

NONPARTISAN VOTERS' GUIDE 2026

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026 ★ GENERAL ELECTION ★ 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM

OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION AND RETENTION

PALM BEACH COUNTY 4-11

Clerk & Comptroller
Palm Beach County Commission
Palm Beach County School District
Palm Beach Soil & Water Conservation District
Port of Palm Beach Commission
Referendums

STATE..... 12-27

Florida Senate
Florida House of Representatives
Constitutional Amendments
Governor
Chief Financial Officer
Attorney General
Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Judicial Retention, Florida Supreme Court
Judicial Retention, 4th District Court of Appeal

FEDERAL..... 28-30

United States House of Representatives
United States Senate

EARLY VOTING SITES, PAGE 31

FIND WHAT'S ON YOUR BALLOT

Trusted nonpartisan voter information



1. Scan QR code or go to **VOTE411.org/Ballot**
2. Enter your address
3. See your exact ballot & candidates

EMPOWERING VOTERS AND DEFENDING DEMOCRACY

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of Palm Beach County 2026 VOTERS' GUIDE

The League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County is proud to bring you its 2026 Voters' Guide. This essential resource is designed to empower you with the knowledge needed to be an informed voter, because an informed voter defends democracy.



The 2026 Voters' Guide provides comprehensive coverage of candidates running in federal, state and local races, alongside breakdowns of proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution and countywide referendums. To ensure fairness, every candidate within the same race received identical questions, and all submitted responses are published verbatim without alteration.

Printed copies of this 2026 Voters' Guide will be distributed across local libraries, government offices and various community locations throughout this county. For immediate digital access, you can explore additional resources directly on the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County website, LWVPBC.org, or via VOTE411.org, a platform developed by the national League of Women Voters Education Fund.

As a grassroots member-driven organization, the League of Women Voters is strictly nonpartisan and never endorses political parties or candidates. The Palm Beach County chapter actively serves its communities by offering voter registration assistance, driving robust election protection initiatives, and hosting public forums and speaker events.

Special recognition to everyone involved in compiling this Guide, whose dedicated efforts to gather direct answers from candidates help keep our electorate prepared and well-informed.

— Janet Elinoff, President

JOIN THE LEAGUE!

Put your principles into practice and work for change

As a member of the League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County, you can help your community by empowering voters and defending democracy. We join with more than 800 state and local leagues to make our voices heard in Florida and Washington, D.C.

We have registered thousands of people to vote including high school students and returning citizens. We have responded to questions on voting and ballot amendments, educated residents on mail-in voting, moderated candidate forums and made presentations to groups on a host of issues important to voters. Our issue groups partnered with state and local agencies to educate and advocate on critical topics such as National Popular Vote, Voting Rights and Voter Registration.

We have welcomed hundreds of new members to the League, connecting them with our many issue groups. Membership is open to all regardless of gender, race or religion. Levels include student, individual, household and Susan B. Anthony.

Visit LWVPBC.org and click on JOIN. Get involved today.

Educating & Registering Voters,
Advocating for Fair Voting

Join us!

LWVPBC.org • Email: Members@LWVPBC.org
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Our thanks to the dozens of other volunteers from the Palm Beach County League who helped write and distribute this guide as well as call local candidates to participate.

HOW TO USE THIS VOTERS' GUIDE

CANDIDATES

To find information on the specific candidates you will be voting for, you will need to learn which candidates and which offices will be on your specific ballot for your districts. You can find that on your **Sample Ballot** or your **Vote-by-Mail Ballot**. You can visit the website of the Supervisor of Elections, VotePalmBeach.gov, click on **Sample Ballot** and follow the prompts. This will take you to your specific ballot. Then look for those candidates and offices in this Voters' Guide.

AMENDMENTS AND REFERENDUMS

For information on these proposed measures, check the Index on the front of this Voters' Guide for the correct page number.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: VOTE411.org/Ballot

Some candidates' responses to the League's questions were not available in time for our print deadline, so please visit VOTE411.org/Ballot to learn their positions. In addition, VOTE411 offers information that includes a way to check your voter registration status, eligibility requirements, how to become a poll worker, links to resources for voters with disabilities and much more. The site is brought to you by the League of Women Voters Education Fund.

ARE YOU ELECTION READY?

