobiles with no emissions and no need for heavy metal mines, operated by slave or child labor. Our brain power isn't in DC.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? I would oppose any federal law making contraception or abortion illegal. I don't believe there is a movement to make contraception illegal and banning safe products would be clearly unconstitutional, even at a local level. A federal law legalizing abortion would also be struck down at the Supreme Court as states will say that abortion regulation is not defined in the Constitution and therefore the power to create laws is their own. Since the views on abortion vary so much among citizens, I think it should be the most local government possible that creates regulations. Some communities will decide on no regulation, some will admittedly choose outright bans, but most will have some permissible range that ends between 9-20 weeks.

US House District 14

Kathy Castor



Party: Dem

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Campaign YouTube URL: www.youtube.com/channel/UCOc-XBVaJfdWN45xX0OWV1A

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. Lowering costs for families.
Fighting the roll back of our rights and freedoms

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? I am a leader in the Congress for protecting Americans' online privacy, especially children, and combating misinformation. Recently, my Energy and Commerce Committee passed the American Data Privacy Protection Act that incorporated my KIDS Privacy Act that bans the collection of online data and ads targeted at kids age 17 and younger. As Chair of the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, I have pressed Google and YouTube to take action against disinformation related to climate change. YouTube has been driving millions of viewers to climate

misinformation videos every day, a shocking revelation that runs contrary to Google's professed important missions of fighting misinformation and promoting climate action.

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, as Florida and other states enact restrictive, anti-voter laws, it's more important than ever to restore the vital protections of the Voting Rights Act, take on the big and dark money of special interests and ensure that Florida's Fair District requirements are adhered to. I have championed bills to restore the full promise of our democracy for all Americans like the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (H.R. 4) and the For The People Act (H.R. 1) which respectively restore the critical protections of the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) and expand voting rights, reform campaign finance laws and ban partisan gerrymandering. Americans should not see voting and attendant rights expanded, not restricted.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? Yes. I am proud to serve as Chair of the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis and am leading the charge to move our country to a 100% clean energy economy. My committee released a transformative road map for solving the climate crisis (<https://climatecrisis.house.gov/report>). To date, 201 of the 715 recommendations have been signed into law. Over 400 more have passed the house and are awaiting action in the Senate, many of which were included in the Inflation Reduction Act that is poised to be the most historic investment in affordable clean energy by the U.S. Congress.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not? Yes, I am a cosponsor of the Women's Health Protection Act and the Right to Contraception Act - both of which I helped pass in the House of Representatives after the Dobbs decision (<https://castor.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=403929>). Extreme Republicans and a packed Supreme Court are rolling back our rights to determine our futures and make our own fundamental health decisions. The GOP's criminalization of abortion care is causing real harm, and I will not rest until we make the right to an abortion the law of land.

James Judge



Party: Rep

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Campaign Facebook URL: [Facebook.com/judgeforcongress](https://www.facebook.com/judgeforcongress)

Name your top two legislative priorities for this upcoming term. - Fiscal responsibility: Inflation, balancing the budget and paying down the national debt to avoid hyper inflation. - restore law and order, support law enforcement, and punish prosecutors who do not do their jobs, as violent crime is skyrocketing.

What laws, if any, should be passed to combat misinformation that challenges people's trust in our democracy? Rarely, do I believe in passing more laws. Generally, I would like less federal laws and more freedom. However, we should look at enforcing existing anti-trust laws and regulating social media companies to ensure speech is not censored and that all individuals, media outlets, political parties and their representatives are treated equally and fairly.

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. Election integrity is paramount. If people do not trust elections, we are in serious trouble. Everyone should want for elections to be fair.

Do you see climate change as a threat to the country? Why or why not? What laws to address climate change would you support? No. None. We should protect the environment because it's the right thing to do, not because of global warming or global cooling that scientists have been disputing for decades.

Do you support passage of a federal law codifying access to contraception and abortion? Why or why not?

No, we need less federal laws.



Voter Guide – Judicial Merit Retention Races General Election – November 8, 2022

Judicial Merit Retention Overview

Why am I being asked to vote on judges?

Florida law requires Florida Supreme Court justices and appeals court judges to be placed on the ballot in nonpartisan elections every six years so voters can determine whether they should remain on their courts for another six-year term. These are called "merit retention" elections. This year, one Supreme Court justice and 24 appeals court judges will be on the ballot.

What do "Yes" and "No" votes mean?

A "Yes" vote means you want the judge or justice to remain on the court for another six-year term. A "No" vote means you want the judge or justice to be removed from the court. The majority of voters decide.

Do appeals court judges and Supreme Court justices have opponents?

No. Your vote determines whether each judge or justice should remain on the court. They are not running against opponents or each other. Merit retention elections are nonpartisan. In nonpartisan elections, candidates appear on the ballot without reference to any political party, (e.g. Democrat or Republican). Florida law requires judicial elections to be nonpartisan in order to preserve impartiality.

Florida Bar Voter Guide: <https://www.floridabar.org/public/faircts/votes010/votes002>

Florida Bar Retention Poll: <https://www.floridabar.org/public/faircts/votes010/votes003>

Florida Supreme Court Justice

FL Supreme Court Justices decide death penalty appeals and appeals from decisions of the appellate courts; resolve conflicts among appellate courts; and oversee the administration of Florida's court system.

Term: 6 Years, Salary: \$157,976

Justice Charles Canady, FL Supreme Court Justice - Merit Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Canady was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist in August 2008. Justice Charles Canady was born in Lakeland, Florida, in 1954. He is married to Jennifer Houghton Canady, and they have two children. He received his B.A. from Haverford College in 1976 and his J.D. from the Yale Law School in 1979. Justice Canady practiced law with the firm of Holland and Knight in Lakeland from 1979 through 1982. He practiced with the firm of Lane, Trohn, et al., from 1983 through 1992. From November 1984 to November 1990, Justice Canady served three terms in the Florida House of Representatives, and from January 1993 to January 2001, he served four terms in the United States House of Representatives. Throughout his service in Congress, Justice Canady was a member of the House Judiciary Committee. For three terms, from January 1995 to January 2001, Justice Canady was the Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. Upon leaving Congress, Justice Canady became General Counsel to Governor Jeb Bush. He was appointed by Governor Bush to the Second District Court of Appeal for a term beginning November 20, 2002. He served as Florida's 54th Chief Justice from July 2010 through June 2012. He was elected by his colleagues to serve as Chief Justice for a second time starting July 1, 2018, and a third time starting July 1, 2020.

<https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Justices/Justice-Charles-T.-Canady>

Justice Jamie R. Grosshans, FL Supreme Court Justice - Merit Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Grosshans was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Ron DeSantis in September 2020. Previously she was appointed to the Fifth District Court of Appeal in 2018 by Governor Rick Scott. Prior to her appointment to the appellate court, she served as an Orange County Court Judge in the Ninth Judicial Circuit of Florida where she presided over criminal and civil matters. Justice Grosshans was raised in Brookhaven, Mississippi and graduated cum laude from the University of Mississippi School of Law. During law school, she clerked for the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and the United States Attorney's Office for the

Northern District of Mississippi. Following admittance to the Florida Bar, she served as an Assistant State Attorney for the Ninth Circuit of Florida in both the misdemeanor and felony divisions where she tried numerous criminal jury trials. Justice Grosshans later entered private practice and founded her own law firm where she focused on family law and criminal defense matters for nearly ten years. During this time she also served as an Adjunct Professor at Valencia College where she taught Hospitality Law for the Hospitality and Tourism Management Program. She also frequently volunteered as a guardian ad litem with the Orange County Legal Aid Society. Justice Grosshans has served on state court system advisory committees and has been involved in numerous activities with the Florida Bar and other legal organizations. Justice Grosshans regularly speaks to lawyers and law students on topics such as challenges in the practice of law, the role of judges, professionalism and respect in the legal profession, criminal law, and family law.

<https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Justices/Justice-Jamie-R.-Grosshans>

Justice Ricky Polston, FL Supreme Court Justice - Merit Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Polston was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist in October 2008. Florida Supreme Court Justice Ricky Polston is a native of Graceville, a small farming community in the panhandle of Florida. He graduated from Chipola College in 1975 with an associate's degree. He went on to earn a bachelor's degree, summa cum laude, from Florida State University, where he was named FSU's Most Outstanding Accounting Student and was inducted into the Beta Alpha Psi Honorary Accounting Society. Following graduation, he became a certified public accountant and practiced accounting with Deloitte Haskins & Sells in the Tampa office for seven years, concluding as an audit manager. He returned to FSU for his law degree. Although no longer practicing accounting, he remains a CPA and is a member of the Florida Institute of CPA's and the American Institute of CPA's. In 1986, Polston obtained a juris doctorate with high honors from Florida State University College of Law. He was a member of the Florida State University Law Review and the Order of the Coif. After becoming a member of the Florida Bar, he worked in private law practice in Tallahassee for 14 years, primarily in commercial litigation and was a certified circuit court mediator. He received a Martindale-Hubbell AV rating and was included in the Bar Register of Preeminent Attorneys. He was a member of the Tallahassee Bar Association and Tallahassee's American Inn of Court (former Treasurer). He was admitted to practice before the United States District Court, Northern District of Florida; United States District Court, Middle District of Florida; United States District Court, Southern District of Florida; United States Tax Court; United States Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit; United States Court of Federal Claims; United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and the United States Supreme Court. Polston became a judge at the Florida First District Court of Appeal in 2001 until becoming a Justice of the Florida Supreme Court in 2008. He has served a two-year term as Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court in 2012-14, as Administrative Justice for many terms, and has been on numerous Bar and Court committees and as the Court's liaison to them. Since 2003, he has been an adjunct professor at the Florida State University College of Law, teaching various courses including Florida Constitutional Law, Insurance Law, and Florida Alternative Dispute Resolution. In 2013, Polston was honored to receive Florida State University's Circle of Gold recognition (Recipients are selected based on their dedication and loyalty to the university, and how they exemplify the Alumni Association's core values of tradition, leadership, family, spirit and greatness). Chipola College named Polston its 2021 Alumnus of the Year. That same year he also received the LeRoy Collins Distinguished Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Florida Colleges.

<https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Justices/Justice-Ricky-Polston>

Justice John Couriel, FL Supreme Court Justice - Merit Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Couriel was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Ron DeSantis in June 2020. Justice John D. Couriel is the 90th Justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Justice Couriel was born in Miami, Florida in 1978. He is married to Rebecca L. Toonkel, M.D. They have two children. Justice Couriel received his A.B. magna cum laude from Harvard College in 2000 and his J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2003. He clerked for the Honorable John D. Bates of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia before joining Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. His practice there included securities offerings, mergers and acquisitions, bankruptcy matters, and investigations. In 2009, he became an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. He prosecuted hundreds of federal offenses, including international money laundering, public integrity, healthcare fraud, and human trafficking crimes. In 2013, he joined Kobre & Kim LLP, where he specialized in cross-border disputes and investigations relating to financial products and services, asset recovery, and government enforcement defense, with an emphasis on clients in Latin America. Justice Couriel is a native speaker of Spanish. His parents emigrated from Cuba in the 1960s, his father as one of approximately 14,000 unaccompanied minors welcomed to the United States as part of Operation Pedro Pan.

<https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Justices/Justice-John-D.-Couriel>

Justice Jorge Labarga, FL Supreme Court Justice - Merit Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Labarga was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist in January 2009. Jorge Labarga was born in Cuba in 1952. He is married to Zulma R. Labarga, and they have two daughters. He arrived in the United States at the age of 11 where he initially lived with his family in Pahokee, Florida. He graduated from Forest Hill High School in West Palm Beach in 1972 and received his B.A. (1976) and J.D. (1979) from the University of Florida. Justice Labarga began his legal career in 1979 as an Assistant Public Defender with the Public Defender's Office in West Palm Beach, assigned to the appellate, misdemeanor and felony trial divisions. In 1982 he joined the

State Attorney's Office in West Palm Beach, where he tried cases ranging from theft to homicide. In 1987 he joined the firm of Cone, Wagner, Nugent, Roth, Romano & Ericksen, P.A., and specialized in personal injury trial work. In 1992 Justice Labarga participated in founding the law firm of Roth, Duncan & Labarga, P.A., in West Palm Beach, where he continued to specialize in personal injury litigation and criminal defense. Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Justice Labarga to the Circuit Court of the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, in and for Palm Beach County, in 1996. In that capacity he served in the family, civil and criminal divisions. He also served as the administrative judge of the civil division. In December 2008 Justice Labarga was appointed by Governor Charlie Crist to the Fourth District Court of Appeal. On January 6, 2009, he took office on the Florida Supreme Court after appointment by Governor Crist. He is the 84th Justice to take office at the Florida Supreme Court since statehood was granted in 1845. On July 1, 2014, he became the 56th Chief Justice of Florida -- the first Cuban American to lead the state judicial branch. He held that office for two terms until June 2018, the first chief justice to serve consecutive terms in a century.

<https://www.floridasupremecourt.org/Justices/Justice-Jorge-Labarga>

2nd District Court of Appeal - Merit Retention

The purpose of Florida's District Courts of Appeal is to provide the opportunity for thoughtful review of decisions of lower tribunals by multi-judge panels. District Courts of Appeal correct harmful errors and ensure that decisions are consistent with our rights and liberties. This process contributes to the development, clarity, and consistency of the law.

Term: 6 Years, Salary: \$157,976

Judge Patricia J. Kelly, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Kelly was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Jeb Bush in 2001.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Judge-Patricia-J.-Kelly>

Judge Nelly N. Khouzam, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Khouzam was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Charlie Crist in August 2008.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Judge-Nelly-Khouzam>

Judge Suzanne Labrit, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Labrit was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Ron DeSantis in July 2020.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Judge-Suzanne-Labrit>

Judge Matthew C. "Matt" Lucas, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Lucas was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Rick Scott in December 2014.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Judge-Matthew-C.-Lucas>

Chief Judge Robert Morris, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Morris was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Charlie Crist in 2009.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Chief-Judge-Robert-Morris>

Judge Stevan T. Northcutt, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Northcutt was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Lawton Chiles Jr. in January 1997.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Judge-Stevan-T.-Northcutt>

Judge John K. Stargel, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Stargel was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Ron DeSantis in July 2020.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Judge-John-K.-Stargel>

Judge Craig C. Villanti, FL 2nd District Court of Appeal-Retention

Florida Bar Bio: Villanti was appointed to the Florida Second District Court of Appeals by Gov. Jeb Bush in February 2003.

<https://www.2dca.org/Judges/Judge-Craig-C.-Villanti>



Pinellas Voter Guide – Local Races General Election – November 8, 2022

[Pinellas Board of County Commissioners District 2 – At Large](#)
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Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

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: \$104,725

County Commission District 2 - At Large

Brian Scott



Party:Rep

Campaign Website: <http://votebrianscott.com>

Campaign Email: brian@votebrianscott.com

Campaign Phone: 727-201-5472

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

Education: 1986 Graduated Seminole High School, 1990 AA Degree St. Pete College, 1994 - 1998 Attended USF, Studied Business

Professional Experience: 2008 - Present, President/Owner of Escot Bus Lines, LLC, 1998 - 2000 President Florida Motorcoach Association, 2005 - 2007 Chairman United Motorcoach Association, 2008 - 2010 Chairman International Motorcoach Group, 2006 - 2016 Board Member Global Passenger Network, 2018 - Present, President TRAX Insurance, LTD., Leadership Pinellas Graduate 2009

Public Service: Board Member - Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, Board Member & Vice Chairman - Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged, Board Member - Citizens Advisory Committee Forward Pinellas, Board Member - Parks and Conservation Advisory Board

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/vote4brianscott/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/brianscottfl>

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? To bring common sense business decision making to the Pinellas County Commission. Less government is better government, lower taxes are better than higher taxes, and more freedom is better than less freedom. Focus on economic development and affordability by lowering taxes, reducing regulations that hold businesses back, improving transportation infrastructure including re-envisioning transit services delivery, and enacting term limits.

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? Greater emphasis on down payment assistance. For new multi-family rental projects, consider a public land use model where the county continues to own the land for new development, reducing the real estate tax burden to the improvements only, ensuring the property does not go to market rate after its first 15 to 30 years, which happens with privately owned land. The county can also streamline the permitting process to make it less expensive and faster to complete projects.

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? Local government is closest to the people, best understands resident's needs, and local challenges, and opportunities. Home Rule does not allow for complete autonomy to local government and cannot conflict with state or federal law. Elected officials need to ensure constituents have a voice in the process, and as a business owner, reducing regulations to encourage regional commerce, competitiveness, and innovation that create more, less expensive consumer options in the marketplace are essential

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections? Harden our infrastructure, diversify our energy sources, ensure adequate water resources, and educate the community on ways of reducing waste in their personal lives, and on energy savings/reduction strategies in their homes and businesses.

Among a great number of community needs, how would you prioritize competing funding priorities? What would be your top funding priorities? Public health and safety, Economic development, Transportation infrastructure, Water quality, Affordable Housing, Quality of life

Patricia Gerard



Party: Dem

Campaign Website: <http://gerardforpinellas.com>

Campaign Email: patgerard2022@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 727-422-3912

Campaign Mailing Address: 2308 Seton Lane Largo, FL 33774

Education: MA - Rehabilitation Counseling, BA- Psychology, University of South Florida

Professional Experience: 40 years in human services, mainly administration. Mental illness, victim advocacy, domestic violence, children and families.

Public Service: Elected in 2000 to Largo City Commission. Served as Mayor 2006-2014. Elected to County Commission - 2014,

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PatGerardforCountyCommission>

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? Serving in local elected office is a labor of love for me. I feel that I have a lot to offer my constituents, including my experience in human services and in elected office. I have excellent relationships with other elected officials and have served on many boards and committees that have given me insight into some of the more complex issues we face as electeds. Two compelling issues for me to continue to work on are the cost of housing in our area and transportation alternatives.

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? I am a strong advocate for affordable and workforce housing and have supported an aggressive use of the Penny for Pinellas funding that we have set aside, as well as for diverting some of the ARPA funds to this use. We have funded 9 affordable housing

projects in the last 2 years and have several more in the works that will soon come to the commission for approval. In addition, the county utilizes state and federal sources to provide funds for maintenance and repair of existing homes.

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? In recent years, the Legislature has increased efforts to preempt home rule, making it difficult at times for local governments to reflect the will of the people to shape their own community. The inability of local governments to regulate short-term rentals and home-based businesses are two examples of preemptions that directly impact our constituents and create nuisances in their neighborhoods over which we have very little control.

How will you balance the demands for economic development against the impact of rising sea levels and the need for environmental protections? Pinellas County is "ground zero" for the impact of sea level rise and it must be considered in any development decisions that we make. Our natural environment is a large part of what attracts investments here and we must protect it. To do so, we must direct growth away from sensitive areas, preserve green space, and focus residential growth around transit and employment corridors to reduce CO2 emissions.

Among a great number of community needs, how would you prioritize competing funding priorities? What would be your top funding priorities? The majority of what the County Commission oversees is infrastructure; roads, bridges, sidewalks, sewers, stormwater management, parks, solid waste, and utilities. Those must be our highest priorities. Delaying maintenance makes repair much more expensive. The county also has a commitment to several physical and behavioral health programs that are important. Priorities shift, but this year I believe we should focus on the growing need for affordable and workforce housing.

6th Circuit State Attorney

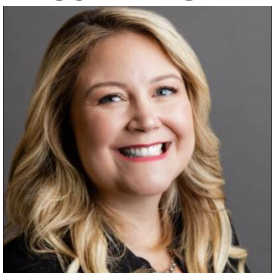
The State Attorney is responsible for representing the State of Florida in criminal proceedings before county and circuit courts. The State Attorney conducts legal proceedings against individuals charged with crimes that occur in the judicial circuit that the State Attorney serves. There are 20 Judicial Circuits in Florida. The Sixth Judicial Circuit is comprised of Pinellas and Pasco counties. It is the job of the State Attorney and Assistant State Attorneys to review charges and complaints to determine whether the facts warrant prosecution, to determine what criminal charges to file, interview witnesses and victims, litigate pre-trial motions, and prepare and try criminal cases.

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$192,105

Click link to view Sept. 20th, 2022 State Attorney 6th Judicial Circuit (Pinellas/Pasco) Virtual Candidate Forum <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eKV9mf9I6Tw&t=425s> with Bruce Bartlett and Allison Miller.

Allison Miller



Party: Dem

Campaign Website: <http://www.MillerforStateAttorney.com>

Campaign Email: allison@MillerforStateAttorney.com

Campaign Phone: 321-945-7615

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 18001 Clearwater, FL 33762

Education: B.A. in 2005 from the University of Notre Dame; J.D. in 2008 from FSU College of Law

Professional Experience: 13 years as an Assistant Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender for the Sixth Circuit; currently in private practice with the law firm Ripley Whisenhunt, PLLC doing capital defense across the state

Public Service: 13 years as an Assistant Public Defender for the Office of the Public Defender for the Sixth Circuit; I also worked for the Office of the Public Defender for the Second Circuit in Tallahassee during law school

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MillerForStateAttorney>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/AFMiller2021>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/millerforstateattorney/>

Why are you the best candidate for this position? I have been working in the trenches as a public defender for 13 years. Supervising offices. Defending people charged with everything from misdemeanors to capital crimes. I have also been a victim of violent crime. And most fundamental to who I am and what I stand for, I am a mom. As State Attorney, I will bring all that I have learned as a public defender, victim advocate, instructor, neighbor, wife, friend, and mom to make our community fairer and safer.

How will you approach prosecution under the state's abortion laws? A prosecutor's role is to promote justice, safety, and well-being of the people and communities she serves. As jurists and lawmakers here in Florida mount an all-out assault on our fundamental rights, I'm more committed than ever in the fight against the blatant criminalization of women, and as State Attorney, will not prosecute providers, doctors, or those who access reproductive health services in our jurisdiction. Reproductive freedoms are an economic and human rights imperative.