THREE WAYS TO VOTE

VOTE BY MAIL

Carefully mark your ballot from home at the time most convenient for you, then mail it in or drop it off at one of the Supervisor of Elections' secure locations. Return postage is prepaid. If returning your ballot by mail, allow at least 7 business days for it to be received by the SOE. Requests for a Vote-by-Mail ballot must be received by 5 p.m. the 12th day before Election Day. Vote-by-Mail ballots must be received at the Main SOE Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day.

EARLY VOTING

When Early Voting is available, eligible voters may cast their vote in person or drop their Vote-by-Mail ballot off at any Early Voting location during Early Voting hours. The number of days and locations vary by election and

are subject to change. Check VotePalmBeach.gov for the most current information including a list of locations, acceptable forms of ID, directions and wait times — or to make an appointment — during Early Voting. Appointments are optional and not required to vote early.

ELECTION DAY

Polls are open from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m. Voters must vote at their precinct's assigned polling place on Election Day. Polling places will not accept Vote-by-Mail ballots on Election Day. Vote-by-Mail ballots must be returned to the Main SOE Office by 7 p.m. on Election Day, or to a Branch SOE Office by 5 p.m. on Election Day. If you still have a Vote-by-Mail ballot, you may bring it to your polling place, surrender it and vote in person.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE GENERAL ELECTION

DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE

Monday, Oct. 5, 2026

EARLY VOTING

(Sites listed on page 31 in this Guide)

Monday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Photo ID Required

DEADLINE TO REQUEST THAT A VOTE-BY-MAIL (VBM) BALLOT BE MAILED TO YOU

Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026, by 5 p.m.

IF YOU MISS THIS DEADLINE

You may pick up a VBM ballot in person at any of the four offices of the Supervisor of Elections before 5 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 2, the day before Election Day.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT IN SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS OFFICE

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

Satellite SOE Offices: 5 p.m.

Main SOE Office: 4301 Cherry Road, West Palm Beach: 7 p.m.

GENERAL ELECTION

Check your most recent Voter ID card for your assigned polling location

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Photo ID Required

ACCEPTABLE IDs FOR FLORIDA VOTERS

- Florida Driver License
- Florida ID Card (issued by the DHSMV)
- U.S. Passport
- Debit or Credit Card
- Military ID
- Student ID
- Retirement Center ID
- Neighborhood Association ID
- Public Assistance ID
- Veteran Health ID (issued by VA)
- Concealed Weapon License (issued pursuant to F.S. 790.06)
- Employee ID issued by any branch, department, agency, or entity of the Federal Government, the State, a county or a municipality

Visit VotePalmBeach.gov to confirm current requirements before voting. Your Voter Information Card does not count as ID to vote. If you forget to bring an acceptable ID with you, you can vote using a provisional ballot.

Note: Acceptable forms of ID will change after the 2026 elections due to updates in Florida law. Acceptable forms of voter identification will be updated beginning Jan. 1, 2027.

VOTING EQUIPMENT

Voting equipment is certified by Florida's Secretary of State and has been used in Palm Beach County since 2020.

Optical Scan Voting

State-of-the-art DS200 polling location ballot scanner and vote tabulator immediately, accurately and securely tabulates your ballot when voting in person at the polling location so you know your vote is counted.



ExpressVote

The state-of-the-art paper-based ExpressVote System uses touch-screen technology that produces a paper record for tabulation. The ExpressVote handles the entire marking process, eliminating unclear marks and the need for interpretation of the voter's intent.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICER: CLERK & COMPTROLLER

The Clerk & Comptroller is a public trustee responsible for safeguarding public records and public funds. The Florida Constitution established the Clerk & Comptroller as a constitutional officer, directly elected by and accountable to county citizens. The Clerk & Comptroller serves as the county's Chief Financial Officer, Treasurer and Auditor; County Recorder; Clerk of the Circuit Court; and Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners. The Clerk is also responsible for managing the county's jury system, processing passports, processing marriage licenses, maintaining a domestic partnership registry, and conducting foreclosure sales and tax deed sales. The 2026 salary is \$218,757.

..... Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS



*Incumbent

1

What changes would you implement to modernize access to court records and public services while protecting sensitive information and maintaining public trust?

2

How would you reduce the clerk's budget in light of a possible reduction in property taxes if the constitutional amendment passes, and how would you ensure the office continues to provide essential services?

3

Do you support the clerk's investment in Israeli bonds? Would you continue it at the current level, increase it or reduce it?

4

Do you support continuing the open online system of public access to court files and official records, such as deeds and mortgages?

CLERK & COMPTROLLER

MICHAEL CARUSO (R)*



HOMETOWN:
Lake Park

I am currently working with the Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers (FCCC) to create a unified database that will allow statewide access to court records from all counties. In addition, over the past 11 months my office has increased security measures for access to court records by attorneys. We continue to implement these improvements. As Keeper of Records and Evidence, security over our court records is paramount and is a top priority to maintain public trust.

The Clerk's office has operated on a minimum budget for over 2 decades. The fees that we are allowed to charge for services have not increased since 2004; in many cases they have decreased. That being said, I have met with the County Administrator and have agreed to a reduction in budget. The Clerk office will continue to utilize technology and Ai to reduce payroll costs and ensure that essential services continue to be provided.

As Clerk I currently have invested over \$1 Billion of county assets in Israel bonds. Last fiscal year, the Clerk's office earned over \$222 million of investment income. This fiscal year we are tracking to exceed this return on investment by over 10%, partially due to our investment in Israel Bonds. These are funds that the county can utilize for projects or general revenue that do not have to be sourced from additional taxes levied on the county's residents. As Clerk, I would continue this.

Currently, public access to court files and official records is mandated by FL statute. Access should continue but we must obtain better laws which will stop the filing of fraudulent documents such as forged quit claim deeds. I will continue to solicit the legislature for these common sense changes in law that can prevent this fraud at the source. Currently, I work with the State Prosecutor and Sheriff to fight this scam daily; as well as inform the public on our Property Fraud Alert program.

CLERK & COMPTROLLER

YVETTE DRUCKER (D)



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Boca Raton

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I would modernize the office around a secure, user-friendly portal with mobile access, plain-language and multilingual guidance, faster e-filing and e-recording, property-fraud alerts, and transparent service dashboards. Sensitive information must be protected through automatic redaction, role-based access, encryption, cybersecurity testing, audit trails, and strong disaster-recovery systems. Technology should expand access without eliminating reliable in-person and telephone service.

I would begin with a transparent review of every program, contract, and administrative expense. Savings should come first from competitive procurement, vendor consolidation, responsible attrition, paperless workflows, energy and space efficiencies, and automation—not reduced public access. I would protect court operations, cybersecurity, records integrity, auditing, and frontline service, while publishing performance measures so residents can see where every dollar goes.

On any investment, every decision we make must meet fiduciary and performance standards, with regular public reporting to protect taxpayer funds and maintain trust. Israel Bonds continue to be a sound investment, especially at a time of uncertainty caused by the property tax reform referendum on the horizon. Palm Beach County's longstanding leadership in this portfolio reflects sound stewardship. The county shouldn't be investing or divesting on any political grounds, it should be based on a sol...

Yes. Open online access to court files and official records is essential to transparency, commerce, access to justice, and public confidence. I would continue and improve the system by making records easier to search, mobile-friendly, and accessible to people with disabilities, while strengthening automatic redaction, identity verification for restricted records, cybersecurity, audit logs, and clear privacy protections. Public access and personal privacy must be advanced together.

WHERE TO GET MORE GUIDES

Do you want to obtain more copies of this Voters' Guide? Here's how, as long as supplies last. We advise telephoning a location first to make sure they still have some copies left before going there.

League volunteers will distribute some 40,000 English copies and 1,500 Spanish copies to various locations throughout Palm Beach County, including all county and city libraries, city halls and other government offices, senior residential communities and senior day centers, businesses and houses of worship.

Government offices where the Guide will be delivered include the Palm Beach County Property Appraiser and Palm Beach County Tax Collector. Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton also will receive copies.

In underserved communities, the Guide will be delivered to churches, sororities, the Urban League and other organizations. The Spanish-language copies will be targeted to communities in the western county and businesses in heavily Hispanic areas such as bodegas, laundromats and shops.

If you are a subscriber, *The Palm Beach Post* will insert copies of the Voters' Guide into the home delivery editions on Sunday, Sept. 27.

You can also link to the Voters' Guide online via the Palm Beach County League's website, LWVPBC.org, and *The Palm Beach Post's* website, PalmBeachPost.com. To inquire by phone about getting more copies, call (561) 276-4898.