How do you intend to modernize the State Attorney Office and resolve issues such as staff shortages and huge caseloads? We are going to stop prosecuting things intended to criminalize homelessness, poverty, drug addiction and mental illness, and focus on prosecuting the crimes that need to be prosecuted to keep us all safe. For example, my office will not be prosecuting simple possession of marijuana, thereby freeing up the cost and man hours currently expended to prosecute marijuana. I am also actively recruiting women and people of color, two groups completely overlooked in leadership, to work at the SAO.

How do you propose to reform the State Attorney Office with respect to non-violent offender prosecutions? Currently, the SAO's focus is entirely on accountability with very little attention to prevention. I believe there should be a greater focus on prevention to reduce the necessity for accountability. Incarcerating offenders for low level non-violent crimes, often related to the offender's own mental illness, drug dependency, poverty, etc., serves only to grow rates of recidivism and specifically recidivism that leads to violent crime. I want to be in the business of solving problems.

Do you believe there is a need to address systemic discrimination in the criminal justice system? If yes, what measures would you take? Yes. The current leadership of the State Attorney's Office operates under the "I don't see color" mantra, which is frankly, untrue, and also, never going to correct the existent problems. I am not going to violate the Civil Rights of the defendants I prosecute. I am going to measure racial parity at all angles where prosecutorial discretion is afforded and correct the current imbalances. I am also going to make all of this data publicly available on a dashboard on my website.

What is your approach or criteria with respect to prosecuting juveniles as adults? I believe we share a moral and ethical responsibility to rehabilitate children. I will not prosecute children as adults, unless legally required and of course, reviewing each case on a case-by-case basis. If we put a child in prison, he or she is far more likely to reoffend after release by committing a crime of violence than if the child had not been sent to prison. I believe treating children as children benefits not just the child and his or her family, but keeps the community safer.

Bruce Bartlett



Party: Rep

Campaign Website: <http://www.votebrucebartlett.com/>

Campaign Mailing Address: info@votebrucebartlett.com

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteBruceBartlett>

Why are you the best candidate for this position? Candidate declined to respond

How will you approach prosecution under the state's abortion laws? Candidate declined to respond

How do you intend to modernize the State Attorney Office and resolve issues such as staff shortages and huge caseloads? Candidate declined to respond

How do you propose to reform the State Attorney Office with respect to non-violent offender prosecutions? Candidate declined to respond

Do you believe there is a need to address systemic discrimination in the criminal justice system? If yes, what measures would you take? Candidate declined to respond

What is your approach or *criteria with respect to prosecuting juveniles as adults*? Candidate declined to respond

County Judges

Each county has a county court. The number of county judges varies with the population and caseload of the county. Sometimes referred to as "the people's court," a large part of this court's work deals with traffic citations, misdemeanors and civil disputes involving \$30,000 or less. Judges are selected via nonpartisan election.

Term: 6 Years

Salary: \$ 156,377

County Judge Group 1

Della Cope



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://Della4Judge.com>

Campaign Email: Vote@Della4Judge.com

Campaign Phone: (727)369-6070

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

Education: University of Florida College of Law, Juris Doctor May, 2004; University of Florida, Bachelor of Arts December 2000; Major: English/Minor: German

Professional Experience: Jan. 2019-Present Cope, Zebro & Crawford, P.L., Shareholder, civil plaintiff's litigation and municipal defense; Sept. 2014-Dec. 2018 Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, Senior Associate Counsel, Federal civil rights defense and state court defense; Aug. 2004-Sept. 2014 Pinellas County State Attorney's Office, Assistant State Attorney

Public Service: Active member of the PTA and frequent volunteer at my son's school; SPCA

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/DellaCopeforJudge>

Instagram: http://instagram.com/della_4_judge

Name three personal traits that describe the knowledge and disposition you would bring to the court.

Integrity Patience Experience

Describe how you would manage and prioritize large caseloads. Experience. During my 10 years as an Assistant State Attorney, I managed a large caseload, handling hundreds of felony cases at any given time. I also supervised the entire County Court division, making filing decisions on thousands of cases while also training and supervising over 30 county court attorneys. Through my nearly 18 years of experience, I have become very skilled at time management and prioritization.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury, how recently, what area(s) of the law, and how many cases? I have tried over 70 jury trials, mostly in criminal court as a prosecutor, specializing in Child Abuse, Human Trafficking, and DUI Manslaughter trials. I have tried many non-jury trials, including 23 non-jury civil trials in the last 2 years representing the PCSO. There is a huge difference in jury trials and non-jury trials. Because a County Court Judge presides over a large number of jury trials, it is important that a candidate for County Court Judge has experience in front of a jury.

What is your preferred method of funding the courts in Florida? The issue of Court funding is a matter for the Florida legislature. As a County Court Judge, I will follow any laws regarding funding as set forth by the legislature.

Do you believe all Florida citizens and 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? Many individuals who appear in County Court are not represented by counsel and have little experience in Court; it is therefore a Judge's responsibility to

ensure meaningful access. I have much experience working with unrepresented individuals and understand what it takes to help guide them through the court system with patience and respect. I will use that experience on the bench and work tirelessly to ensure that every person in my courtroom has equal access to justice under the law.

What factors would you consider in granting and setting bail amounts? What do you believe is the primary consideration? I will dutifully follow the law and consider each of the required factors established in FSS 903.046. The purpose of bail is to assure the appearance of the defendant in court and to protect the community. Thus, it is important for the Court to consider severity of the offense, ties to the community, any previous failures to appear, and criminal history. My experience as a prosecutor will aid me in evaluating a fair and lawful bail in every situation.

Megan Roach



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://meganforjudge.com>

Campaign Email: info@meganforjudge.com

Campaign Phone: 727-871-0290

Campaign Mailing Address: 5308 Central Avenue St. Petersburg, FL 33707

Education: Juris Doctor from Stetson University College of Law; Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Minors in Spanish and History from the University of Florida; Graduate of St. Petersburg Catholic High School

Professional Experience: Partner at Zinober, Diana, & Monteverde, PA; St. Petersburg Bar Association, immediate past Chair of the Civil Trial Section; formerly an attorney with Marone Law Group and Albertelli Law; Certified Legal Intern at the Office of the Public Defender for the Sixth Judicial Circuit

Public Service: Former President of the Junior League of St. Petersburg; former Board member for Guardian ad Litem Foundation of Tampa Bay dba Hero to a Child; former President of the Patrick Brett Foundation; Mainsail Art Festival Committee; Drug Free America Foundation Gala Committee

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/meganroachforjudge>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/meganforjudge1>

Instagram: <http://instagram.com/meganroachforjudge>

Name three personal traits that describe the knowledge and disposition you would bring to the court. Hard working, Organized, Passionate - I am hard working and dedicated to putting in the time and effort necessary to ensure that Pinellas County residents have fair and timely access to our Courts. I am organized and well-prepared. I will be able to efficiently handle a large docket of cases without compromising the quality of access to Court for parties or practitioners. I am passionate about protecting our legal system here in Pinellas County and about serving this community where I grew up.

Describe how you would manage and prioritize large caseloads. I have a lot of experience with successfully managing a high-volume caseload as an attorney. Organization is key and preparation is essential. Judges should always come prepared to hearings, having thoroughly read all case materials and case law in advance in order to make the best use of parties' and attorneys' time and resources. In doing so, dockets can move more efficiently, and large caseloads can be managed and handled efficiently without impeding anyone's access to the Courts.

As an attorney, have you tried cases in front of a judge and jury, how recently, what area(s) of the law, and how many cases? I have tried over 200 civil bench trials before judges across Florida from 2013 – 2016, learning from that experience what the most effective strategies are for handling large dockets well. I have tried 5 cases in front of a jury. 3 criminal trials as a Certified Legal Intern in 2012 and 2 week-long civil trials in 2018 and 2019. I have also handled many dispositive Motions, evidentiary hearings, arbitrations, and mediations to resolve matters effectively and efficiently outside of trial.

What is your preferred method of funding the courts in Florida? As long as our Courts are adequately funded, I do not have a preferred method, although diversity of funding is important for all organizations, industries, and institutions.

Do you believe all Florida citizens and 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? The Florida Bar, its members, and the community have done a good job supporting legal aid organizations and clinics to ensure access to the Courts to all

Floridians. Capable attorneys must continue to build upon that to ensure that adequate access to legal help is maintained here in Pinellas.

What factors would you consider in granting and setting bail amounts? What do you believe is the primary consideration? When considering bail, I would consider the factors set forth in Florida Statute 903.046, as required by law. I would consider each of the enumerated factors, which are unfortunately too lengthy to list, as proscribed by the statute. It is imperative that judges follow the law as written. The subject statute requires that judges consider a specific list of factors. The statute does not distinguish which of these factors is primary, so each one of them should be considered each and every time.

Pinellas County School Board

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: \$ 47,085

School Board Member District 3 - At Large

Keesha Benson



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://www.bensonforschoolboard.com>

Campaign Email: info@bensonforschoolboard.com

Campaign Phone: (727)490-8581

Campaign Mailing Address: P.O. Box 16065 St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Education: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) & Master of Social Work (MSW) - UNC Chapel Hill; Master of Business Administration (MBA) & Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Business Administration - Florida A&M University; High School Diploma - Lakewood High School, CAT

Professional Experience: Principal Owner - Providence Group International, LLC.; Lecturer - Rutgers University; Chief Learning and Evaluation Officer - Foundation for a Healthy St. Petersburg; Director, Thrive by Five Pinellas - ELC Pinellas; Manager, Grow Smarter - St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce; Assistant Professor & Faculty Fellow - Temple University

Public Service: Mayoral Appointee - Vice Chair of the South St. Petersburg Community Redevelopment Area (CRA), Citizens Advisory Committee. Former - COQUEBS School Readiness Committee; St. Pete Promise Leadership Committee; Grow Smarter Education and Workforce; Court Appointed Special Advocate; Philadelphia Council for Fathers and Families, etc.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/bensonforschoolboard>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/bensonforschoolboard/>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? Voucher schools accept public funds for private education, or transportation, based on student need. Charter schools are public schools that operate under a monitored performance contract, where they are accountable for academic and financial results. Public schools are publicly funded and available to all students. Students are "zoned" to a specific neighborhood school; or have the option to apply for the District Application Program (lottery) or a Special Assignment to a non-zoned 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? Bring systems leaders, funders, and

community partners to the table to find innovative ways to augment district resources. PCS is one of the largest land owners in Pinellas County and could offer affordable housing in partnership with municipal support as an incentive. I would also advocate for safety, adequate mental and physical health options, pay parity, flexibility, and a transparent understanding of state legislation's impact on district decisions (e.g., raises, curriculum, etc.).

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? There must be a reciprocal sharing of information, clear feedback loops, and continued opportunities for input from school stakeholders. Stakeholders should have transparent access to the curriculum, but that access should not allow censorship of valid educational material. Clear processes and engagement pathways must be in place with opportunities for school stakeholders to meet and discuss issues and work toward collaborative solutions to ensure a quality, safe and equitable education for all.

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? From a disease mitigation standpoint: data dashboards, clear safety plans, and consistent communication. As it relates to active shooters: continued annual safety assessments, increased mental health services and age-appropriate, culturally relevant, trauma informed training. Environmental justice: education and advocacy for communities experiencing negative disparate environmental concerns. Vulnerable youth, staff, and families: inclusive and transparent policies and access to resources.

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? PCS's Strategic Plan includes a focus on equity with excellence for all. The district's equity initiatives cover hiring and professional development; ESSA gaps; EL, ESE, SES resource needs; and ensuring equity in resource allocation across the district. One aspect of equity includes the Bridging the Gap Plan which was created to close the achievement gap between Black students and their peers. Improvement has been shown in some of the key goal areas, while inequities still exist in several.

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? Curriculum should contain age appropriate and culturally-relevant representation of the world that we live in, with historically accurate information from the United States and globally. Curriculum should include life skills, social emotional learning, financial literacy, and experiential learning opportunities where students apply learning to real world situations. It must be robust and engaging, while allowing scaffolding opportunities to meet students' needs and support critical thinking.

Dawn Peters



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://VoteDawnPeters.com>

Campaign Email: VoteDawnPeters@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 7274338630

Campaign Mailing Address: PO Box 20252 St. Petersburg , FL 33742

Education: College degree with additional certifications including: preschool substitute teacher, Personal Trainer, Sports Nutrition

Professional Experience: 15 years in property management of multi family housing, PCS mentor liaison, Personal Trainer and sports nutrition

Public Service: charity event coordinating, volunteer service to veteran & active military, PCS mentor, PTA officer,

Facebook: <http://Facebook.com/VoteDawnPeters>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? 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? Candidate declined to respond

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? Candidate declined to respond

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? Candidate declined to respond

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? Candidate declined to respond

School Board Member District 6 - Single Member

Brian M. Martin



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://votebrianmartin.com>

Campaign Email: Brian@VoteBrianMartin.com

Campaign Phone: 9418124725

Campaign Mailing Address: 5721 Denver St NE St Petersburg, FL 33703

Education: Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering

Professional Experience: As a chemical engineer I have spent the last 14 years designing water treatment and process separation equipment at power plants, refineries, and other industrial facilities. I am an expert at working on difficult problems requiring complex and detailed solutions. I am a team player that has worked with interdisciplinary engineering teams.

Public Service: I grew up as a member of the Boy Scouts surrounded with a culture of volunteering. I am an active member of my children's parent teacher associations and participate in local Keep Pinellas Beautiful cleanups with my family. I think it's important to show our children the benefits of giving back to our community.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteBrianMartin/>

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/votebrianmartin>

Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/votebrianmartin/>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? My understanding is that the private schools that receive vouchers are not under the local supervision of the school board. Charter schools are public schools that operate under a performance contract. Charter schools don't have to follow many regulations surrounding our traditional public schools, but they are monitored by the school board to ensure their academic and financial responsibilities.

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? Florida ranks in the bottom 5 nationally in teacher pay and increasing teacher pay is a legislative effort. School board members can improve the quality of life of our teachers and staff. Mr. Hendricks' promoting a culture of positivity is a great first step. We need to listen to our teachers and make them feel valued. We reduce ancillary paperwork burdens to free up planning time. The board is working to increase pay for bus drivers, which will go a long way in reducing current shortages.

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? Parents informed with curriculum allows them to be a more collaborative part of their child's education. Many of the divisive topics currently in the news are already addressed with current Pinellas County School Board Policy. The best way to address diametrically opposed parental concerns is

to listen to both sides and consider what is best for our students, families, teachers, and staff. Take all views into consideration and make a board decision explaining how and why the decision is made.

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? Our schools have a number of excellent school safety programs in place. Every school has a school resource officer, every school has a number of programs related to the Sandy Hook Promise, and every school has a team collaborating with the local police department trained to address concerns, threats, and warnings. The biggest deficiency is in the access to mental health services. The number of counselors, social workers, and psychologists are far below recommended standards and need increased.

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? The district has a detailed bridging the gap plan in place to address the systemic gaps in education faced by our black and brown students. Over the last five years we've seen tremendous growth in our graduation rates reducing the gap from 30% to 7%. There is still work to be done, but we are seeing great success. Other areas of the plan have not been as successful and we need to refocus our efforts.

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? There are many life skills that our graduates may initially struggle to possess, but money management is vitally important for financial stability. Looking at the differences between renting and owning a home and the financial hardship that short term loans may cause. Early investments can help accrue wealth over time, especially if consistent contributions are made. Many adults struggle with these skills and students may not have role models in the community or future workplace.

Stephanie Meyer



Party: N

Campaign Website: <http://www.votestephaniemeyer.com/>

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/VoteStephanieMeyer/>

What is your understanding of the distinction among schools receiving vouchers, charter schools, and traditional public schools? 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? Candidate declined to respond

Recent health and safety concerns currently have a high profile in schools. What additional measures are needed, if any, to protect the health and safety of students, teachers, and staff? Candidate declined to respond

What do you know about current plans to provide equitable education resources for students throughout our district? What has been tried in the past, and was it successful in your opinion? Candidate declined to respond

What topic(s) do you feel are absent or deficient in our current school curriculum? Candidate declined to respond

City of Dunedin Commissioner, Seat 2

The City of Dunedin operates under a Commission-Manager form of government that combines the political leadership of elected officials in the form of a City Commission with the managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. Four Commissioners and a Mayor are elected by the registered voters of Dunedin under a staggered system that ensures that the city will have a degree of experience serving on the Commission at all times. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to 9 volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all eight City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$11,500/year

Rob Walker



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: MBA, San Diego State University; MS Chemistry, San Diego State University; BS Chemistry, University of the Pacific

Professional Experience: Owner/Operator of a Veteran Owned Small Business (VOSB) focused on Defense, Aerospace and Veteran Affairs; Defense Executive running large and small businesses, managing technical programs, budgets in excess of \$500M, hiring and recruiting talented and highly skilled workforce. USCG Licensed Captain

Public Service: 30+ Year Career in the United States Navy. Navy Commander serving on Nuclear Fast Attack Submarines, Carrier Strike Groups. Community volunteer; Rotary Member, Lifetime VFW Member; Endorsed by the Fire Fighters Local #2327 and the Sierra Club

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Facebook www.facebook.com/robwalkerfordunedin

Instagram: www.instagram.com/robertwalker4dunedin

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) I am a Leader and a Fiscal Conservative. I am a retired US Navy Submarine Commander, having served our Country with distinction. I am the owner and operator of a Veteran Owned Small Business providing management and leadership solutions for Defense and Aerospace companies through management of large technical programs, managing budgets and diverse workforces. I have made a career out of service.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Budget Management and City Transparency are the most important issues based on feedback that I have received. Through the course of my meeting with the residents I have heard their frustration about how large budget decisions are being made by the city without input from the residents. We have a responsibility to communicate with the residents. I will bring the Government back to the people.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) Climate change is causing water levels to rise which is presenting a significant impact to our infrastructure. As water levels rise, land-based run off has more access points to further impair our local waterways through fertilizer and pesticides. As water levels rise, our storm water infrastructure is struggling to keep up. I will work to ensure that we make an investment in our infrastructure.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) I believe that local decisions need to be locally made and I will fight to maintain home rule and limit the State influence on decisions that are uniquely Dunedin. In 2022, legislators attempted to extend their

preemption authority far beyond vacation rentals. Those efforts were defeated. We need continue to be vigilant to ensure that Dunedin decisions are made in Dunedin.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) I strongly support Public-Private partnerships where each entity has an equitable stake in projects that provide affordable housing for the community. Dunedin is not an entitlement city, and subsequently will need to apply to Pinellas County for highly competitive tax credits to fully fund these types of projects. I will work with the developers, county and city officials to address this issue.

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) The largest infrastructure need is the replacement of the Main bridge and Tidal Relief bridge. The project will be conducted by Pinellas County in conjunction with Florida Department of Transportation. I will work with County Officials to ensure that the concerns of Dunedin are addressed. There needs to be coordination to ensure there is no impact to residents' access or interruption to services.

Stephanie D. Joines



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: Virginia Tech, Double Major in Marketing Management and Communication Studies, minor in English

Professional Experience: Realtor, 2012-present; 22 years in banking to include management, loan origination and underwriting and investment analysis and sales.

Public Service: President Visit Dunedin, First VP Dunedin Council of Organizations, Past President DDMA, Past VP Dunedin Showcase Arts Foundation, previous service on City of Dunedin committees

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Facebook www.facebook.com/StephanieforDunedinCityCommissioner

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) My Board positions for multiple organizations and 22 years in the banking industry gives me the knowledge to make sound financial decisions. 20 years of leadership on various Dunedin committees allows me to have a true understanding of our citizens' desires. As the only commissioner with a full-time job, I have insight and understanding of our small businesses and workers and their needs.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) The top two challenges are affordable housing and compatible development. I will discuss my passion for affordable housing in more detail in a separate question. Regarding development, it is critical that the city staff and commissioners work with developers to ensure their commitment to maintaining the small-town, eclectic atmosphere of our city. Our character and charm must be protected.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) I support the city's environmental action plan and the Ready for 100 initiative to run city operations on 100% clean, renewable energy by 2035. To achieve our goals, the city must collaborate with businesses and residents to require sustainable landscaping, increase green space setbacks, sponsor area clean-ups, eliminate the use of synthetic chemicals and reduce use of single-use plastics, etc.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) The balance of power between state and local governments is absolutely not addressing local issues. Even though our state's constitution grants home rule, the state too often preempts the local government's authority. Since the local government is closest to the residents, it is important that they retain enough power to remain reflective of our Citizen's desires.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) As a Director for the Pinellas Realtor Assn, I will forge partnerships with the County to promote projects in north county. Working at local and state levels, I am discovering successful projects in other communities so we can mirror those initiatives in Dunedin. I would explore options of rezoning the Coke plant into a mixed-use development and an analysis of zoning density issues and ADUs.

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) I would advocate the county to secure grants to fund replacement of the functionally obsolete bridge in accordance with plans that were completed after consultant analysis and citizen input for a mid-level bridge. I would ensure the county honors their agreement to underground electricity on the causeway and support planned FDOT improvements to the intersection of Causeway Blvd and Alternate 19.

City of Dunedin Commissioner, Seat 4

The City of Dunedin operates under a Commission-Manager form of government that combines the political leadership of elected officials in the form of a City Commission with the managerial experience of an appointed local government manager. Four Commissioners and a Mayor are elected by the registered voters of Dunedin under a staggered system that ensures that the city will have a degree of experience serving on the Commission at all times. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to 9 volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all eight City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$11,500/year

Jeff Gow



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: BS degree, Economics Florida State University

Professional Experience: Jeff has over 20 years experience in the financial services industry including CEO of Marion County Credit Union and Director of Consumer Loans with GTE Financial.

Public Service: Jeff is currently in his first term as a City of Dunedin Commissioner and running for reelection. Prior to his term as a Commissioner, Jeff has a history of public service and civic engagement including teaching at Dunedin Middle School, and being an active member, board member and president of several non profit organizations.