CANDIDATES ELECTED PRIOR TO THE 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

The following individuals either had no opposition or won with 50% plus 1 vote in the Aug. 18th primary and have no opposition candidate in the General Election. Their names will not appear on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Palm Beach County Commission

District 2 — Erica Whitfield

Palm Beach County School Board

District 3 — Karen Brill *

District 6 — John T. McGovern

District 7 — Edwin Ferguson *

Port of Palm Beach Commission

Seat 4 — Blair Ciklin *

Circuit Judge (Palm Beach County)

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 3 — James Sherman *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 5 — Rosemarie Scher *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 8 — G. Joseph Curley *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 20 — James Edward Nutt*

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 21 —Carolyn Bell *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 27 — Glenn D. Kelley *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 30 — Jaimie Goodman *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 32 —

Samantha Schosberg Feuer *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 34 —Karen M. Miller *

Circuit Court Judge, 15th Judicial Circuit Group 35 — Charles Burton *

County Court Judge

Group 3 – Reginald Corlew *

Group 10 – Santo DiGangi

Group 12 - Jacob M. Noble

Group 14 – Mary Katherine Mullinax

Palm Beach County Soil and Water Conservation District

Group 1 (Seat 1) – Audrey Friedrich*

Group 5 (Seat 5) – Eva Webb*

*Incumbent

ELECTION EXPO 2026



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Lwvpbc Newsletter "The Voter"
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Palm Beach County School District



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ELR Graphics - Graphics

Palm Beach State College - Printing

A very special thank you to all of our volunteers.

PALM BEACH COUNTY COMMISSIONION

The Board of County Commissioners is the legislative and policy-setting body for Palm Beach County government. Seven commissioners are elected, in staggered years, from single-member districts to represent the entire county. A commissioner is limited to two consecutive terms, with each term lasting four years. The commission itself elects the county mayor Cto preside over its meetings and serve as the ceremonial head of county government, as well as a vice mayor to fill in for the mayor. The 2026 salary for a county commissioner is \$127,320.

Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org.

QUESTIONS



*Incumbent

1

What professional experience, education and community engagement qualify you for this position, which involves legislating and policy-setting, authorizing programs and spending county funds?

2

Are there policy areas you plan to focus on if elected and, if so, what are your proposals to address them, including funding?

3

If voters adopt the proposed constitutional amendment to reduce property taxes, what is your strategy for balancing future County budgets, including service adjustments, revenue sources and fiscal management strategies?

4

What is the most significant challenge facing residents of your District that can be addressed at the County level? What policy or funding mechanism do you propose?

DISTRICT 4

CURTIS CALABRESE (D)



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Boca Raton
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I was born and raised in Palm Beach County and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. I am a former U.S Navy Pilot, and am currently an airline captain, professor, and operations executive. I bring proven and tested leadership . My career has centered on safety, accountability, budgets, compliance, and leading complex organizations. I am running to bring disciplined, resident-focused leadership to county government.

I will focus on: (1) Affordability & Taxes (2) Overdevelopment (3) Traffic I support using county-owned land for workforce housing for teachers and first responders through public-private partnerships. I will push advanced traffic coordination, faster permitting, a growth-pays-for-growth impact-fee review, stronger infrastructure concurrency, and zero-based budget reviews to protect core services while holding the line on taxes.

I will use priority-based budgeting: fund public safety, emergency services, infrastructure and legal obligations first, then require every department to justify spending from zero. I would freeze nonessential expansion, consolidate duplicative programs, pursue grants and public-private partnerships, and protect reserves. New fees or revenue should be a last resort, transparent and tied to specific services.

The most significant challenge is affordability. Residents are being squeezed by housing costs, insurance, taxes and traffic caused by growth that has outpaced infrastructure. I support using county-owned land for workforce housing, especially for teachers and first responders, through public-private partnerships and long-term leases rather than land sales. I would also require growth to pay for itself through impact fees, infrastructure concurrency and targeted use of housing trust funds.