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What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Jeff is a current City of Dunedin Commissioner seeking a second term. Jeff was born and raised in Dunedin graduating Dunedin High School. He has a bachelor's degree in Economics from Florida State University. He has over 20 years' experience in the financial services industry including CEO and Director of Consumer Loans. He has also been involved on many community boards and committees.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Our biggest challenges are maintaining our charm, character and uniqueness and affordable housing. We have reduced building heights from 7 stories to 3 stories in our downtown and an overlay in our South Dunedin district to ensure development or redevelopment is to scale. We need to look at smart intentional growth that increases our housing stock and reduces the need for cars.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) Signed on to the Ready for 100 campaign to transition to clean renewable energy, Developed our Dunedin Resiliency Environmental Action Master Plan to make Dunedin resilient and sustainable. We have a solar rebate

program to encourage residents to go with solar, provide incentives to developers to include resilient and sustainable features, purchased 125 acres for preservation and much more.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) Dunedin is community driven and together work hard to remain delightfully different. Our success is measured by the residents who love where they live and the other cities that want to be like us. The preemptions by the state removes our ability define ourselves. I have received the Home Rule Hero Award the last two years for my advocacy for Dunedin through engagement with our state legislators.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) Affordable housing is complicated. Recently Dunedin used ARPA money for an affordable housing project. We are working with the county and state for grant opportunity. The competition for grant money is tough being awarded to only one project in the county and the project is contingent on the grant. There is little land left in Dunedin to work with so we have to be creative working with others.

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) We got the state to widen their entrance to the state park to reduce traffic along the causeway. We are waiting for state funding on a new bridge which will allow bike lanes to encourage other forms of transportation. We are working with Forward Pinellas for a redesign of the intersection at alt. 19 and Curlew Rd to include bicycle infrastructure and move more vehicles on and off the causeway.

Jeffrey Michael Miller



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: BS in Business Administration

Professional Experience: I own several businesses in Dunedin dealing with insurance, property management, commercial property owner, licensed Real estate Agent, Previously work for Fortune 500 companies in Finance

Public Service: Dunedin Cares, VFW Auxiliary Member Post 2550, Honor Flight Volunteer, wounded warriors, Friends of the Library, Dunedin Chamber of Commerce, Dunedin Merchants Association, Friends of Island Parks, Dunedin History Museum, Dunedin High School booster

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Campaign Phone: 7278041652

Facebook www.Facebook.com/jeffmillerfordunedin

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) Candidate declined to respond

How will you prioritize and address current infrastructure needs related to the Dunedin Causeway? (400 character limit) I would start by evaluating all of the needs and then rank them in importance based on safety and then evaluate what we can do to maximize our tax payers money while listening to our citizens input and hearing them.

City of Largo Commissioner, Seat 2

The City Council consists of the mayor and six council members elected at large by all qualified electors of the City. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to the various volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$13,453.60/year

Curtis A. Holmes



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Professional Experience: see attached

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Campaign Phone: 727-200-1967

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Until semi-retiring I spent 45 years in the insurance business starting out as an agent, then a general agent, agency owner and finally a third-party administrator. governmental; previously I served 11 years on the Largo Commission. I also served on the following advisory boards; finance, audit committee, code enforcement, environmental services/public works. and library.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) Money and money. A money crunch in municipal government is not unusual and that is why having a detailed understanding of governmental income and spending is extremely important to any/all elected decision makers. I have read many budgets including cafr's and pension portfolio's and understand them thoroughly.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) There are few subjects that I have studied more than "climate change." I have read reports by the deniers and the gloom and doomers, both have merit but the jury is still out on both. Pity the 400 character limit because I had a detailed response ready to post.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) I think the state has a tendency of thinking one size fits all then enforcing it with an iron fist but I suspect I know why...very few members of the Florida House or Senate have served on a municipal or county dais. The best option, thus far, to address the issue is through the Florida league of cities.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) According to former property appraiser Pam Duvoe, Largo already has the highest percentage of affordable housing in the county but we should continue working with Habitat for Humanity and subsidizing some home loans.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) If Largo could get 8th Ave

SW four laned between Clwr/Largo Rd and Seminole Blvd, and redirect W. Bay traffic there, we could do to West Bay redevelopment what Dunedin did when they moved SR580, make W. Bay two lanes, pedestrian friendly and 15 mph speed limit. this would be the beginning of a dynamic downtown Largo but until something like that is done, we'll continue being a pass-through to the beaches.

Maria Kadeu



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: Salisbury University, Salisbury, MD - BA in Political Science; BA in Philosophy, 1995

Professional Experience: More than a decade in nonprofit grant writing, grants oversight, budget management, advisory board management, leadership, and development, long term and strategic planning, followed by twelve years as a Realtor in Pinellas County through several market shifts, protecting property owners rights. I am solution-based, and strive to be out-of-the-box.

Public Service: 25 years of public service, from Army National Guard post-college as combat medic & mental health specialist, followed by extensive community involvement in both St. Petersburg and Largo: various advisory boards, leadership programs, citizens academy, charter review, affordable housing committee, Rotary Club of Largo, Pinellas Ed Fndn, Largo HS SAC

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Campaign Email: maria4largo@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: 727-687-8941

Facebook www.facebook.com/mariakadaulargocitycommissionseat2

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) I have been involved with public service for decades and offer diversity and a well-rounded background with work, military, and community leadership experience while raising my two girls who were deeply rooted in Largo's parks & rec offerings, and as a wife to a firefighter husband. As I proudly promote the City as a Realtor, I am passionate and knowledgeable on issues concerning residents today.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) 1. Rising property insurance rates. Continued investment in stormwater management, floodwater planning, as well greater city-county partnerships will help lower our CRS score. 2. Increasing influx of homeless who are brought to Safe Harbor in east Largo from other communities who end up straining resources in other areas. Outstanding partnerships already exist but should be reviewed and expanded.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) This issue will continue to be of major concern in the coming years. Largo has spent millions of dollars in stormwater management and infrastructure projects that increase our capacity and reduce inflow of rainwater and groundwater into our sanitary sewer system and overflows caused by rain events. Enhanced city-county partnerships are needed, as well as education to residents on home continuity.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) Largo leaders have done a tremendous job to hold strong our home rule status. The ability to make changes without prior state approval is incredibly important as our city grows and local government best understands local needs. As home rule doesn't allow for complete self-governing, the balance of power between city-legislature-governor is an integral, fluid relationship that must be maintained.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) I support decent, budget-friendly housing, as well as support the complementary industries of transportation and childcare. Due to our Affordable Housing Committee, Largo increased its Home Improvement and Home Repair Program, expanded partnerships with local agencies to provide connections to higher paying jobs, and increased the tiered maximum amounts for down payment assistance Sold-on-Largo.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) Largo is the 4th largest city in Tampa Bay with 83,000 residents; we are growing stronger with targeted annexation. Our residents and existing and future businesses deserve a thriving, vibrant downtown center, one anchored by the new Horizon West Bay city hall complex. I envision a safe, walkable, multi-modal downtown area filled with quality restaurants, specialty shops, breweries, retail, and a 300-space parking garage with EV charging stations. It is important to vote YES on the charter amendment re: Horizon's 5-year lease extension so we can attract quality tenants.

City of Largo Commissioner, Seat 5

The City Council consists of the mayor and six council members elected at large by all qualified electors of the City. The City Commission is empowered to create ordinances, set municipal fees, enter into contracts and issue bonds to finance public projects. In addition, the City Commission is responsible for the approval of an annual budget and for appointing citizen members to the various volunteer Boards/Committees that help advise the city. The Chief Executive Officer, currently the City Manager oversees all City departments and the annual budget.

Term: 4 Years

Salary: \$13,453.60/year

Kai Rush



Party: N

Biographical Info:

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Campaign Mailing Address: 1449 Regina Drive W Largo FL 33770

Public Service: Largo Recreation, Parks & Arts Advisory Board Chair, Keep Pinellas Beautiful Pinellas trail Steward, Hurricane Shelter volunteer, City of Largo & Safety harbor volunteer

Professional Experience: 22 veteran teacher and professor, 3D printing & Educational Consultant business, National teacher trainer, Author-five books, published poet & academic articles

Education: Ph.D & MS- Instructional technology, Education, BS-Social Science Education

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) I have been a teacher and professor for 22 years, which I bring a unique expertise of education and technology to the board. Secondly, as the chair of the Recreation, Parks and Arts Advisory board, I care about green spaces and preserving them. We have surveyed many people throughout the years and the one thing people love about Largo is its green spaces!

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) We are in a fight to save our green spaces in Largo. There must be an advocate on the board to make sure to preserve green spaces for our future residents. With all the new development we have in Largo of residential buildings, we must make sure to provide the resources needed to keep our city clean. We must keep Largo Clean and Green!

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) We, also, must protect our green spaces that provide us clean air, stormwater treatment and a place for wildfire to thrive. Most of all, Largo must be partners with Clearwater and other cities to save our beaches and ocean life. Tourism is our biggest industry and we must protect what draws tourists. As a green business owner, I am doing my best to teach people to leave less of a carbon footprint.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined?

(400 character limit) This simple case can be seen in our roadways. Our roadways are packed with traffic and the state says that our roadways are fine. Tampa Bay has some of the deadliest roads in the nation. We, Largo, need to protect our drivers, bus riders, pedestrians, school children and bikers with safer roads. We need to be able to tell the state what our residents need, not the other way around.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) We must think about subsidizing rental owners to offset their cost to bring down rental prices. Right now, we have a waiting list for affordable housing vouchers. Instead we should help rental owners subsidize their cost, so they can bring down their rates for affordable housing. This way we help people stay in their rental homes and apartments and help new renters find affordable housing.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) I love the Horizon building and think it will put Largo on the map! This is a Green-certified building with solar panels, charging stations for cars and a rainwater collection system. It is not just a city hall, but a meeting place with shopping and restaurants. Not to mention, a parking garage, which is needed for our famous, big events that draws people from all over Tampa Bay! It will make Largo the place to be after the beach!

Donna Holck



Party: N

Biographical Info:

Education: SEMINOLE HIGH SCHOOL, ST. PETERSBURG COLLEGE

Professional Experience: Nail technician, Salon Owner, Educator at Lorraine Academy and Unique Nails, Inc., Owner of DGH Tax Consultants

Public Service: Largo City Commissioner, Board of Directors COC (Homeless leadership board) Board of Directors for My Hope Chest

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Campaign Email: donnaholck@gmail.com

Campaign Phone: (727)743-6601

What in your professional and personal experience makes you the best candidate for this position? (400 character limit) Being in the beauty business for 35 years prepared me to be a listener. I feel it is important to listen to the Citizens. Their wants and needs are the reason for this position. While I have been a Commissioner, I try my best to reach a compromise on situations that have several components. I believe in being fair and balanced.

Describe the top two priority challenges facing your municipality. What specific actions would you propose to address these challenges? (400 character limit) I feel two of the challenges our City faces are affordable/workforce housing and homeless population. As a city we have continued to offer tax initiatives to builders to bring in more affordable housing. This is something I have always supported. Homelessness has progressed since Covid. It needs to be addressed to assist Veterans, families, elderly and those that are mentally ill.