DISTRICT 4

MARCI WOODWARD (R)*



HOMETOWN:
Boca Raton
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Current Vice Mayor of Palm Beach County BCC representing district 4 and the 13 municipalities housed in the district. I also represent the County Commission on several boards, including: 1. Palm Beach Metropolitan Planning Organization (Exec Committee) 2. South Florida Regional Transportation Authority (TriRail) 3. CareerSource PBC 4. Cultural Council for PBC 5. Solid Waste Authority (Chair) 6. Value Adjustment Board (Vice Chair) 7. Alternate for other councils & task forces

1. Traffic congestion & transportation 2. Housing affordability 3. Lowering the county budget & identifying efficiencies 4. Work force development & retention of local talent 5. Strategic land use planning and infrastructure Additional details will be emailed separately addressing plans for each policy.

Regardless of whether the property tax referendum passes or fails, we're identifying savings and revenue opportunities. We're right-sizing departments by removing long-vacant positions and exploring technology to improve staff efficiencies. Revenue ideas include beach parking, advertising, and cell tower leases. We're also considering placing the Sheriff in an MSTU separate from the general fund. If the referendum passes, balancing the budget will require reducing or eliminating some services.

Traffic congestion and transportation The BCC is currently building the first county-wide transportation master plan. It took two years of working with all 39 municipalities and the school district to hire a consultant to consolidate the various planning, zoning and mobility plans into a single county-wide plan. We are months away from receiving the results and can then begin implementing solutions. My plan for the first project is to implement a smart network for traffic signals.

DISTRICT 6

SARA MARIE BAXTER (R)*



HOMETOWN:
The Acreage
WEBSITE:
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IG: VoteSaraBaxter

As the current commissioner, I've been fighting for a more streamlined, efficient government for residents and small businesses. As a small business owner, our employees, my family and I felt the direct impact of budget, taxation issues, and the burdensome process of dealing with the county's zoning system. As a real estate agent, I worked with families as they grappled with affordability and budget issues, as they chose homes for their families.

I will continue to work to make living in Palm Beach County more affordable for families and small businesses, by fighting to cut unnecessary spending. Continuing to fight overdevelopment in the western communities remains a priority, as well as ensuring the five year infrastructure plan, that is now fully funded, is completed, so residents are not continuing to deal with traffic stresses that outpace our road capacity.

Just as families and businesses across the county, state, and nation have been forced to make hard choices, if Amendment 3 passes, counties and local municipalities will have to go through the process of reviewing essential services. There are ways Palm Beach County can modernize, and make some of our major line items more efficient. Additional revenue streams will have to be considered, while ensuring that the burden of making up any shortfalls doesn't shift disproportionately.

The greatest challenge in District Six is resolving the impacts of haphazard overdevelopment that was approved from 2012-2022 has been realized in recent years. We must be more thoughtful about how we steward the vital land of the western communities, preserving our agricultural land and industry, and the rural areas of the county. I've secured funding to complete our five year infrastructure plan, and will continue to fight for residents to have a voice in how the communities are impacted.

Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue.
For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

DISTRICT 6

KATHERINE WALDRON (D)



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Wellington
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I have significant experience with budgeting & managing programs. As a corporate executive, I spent many years managing personnel, overseeing budgets & handling sales activities as well as operations. I also have state legislative experience & local government experience having been elected as a state rep and as a port commissioner. I co-founded a nonprofit to help hurricane victims and have sat on several boards to help our marginalized residents, including Boys & Girls & the Salvation Army.

Among the policy areas I plan to focus on are working to make our county more affordable, including improved access to affordable housing, particularly for unhoused seniors; I will also work to preserve our quality of life by ensuring developments take into consideration our environment, our water supply and traffic impact.

The reduction in property taxes will result in a very large decrease to our county budget. The details of where these cuts will come from have yet to be determined but it is important we preserve our residents' key services as much as possible. Having significant budgetary experience and legislative experience, I am uniquely qualified to work with other county commissioners and staff, to manage what will be an extremely tough budgetary process.

One of the biggest issues in my district is Project Tango, a hyperscale AI datacenter, that would be located close to a school and a community. The residents, like other residents throughout the country, are opposed to having a datacenter in their neighborhood. I am opposed to this data center as proposed. Affordability also remains a top priority. I will work to find ways to help our residents. including working with our legislature to further decrease insurance rates and taxes.

The School Board members are elected and determine policies necessary for the effective operation and general improvement of the Palm Beach County School District, the 10th largest school district in the nation and the fifth largest in Florida with more than 197,000 students in public and charter schools. Seven members are elected from single-member districts, with the board electing its own chairman and vice chairman. The School Board operates separately from the Board of County Commissioners. The 2026 salary for a School Board member is \$56,587.