How would you address the challenges to your municipality caused by climate change? (400 character limit) As a Commissioner we voted for 100% sustainability by 2035. We hired a sustainability coordinator and work closely with her and will continue to do so.

With respect to preemption and home rule, is the relationship and balance of power between state and local governments in Florida appropriately addressing local issues? If not, how should it be redefined? (400 character limit) We as a city have stayed on top of this issue. Our City is a member of the FL League of Cities. We have actively been pursuing & addressing the importance of Home Rule. The state does not know what is best for our city & it should not have the ability to make decisions for our citizens. Largo Commissioners went to Tallahassee prior to the Legislative Session to talk with our Representatives.

How do you propose to work with city government, the community, and developers to address the need for, and fund, affordable housing? (400 character limit) Continue partnerships with the county and offering tax incentives to developers. If we all work together, we can continue in a forward motion of progress.

What is your vision for developing downtown Largo into a community center with restaurants and retail space? What do you see as a top priority for that project? (400 character limit) The downtown area has always been on my Radar. I have said since day one, build it and they will come, as in The Field of Dreams. We are finally going to be a destination city. Live, Work and Play! Shop, have dinner, go to a performance at Central Park Performing Arts. There will be plenty of parking with the parking garage for other events. I am really excited about the progress we have made in the downtown area and looking forward for more to come.



Voter Guide – State & Local Ballot Measures General Election – November 8, 2022

State of Florida Constitutional Amendments

Amendment 1- Limit on increased property assessment for flood improvements.

Ballot Language:

"Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution, effective January 1, 2023, to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to prohibit the consideration of any change or improvement made to real property used for residential purposes to improve the property's resistance to flood damage in determining the assessed value of such property for ad valorem taxation purposes."

Synopsis:

Many home improvement projects ultimately increase the assessed value of a home, which means the homeowners pay higher property taxes. This amendment would allow the Florida Legislature to pass laws that would make improvements intended to protect homes from flood damage exempt from higher assessments. The amendment is in response to the threat to Florida homes from rising sea levels.

[Click here to read House Bill 1377 \(2021\) - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

Supporters: Florida Legislature (originator of Amendment)

Opponents: no known opponents

A Yes Vote Would:

- Authorize the Florida Legislature to pass laws that would exempt flood resistance improvements from contributing to increases in property assessments. That means property owners wouldn't pay higher taxes because of those improvements.
- Exempt flood resistance improvements such as "elevating structures, filling basements, and waterproofing," as well as improvements "to allow for stormwater runoff, waterproofing basements, installing check valves capable of preventing water backup, and elevating furnaces, heaters, and electrical panels."
- Take effect Jan. 1, 2023.

A No Vote Would:

- Maintain the status quo, which means homeowners' flood resistance improvements might result in higher property assessments and higher taxes.

Amendment 2- Abolish the state Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)

Ballot Language:

"Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to abolish the Constitution Revision Commission, which meets at 20-year intervals and is scheduled to next convene in 2037, as a method of submitting proposed amendments or revisions to the State Constitution to electors of the state for approval. This amendment does not affect the ability to revise or amend the State Constitution through citizen initiative, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission, or legislative joint resolution."

Synopsis:

An amendment to Florida's Constitution can get on the ballot several ways, including through a vote by the Legislature, a citizen-led petition drive, constitutional convention, the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission and the Florida Constitution Revision Commission (CRC), which convenes every 20 years and whose 37 members are appointed by the governor, legislative leaders and the chief justice of the Florida Supreme court. This amendment would abolish the CRC, which last convened in 2017-18 and placed eight amendments on the 2018 ballot, several of

which bundled different amendments into one question. The Citizen Initiative process for amending the Constitution has already been significantly restricted by the state Legislature in recent years.

[Click here to read Senate Bill 204 \(2021\) - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

Supporters: Florida Legislature (originator of Amendment)

Opponents: League of Women Voters of Florida

A Yes Vote Would:

- Eliminate the Constitution Revision Commission, which was created in 1968 and meets every 20 years to consider changes to the state Constitution.
- Leaves four ways for a constitutional amendment to get on the ballot: through the Legislature, a citizen-led initiative, constitutional convention, or the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission.

A No Vote Would:

- Preserve the state's Constitution Revision Commission and its ability to present amendments to the voters every 20 years.

Amendment 3- New \$50,000 homestead exemption for certain public service employees

Ballot Language:

"Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption for nonschool levies of up to \$50,000 of the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. This amendment shall take effect January 1, 2023."

Synopsis:

This amendment would authorize the state Legislature to create a new homestead exemption of up to \$50,000 for certain public service employees, including "classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and members of the Florida National Guard." The exemption means property owners in these professions can subtract \$50,000 from the assessed value of their property, which will reduce their local property tax bills. The exemption would be in addition to the standard \$50,000 homestead exemptions Floridians already receive on their primary residence. The new exemption would not apply to assessments for school taxes. The Legislature has already passed a companion bill that, if the constitutional amendment is passed by 60% of Florida's voters, will create the new exemption and make it effective on Jan. 1, 2023.

[Click here to read House Bill 1 \(2022\) - The Florida Senate \(flsenate.gov\)](#)

Supporters: Florida Legislature (originator of Amendment)

Opponents: League of Women Voters of Florida

A Yes Vote Would:

- Allow the Legislature to create a new, homestead exemption of up to \$ 50,000 for people in certain public service professions
- Exclude the exemption from assessments for school property taxes.
- Cost local governments \$85.9 million in lost revenue for fiscal year 2023-24, growing to \$96 million in fiscal year 2026-27. The state would make up for the losses in Florida's 29 "fiscally constrained" counties, primarily rural counties in the Panhandle and South Florida's interior.
- Trigger a companion bill that puts the new exemption into effect as of Jan. 1, 2023.

A No Vote Would:

- Reject giving lawmakers the ability to create a new homestead exemption for certain public service occupations of up to \$50,000
- Have no effect on property tax revenue collected by local governments.
- Render moot the bill that would have created the new homestead exemption if the amendment had passed.

Local Ballot Measures

Clearwater Charter Amendment: Redevelopment of 2 government-owned properties located west of Osceola Ave in the downtown core

Ballot Language:

Shall the Clearwater City Charter be amended to allow the City, instead of selling the vacant City Hall and a portion of the former Harborview sites to the highest bidder at a public auction, to sell the properties to Gotham Property Acquisitions and The DeNunzio Group; who will create approximately 600 apartments and 158-key hotel, retail, entertainment, restaurants and cultural uses available to all Clearwater residents, as further described and limited by City Ordinance 9597-22?

Synopsis:

The region generally referred to as Downtown Clearwater is designated as a community redevelopment area. This area includes the waterfront sites of the former City Hall and former Harborview Center, which are currently unoccupied/vacant. After reviewing proposals from three development teams to acquire and redevelop these two sites (known as the Bluffs), the City Council unanimously selected to work with Gotham Property Acquisitions and The DeNunzio Group. The proposal includes a hotel, retail space, commercial space, two twin residential towers, and an underground parking garage. The proposal also includes the preservation of oak trees and the creation of a pocket park and plaza. The properties would connect to the new amphitheater and reimagined Coachman Park.

Except under certain conditions, the City's Charter requires real property to be sold to the highest bidder, typically at a public auction. While the City can impose terms or restrictions relating to such bidding, it is possible that a public auction could result in the purchase of these properties by an entity who would leave the properties vacant or use the properties in a way that is undesirable for Clearwater residents. Therefore, instead of conducting a public auction selling to the highest bidder, this amendment to the City Charter is proposed to allow the city to enter into a purchase and development agreement with Gotham Property Acquisitions and The DeNunzio Group. This makes the identity of the purchasers and property plans known. The proposed amendment only confers this authority as related to these two properties (former City Hall and former Harborview Center).

A Yes Vote Would: Amend the City Charter to allow the sale of the two identified properties to Gotham Property Acquisitions and The DeNunzio Group for development into a mixed-use area of commercial and residential purposes. This allows the City to sell the property for the purposes outlined in the selected proposal and place some conditions on use in accordance with the proposal.

A No Vote Would: Not amend the City Charter and therefore require any sale of the two identified properties to be to the highest bidder, whose identity and planned purpose may not be known.

Dunedin Charter Amendment 1: Charter Review Committee Appointments

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 6.02 of the City of Dunedin City Charter be amended as provided in Section 2 of Ordinance 22-09 to change the appointments of a charter review committee from every five (5) years to seven (7) years?

Synopsis:

The current charter states that at least once every five years, the City Commission shall appoint a Charter Review Committee to review the City Charter. During the City Commission meeting on March 24, 2022, the City Attorney stated that the City Commission would need to make a decision at the end of this year to appoint a new Charter Review Committee. As implementation is still ongoing for some of the recommendations of the current Charter Review Committee, the City Commission agreed to call for a referendum to change the appointment of a Charter Review Committee from every five years to every seven years. This would essentially extend the current Charter Review Committee and allow sufficient time for review of any new recommendations.

A Yes Vote Would: Amend the City Charter to allow the City Commission to appoint a Charter Review Committee at least once every seven years, instead of every five years, providing an additional two years for the committee to address new recommendations.

A No Vote Would: Maintain the provision which requires a Charter Review Committee be appointed at least once every five years. This could potentially result in needing to appoint new Charter Review Committee members, allowing insufficient time for the current committee to complete its review of existing and any new issues.

Dunedin Charter Amendment 2: Ordinance Review Committee Appointments

Ballot Language:

Shall Section 6.03 of the City of Dunedin City Charter be amended as provided in Section 3 of Ordinance 22-09 to change the appointment of an ordinance review committee from every five (5) years to as often as deemed necessary by the City Commission?

Synopsis:

The City Charter currently requires an Ordinance Review Committee to be appointed every five years. The City Commission agreed to call a referendum to change the language in the City Charter to require an Ordinance Review Committee be appointed as often as deemed necessary, instead of every five years. The Ordinance Review Committee was last appointed in 2018.

A Yes Vote Would: Amend the City Charter to allow the City Commission to appoint an Ordinance Review Committee as deemed necessary, instead of every five years. This would provide the City Commission the flexibility to monitor the potential number of new ordinances and determine the need to convene a committee for any review.

A No Vote Would: Maintain the current language in the City Charter, which requires an Ordinance Review Committee to be appointed every five years. This would mean that an Ordinance Review Committee would be convened every five years whether or not there were sufficient ordinances and work to convene a committee.

Indian Shores Charter Amendment 1: Proposed Charter Amendment Relating to Qualifications for Office

Ballot Language:

Shall Article III, Section 3.02 and Article V, Section 5.03 of the Town of Indian Shores Charter be amended to provide that the mayor and council members must reside in the Town for one year instead of six months to qualify for office?

Synopsis:

The charter currently requires individuals who want to run for town office to be permanent residents of Indian Shores for 6 months or longer. This proposed amendment would require residents to have lived in Indian Shores for one year or longer to qualify to run for mayor or town council.

A Yes Vote Would: Require candidates for mayor or town council to reside in the Town of Indian Shores for one year or more to meet the qualification to run for office.

A No Vote Would: Leave the current requirement unchanged, requiring candidates for mayor or town council to reside in the Town of Indian Shores for six months or more.

Indian Shores Charter Amendment 2: Proposed Charter Amendment Relating to Mayor

Ballot Language:

Shall Article III, Section 3.05 of the Town of Indian Shores Charter be amended to provide for the Mayor to serve as the registered agent for the Town and remove the Mayor's administrative duties?

Synopsis:

The town charter currently states that the Mayor "shall be recognized as head of the Town government for administrative and for all ceremonial purposes." This amendment would remove administrative purposes from this provision and add that the Mayor is the Town's registered agent. This amendment is intended to prevent any conflict of duties between the mayor and the Town Administrator (the town is proposing in Amendment 5 that the present charter position of Town Auditor be changed to Town Administrator). This was discussed by the town's Administrative and Finance Committee in their April 12, 2022 meeting and approved by all members present.

A Yes Vote Would: Add wording indicating that the mayor is the town's registered agent and remove wording indicating that the mayor is the head of town government for administrative purposes.

A No Vote Would: Leave the duties of the Mayor as currently outlined, which could potentially produce a conflict of duties with the Town Administrator.

Indian Shores Charter Amendment 3: Proposed Charter Amendment Relating to Vice Mayor

Ballot Language:

Shall Article III, Section 3.06 of the Town of Indian Shores Charter be amended to provide for a rotation of the office of Vice Mayor based on seniority thereby providing the opportunity for each council member to hold this office?

Synopsis:

The charter currently states that the town council shall elect, after each regular town election, one of its members to serve as the Vice-Mayor. This proposal would amend the charter to change from a system of electing the Vice-Mayor to a seniority-based rotation system. Under the proposed system, council members would be ranked by their time of service on council, and the longest-standing council member would then be named as Vice-Mayor. Once someone has served as Vice-Mayor, their name would be moved to the bottom of the rotation.

A Yes Vote Would: Change the current system for selecting the Vice-Mayor of the Town of Indian Shores from a system where the council elects a Vice-Mayor from among its members, to a system where the Vice-Mayor is selected by rotation from a list of the longest-serving to newest members of the council.

A No Vote Would: Maintain the current method for selecting the Vice-Mayor based on a vote of the council members at the first meeting after the town's regular election.

Indian Shores Charter Amendment 4: Proposed Charter Amendment Relating to Holding Other Offices and Town Employment

Ballot Language:

Shall Article III, Section 3.07 of the Town of Indian Shores Charter be amended to clarify that elected Town officials may not hold any additional public office in violation of the Florida Constitution?

Synopsis:

The charter currently states that no elected town official may hold any other town office or be employed by the town during their term of office. This amendment would add that elected town officials are also prohibited from holding any other public office that would be in violation of the Florida Constitution's prohibitions on holding more than one office.

A Yes Vote Would: Bring the charter in line with the Florida Constitution and prohibit elected officials from holding additional public offices.

A No Vote Would: Leave the charter as is, without reference to the prohibition in the Florida Constitution.

Indian Shores Charter Amendment 5: Proposed Charter Amendment Relating to Charter Offices

Ballot Language:

Shall Article IV, Section 4.02 of the Town of Indian Shores Charter be amended to provide for a Town Administrator rather than a Town Auditor?

Synopsis:

This provision would change the charter position of Town Auditor to Town Administrator. The position of Town Administrator is not currently mentioned in the charter, but is mentioned in the town ordinances. The description of the position would read: "The Town Administrator shall be appointed by the Town Council and shall hold office at the pleasure of the council. He or she shall receive such salary and fees as may be determined by the Town Council."

A Yes Vote Would: Include the position of Town Administrator in the charter, replacing the Town Auditor.

A No Vote Would: Leave the position as Town Auditor in the charter and not define the position of Town Administrator.

Largo Charter Amendment 1: Exemption of "Horizon West Bay" Property from Referendum for Lease of City Owned Real Property

Ballot Language:

Shall the Largo City Charter be amended to exempt that certain real property known as "Horizon West Bay," located on the northern 400 block of West Bay Drive, from the existing referendum requirement for leasing real property owned by the city so long as the Horizon West Bay property is also used as the primary municipal services and administrative facilities of the city, all as described in Ordinance No. 2022-57?

Synopsis:

This amendment proposes to exclude Horizon West Bay (the new multi-purpose Downtown City Hall) from the referendum requirement for any lease of city-owned property for more than five years. This exemption will only be for the Horizon West Bay project on the 400-500 block of West Bay Drive and will allow the city to work with a professional leasing agent on lease terms for preferred downtown businesses. The city is seeking to attract coffee shops, restaurants, and other retailers that will help achieve the community's vision of an active and interconnected downtown. The Horizon West Bay project is intended to spark economic development in Downtown Largo. The project's design includes leasable retail space for interested businesses to build out storefronts, but the city can currently only lease space for up to five years without referendum approval.

A Yes Vote Would: Would allow the city to provide an exception for Horizon West Bay so that it is not limited to a five year lease timeframe. The Horizon West Bay location will be the only exception. This will not change the five year limitation on any other city-owned property or greenspace.

A No Vote Would: Maintain the five year lease restriction for Horizon West Bay, limiting the city's ability to lease the commercial spaces in the mixed-use Horizon West Bay project for five years or less. This may result in the project needing to be redesigned at additional cost to the city and may reduce the number of businesses interested in the leasing the spaces given the shorter-term leases.

Largo Referendum 1: Providing City Commission with the Authority to Grant Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions

Ballot Language:

Shall the City Commission of the City of Largo 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 the City of Largo?

Synopsis:

This referendum proposes to extend the City Commission's authority, for 10 additional years, to grant temporary property tax exemptions to qualified new and expanding businesses. This is intended to encourage job growth and further investment in the City of Largo.

To qualify for the tax exemption, a business must: be classified as a target industry or be a high-value business that has a significant economic impact, make a formal application to the city for the exemption, invest a significant amount of capital in expanding or building new space, commit to creating a minimum number of jobs during the first five years of the exemption, pay an annual wage for all jobs exceeding the average annual wage for Pinellas County, and continue to occupy the space identified in the application for the duration of the tax exemption. If a business does not comply with the program requirements, the City can revoke the exemption and the business can be required to repay the property tax, with interest.

Largo voters approved the City Commission's authority to grant these property tax exemptions in 2012. That authority is set to expire on November 11, 2022, unless voters approve it for an additional 10 years.

A Yes Vote Would: Maintain the City Commission's authority, for an additional 10 years, to grant temporary property tax exemptions as incentives to qualifying new or expanding businesses, on a case-by-case basis. This is not an exemption of all taxes businesses are required to pay. The city anticipates that businesses approved for the exemption will create an overall positive economic impact on Largo and Pinellas County above the value of the tax exemption. However, any tax exemption means that the city does not collect that tax revenue from that source, and any gap in revenue to support city infrastructure and services would have to be made up elsewhere.

A No Vote Would: End the City Commission's authority, as of November 11, 2022, to grant temporary property tax exemptions as incentives for qualifying businesses to locate, relocate, or expand in the city. This could place the city

at a competitive disadvantage to surrounding communities that have implemented this type of tax exemption incentive program.

Largo Referendum 2: Conveyance of City-Owned Real Property to Porter Development, LLC

Ballot Language:

Shall the City be authorized to convey fee simple title to approximately 87 acres of city-owned property located north of 8th Avenue SE and south of East Bay Drive, a portion of which includes a landfill, for fair market value to Porter Development, LLC for the development, operation, and maintenance of a privately owned and operated open space recreational indoor and outdoor sports complex, all as described in Ordinance No. 2022-58?

Synopsis:

This is a referendum to approve the potential sale of approximately 87 acres of property owned by the City of Largo to a private developer, Porter Development LLC, for fair market value. The property is located north of 8th Avenue SE and south of East Bay Drive. Part of the land is a former landfill located behind the Largo Public Library. The city charter requires voters to approve the sale of any city-owned property exceeding 1.5 acres for fair market value for the purposes stated.

Porter Development LLC submitted an unsolicited proposal stating their purpose to develop and operate a privately owned and operated recreation facility on this land. This referendum is for approval of the sale of the property, not for approval of the development or project design. The redevelopment of the site would remain subject to the city's Development Review process. The proposed complex is not a city project and will not be owned, managed, or operated by the City of Largo's Recreation, Parks, and Arts services. The city has indicated that residents wishing to learn more about the project plans can find information on the Porter Development website.

Supporters: Largo Mayor Woody Brown, Former St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would: Allow the city to sell the property to Porter Development LLC for fair market value for the purpose of developing and operating a privately owned and operated recreation facility.

A No Vote Would: Not allow the sale to Porter Development LLC. The property would remain owned and maintained by the City of Largo. Note: Porter Development LLC is the only possible purchaser being considered by voters on the November 2022 ballot. Any new proposals to develop the property that would require a lease or sale of the property would require voter approval during a future election.

Madeira Beach Charter Amendment 1: Qualification and Term of Office

Ballot Language:

Should Section 2.2 B of the Charter be amended to provide that the term of each newly elected member of Board of Commissioners will begin upon induction into office at the first Board of Commissioners meeting following the election? This amendment is to avoid a conflict with Charter, Section 4.8, Induction of Board of Commissioners into office; meetings.

Synopsis:

The charter currently states that commissioners' terms begin at the first regular meeting following the election. The charter also states that newly elected commissioners shall be inducted into office "at a Board of Commissioners meeting to be held on or before the last day of the month in which the election was held." These provisions created challenges following the March 2022 election because the new commissioners were inducted on March 23 (prior to the end of the month in which the election was held), but their terms did not officially begin until the first regular meeting on April 13. At the same time, the out-going commissioners' terms ended when the newly elected members were sworn into office. This meant that the city did not have a full contingent of commission members who could legally sit in meetings during the period between March 23 and April 13. The Board of Commissioners therefore proposed this amendment to avoid such circumstances in the future.

A Yes Vote Would: Allow new commissioners to begin their terms immediately upon induction rather than waiting for the following month's regular meeting.

A No Vote Would: Retain the current language in the charter, which means that newly inducted commissioners cannot participate in Board of Commissioners meetings until the following month's regular meeting, causing a delay in the commissioners serving and potentially leaving the city with gaps in leadership.

Madeira Beach Charter Amendment 2: Induction of Newly Elected Member of Board of Commissioners

Ballot Language:

Should Section 4.8 of the Charter be amended to provide that the first meeting of each newly elected member of the Board of Commissioners for induction into office shall be held at a meeting on or before the last day of the month in which the election was held? This amendment avoids a conflict with Charter, Section 2.2, Board of Commissioners; qualifications; term of office; and vacancies; Qualifications and Term of Office.

Synopsis:

This amendment is related to Amendment 1. It proposes to change the language in the charter to state: "The first meeting of each newly elected member of the Board of Commissioners for induction into office shall be at a Board of Commissioners meeting to be held on or before the last day of the month in which the election was held. The Board of Commissioners may hold such meetings at such times as they may prescribe, but not less frequently than once each month." It removes the words "special and regular" that were describing the types of meetings. As above, the Board of Commissioners proposed this amendment to avoid circumstances resulting in leadership gaps between the induction meeting and the first regular meeting.

A Yes Vote Would: Allow newly elected commissioners to begin their terms immediately upon induction rather than waiting for the following month's regular meeting.

A No Vote Would: Retain the current conflicting language in the charter, which could cause a delay in commissioners serving their terms and potentially result in a gap in city leadership between induction meeting and the first regular meeting.

St Petersburg Charter Amendment 1: Rescheduling Municipal Elections to Occur in Conjunction With National and State Elections in Even Years

Ballot Language:

The City Charter currently requires elections for Mayor and Council Members to occur in odd-numbered years. Shall the Charter be amended to hold those elections in conjunction with national and state elections in even-numbered years beginning in 2024? That change will extend the term of current City elected officials by approximately one year and is intended to increase voter turnout, add early voting at no additional cost, and reduce cost to the City.

Synopsis:

The City of St. Petersburg's charter currently requires municipal elections to be held in odd-numbered years. This amendment would move St Petersburg's municipal elections to occur in even-numbered years, at the same time as state and federal elections. If this amendment passes, the elections for Mayor and for council members in districts 2, 4, and 6 will be held at the same time as the federal "midterm" elections, and the elections for council members in districts 1, 2, and 5 will be held at the same time as presidential elections. The currently serving Mayor and Council Members would have their terms extended by approximately 1 (one) year to accommodate this change.

This proposed amendment arose from discussions about providing in-person early voting in St. Petersburg municipal elections. The city contracts with the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections to administer the city's elections. The city is responsible to pay the cost of elections that do not occur at the same time as state and federal elections. Providing early voting in odd-numbered years was found to be cost-prohibitive for the city. In addition, the Supervisor of Elections advised the city that there are limits on the services they are able to provide, and thus the city should consider a change to even-numbered years if the city wanted to provide the complete range of voting options in municipal elections. In-person early voting is required under state law to be provided in elections that have state or federal candidates on the ballot. Additional rationale provided for moving municipal elections to even-numbered years includes the significantly higher voter turnout in midterm and presidential election years and decreased costs to the city to pay for election administration out of the city budget.

A Yes Vote Would: Move St Petersburg's city elections to happen in even-numbered years at the same time as state and federal elections. This would significantly increase voter turnout for choosing the mayor and city council, and provide voters with more options for casting their ballot in municipal races (including both in-person early voting and more access to secure ballot intake stations to drop off mail ballots). This would also save the city money by reducing

the cost of running elections. However, the increased cost of running a campaign in midterm and presidential election years would also make it harder to run for office, potentially reducing the number and diversity of candidates for city office. In addition, the ballot would be very long, which could deter some voters. Terms for the current mayor and city council members would be extended by approximately 1 year.

A No Vote Would: Leave the elections for St. Petersburg mayor and city council members unchanged to occur in odd-numbered years, without an option for in-person early voting and with limited access to locations for dropping off mail ballots.

St Petersburg Charter Amendment 2: Changing City Council Residency Requirements to Accommodate Redrawing District Boundaries Through the Redistricting Process

Ballot Language:

The City Charter establishes residency requirements for City Council candidates and members. Shall those requirements be amended to accommodate redrawing Council district boundaries through the redistricting process and clarify related provisions? That amendment would allow candidates to satisfy the existing residency requirement through a combination of residency within new and previous district boundaries and allow affected members to complete their terms following redistricting as long as they maintain residency within previous or new district boundaries.

Synopsis:

The city charter currently requires city council members to leave office immediately if they cease to reside within the boundaries of their district. The City Redistricting Commission is required by the city charter to redraw the city council districts after each 10 year census, to ensure "equal and effective representation." In redrawing the district boundaries, duly elected/appointed council members might end up residing outside the newly defined boundaries of their district. This amendment would allow council members who are in office when redistricting occurs to remain on council, provided they continue to reside either within the old district boundaries or the newly drawn boundaries of their district. This approach is consistent with Florida law relating to redistricting for state and county officials. If the district boundaries are redrawn during the 12 months prior to a primary election, this amendment would require a candidate to reside within the boundaries of the newly drawn district but allow them to satisfy the 12-month residency requirement through residency within the boundaries of the newly drawn district or the old district boundaries.

A Yes Vote Would: Allow council members whose district boundaries have been redrawn to remain in office for the full term for which they were elected/appointed, provided that they remain resident within the original district or the new district boundaries.

A No Vote Would: Leave the current residency requirements in place. This would require any council member who no longer resides within the boundaries of the newly drawn district to leave office immediately, and not serve out the full term for which they were elected/appointed.

St Petersburg Referendum 1: Approving Amendment of City's 99-year Lease for Dalí Museum to Allow Construction of Expansion

Ballot Language:

May City Council approve amendment of the 99-year lease of City-owned property used by the Dalí Museum to allow construction of a Museum expansion, subject to conditions in ordinance 512-H? Such conditions address insurance, indemnity, and coordination; operation of the Mahaffey Theater and the Grand Prix; and future development of the surrounding Center for the Arts. Such amendment would not extend the duration of the lease or require City funding for the expansion.

Synopsis:

The St. Petersburg City Charter specifies that no waterfront or park property owned by the city may be sold, donated, or leased without specific authorization by a majority vote in a citywide referendum. The Dalí Museum is seeking to construct a multi-level addition to the southwest side of the existing building. Some of the land that might be needed for this expansion is not included in its current lease of city waterfront property, which was executed in 2007. This referendum is seeking to amend the lease to allow for the inclusion of the additional land. The land in question is a city right-of-way that serves the parking garage and theater as well as the museum.

Along with the amended lease, City Ordinance 512-H places conditions on the museum expansion. The ordinance describes relocating the right-of-way and requires a plan that provides for continued access to the garage. The

ordinance also references a variety of plans for future improvements to the entire Center for the Arts. In addition, the amended lease must not obligate the city to provide any funding for the expansion and it cannot override any provision of the Grand Prix Race Agreement. Note, this referendum is not for approval of the expansion project design, but rather the approval for the amendment of the lease.

A Yes Vote Would: Allow amendment of the current lease of city property by the Dali Museum to include additional land, which will enable initiation of the design phase for an expansion with a larger footprint. This would not authorize any funding from the city.

A No Vote Would: Prevent the Dali Museum from changing its footprint at this time.

St Petersburg Referendum 2: Providing City Council with the Authority to Grant Economic Development Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions

Ballot Language:

Shall the City Council of St. Petersburg 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 the City of St. Petersburg?

Synopsis:

This measure would give the St Petersburg City Council the power, for the next 10 years, to grant property tax exemptions to certain qualifying businesses that create new capital investment and new, full-time jobs in the city. St. Petersburg voters previously authorized this exemption in 2011. As it expired in 2021, this same referendum was placed on the November 2021 ballot last year and was defeated by a narrow margin.

This tax exemption was designed for "businesses that create a minimum of 10 jobs that earn more than the average wage in Pinellas County," according to the Tampa Bay Times. From 2011-2021, the city granted these tax exemptions to two large businesses: one for an exemption of \$100,000 per year for five years and another for an exemption of around \$67,000 per year for five years. The second of these exemptions was granted for a project in the northernmost part of the City that - at the time of approval in 2020 - involved \$11 million in capital investment and created a dozen new tech jobs paying an average salary of \$95,000, according to the St. Pete Catalyst.

A Yes Vote Would: Allow the St. Petersburg City Council to grant property tax exemptions as incentives for certain businesses that are expected to create new, full-time jobs in the city. Any tax exemption means that the city does not collect that tax revenue from that source, and any gap in revenue to support infrastructure and services would have to be made up elsewhere.

A No Vote Would: Not allow the St. Petersburg City Council to grant property tax exemptions as an incentive to certain businesses, and likewise not reduce tax revenue available from these sources for funding city services and infrastructure.

Treasure Island Charter Amendment 1: Proposed Charter Amendment of Treasure Island, Florida Deleting Section 4.06 Personnel System Entirely

Ballot Language:

Shall Article IV, Section 4.06 of the Charter of the City of Treasure Island, Florida pertaining to Personnel System be amended in accordance with the proposal set forth in Ordinance No. 2022-08 to delete Section 4.06 Personnel System entirely thereby removing outdated language and reflecting current practice?

Synopsis:

This amendment proposes to remove outdated language and reflect current personnel practices. This change was recommended by the Treasure Island Charter Review Committee because the city is not following what is in the Charter, they are following what is in the city's current administrative Personnel Practices.

A Yes Vote Would: Remove the outdated language from the charter. It will not change the city's current personnel practices.

A No Vote Would: Retain the outdated language in the charter.

Treasure Island Charter Amendment 2: Proposed Charter Amendment of Treasure Island, Florida Concerning Signature Requirement for Petitions for Charter Amendments

Ballot Language:

Shall Article VI, Section 6.02 of the Charter of the City of Treasure Island, Florida pertaining to Charter Amendments be amended in accordance with the proposal set forth in Ordinance No. 2022-09 so as to reduce the signature requirement for charter amendment petitions from twenty-five (25) percent to ten (10) percent as required by section 166.031, Florida Statutes?

Synopsis:

This amendment was recommended by the Treasure Island Charter Review Committee to bring the charter's signature requirements for petitions in line with Florida Statute. The city must comply with the 10% requirement outlined in Florida Statute 166.031.

A Yes Vote Would: Align the charter language with Florida Statutes.

A No Vote Would: Leave the conflicting language in the charter, thus making it appear the city is not following required Florida law.

Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District Referendum: Referendum to approve a new Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District Ad Valorem Tax

Ballot Language:

To improve fire, emergency medical, and rescue services, included but not limited to, construction of and improvements to new and existing fire stations and facilities, and the purchase of apparatus and equipment, shall the District be authorized to levy an annual ad valorem tax at a millage rate not to exceed 0.67 mills (\$0.67 for every \$1,000 of taxable value), with the authorized millage currently being 0 mills?

Synopsis:

The Pinellas Suncoast Fire and Rescue District supports Indian Shores, Belleair Beach, Belleair Shores, Indian Rocks Beach, and Unincorporated Oakhurst. It is currently primarily funded through a flat fee. Residents pay \$360/year, no matter how big or small their home. Because this flat fee is fixed, it has not kept up with rising expenses. The result is that the district is predicted to run out of money by September 2025. This is the only fire district in Pinellas County that does not currently have an ad valorem tax. This referendum has been proposed because the district needs a revenue source that will adjust with property values and create a permanent solution to funding issues.

Supporters: Belleair Beach Mayor Dave Gattis and Indian Rocks Beach Mayor Cookie Kennedy

Opponents: None known at this time

A Yes Vote Would: Authorize an ad valorem tax up to 0.67 mills, which would meet projected Pinellas Suncoast Fire & Rescue District needs through at least the year 2043.

A No Vote Would: Not authorize additional funding, which will eventually trigger a state takeover due to funding shortfalls and the district will likely dissolve.