QUESTIONS



1

What is your top priority if elected?

CHRISTINA L. ROMELUS (NP)



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Boynton Beach
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My top priority is improving student achievement by ensuring every child can read proficiently and perform math at grade level. Far too many students begin school already behind, and we must invest in early literacy, evidence-based instruction, strong teachers, and meaningful family engagement. Every decision I make will be guided by what best supports student success.

Great schools require great teachers. I support competitive salaries, strong benefits, and professional development that help us recruit and retain exceptional educators. We must be fiscally responsible while recognizing that investing in our teachers is one of the most effective ways to improve student outcomes and strengthen our schools.

The district should prioritize classroom instruction and student services while carefully reviewing administrative costs and operational efficiencies. Every taxpayer dollar should be spent transparently and strategically. I support data-driven budgeting, pursuing available grants and partnerships, and making difficult decisions based on what delivers the greatest benefit to students.

Student mental health is essential to academic success. We should expand access to school counselors, psychologists, and social workers, strengthen partnerships with community providers, train staff to identify students in need, and increase family engagement. We must provide timely, evidence-based support while creating safe, welcoming learning environments where every student can thrive.

DISTRICT 4

DANIEL ZAPATA (NP)



HOMETOWN:
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As the only active teacher in this race, my top priority is improving student achievement. Every decision the School Board makes should answer one question: "How does this help students succeed?" That means recruiting, supporting and retaining great teachers, focusing on early student development, expanding career and technical education, ensuring safe schools, and demanding every tax dollar is spent responsibly and transparently.

Great schools begin with great teachers. We must remain competitive in recruiting and retaining high-quality educators by prioritizing fair compensation and strong benefits. As a teacher, I understand the financial challenges educators face firsthand. At the same time, raises must be fiscally responsible, sustainable, and focused on attracting and keeping excellent teachers in our classrooms.

The district has a responsibility to be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. Before considering cuts that impact classrooms, I would review administrative spending, eliminate inefficiencies, and ensure every dollar is aligned with improving student outcomes. My priority is protecting classroom instruction, school safety, and teacher support while increasing transparency and accountability in the budgeting process.

Student mental health is essential to academic success. We should continue expanding access to school counselors and mental health professionals while strengthening partnerships with families and community providers. Early intervention, staff training, and creating safe, supportive school environments can help students before challenges become crises. Mental health support should complement, not replace, strong parental involvement.

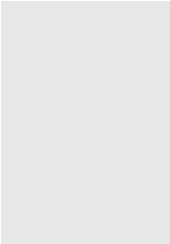
4

What should the district do to improve student mental health services?

PALM BEACH SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Under the direction of a nonpartisan Board of Supervisors, the Palm Beach Soil & Water Conservation District strives to educate residents, land users and businesses on ways to protect natural resources; promote best management practices; and conserve, improve and sustain the environment. The district, a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, is a division of the State of Florida. It does not levy taxes or issue bonds or have the means to enforce land use laws. The district works with agencies and local businesses countywide to provide conservation services — including evaluations by an urban mobile irrigation lab — at reduced rates. Its affairs are directed by the five-member Board of Supervisors, all of whom are locally elected and serve without pay for a four-year term.

..... • Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS		GROUP 3		GROUP 3		GROUP 3	
		ANGELO ANDREW (NP)		DOUGLAS R. BROWN (NP)		EDWARD L. POPE III (NP)	
		 HOMETOWN: Jupiter		 HOMETOWN: Greenacres WEBSITE: ElectDouglasBrown.com FB: DouglasRichardBrown		 HOMETOWN: Pahokee FB: Lewis.Pope.50	
1 What should voters understand about the Palm Beach Soil & Water Conservation District?		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.		The Palm Beach Soil & Water Conservation District focuses on something very practical: protecting the soil and water that everything in this county depends on. Specifically this helps landowners and local partners reduce runoff, improve water quality, and use conservation practices that actually work on the ground. It also supports education and small-scale projects that can still make a real difference. I support keeping it focused, transparent, and results driven.		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
2 What in your background or experience qualifies you for this position?		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.		I have a background in accounting which has helped me look closely at how gov't finances are best utilized. I'm also currently earning my RN nursing degree, which has helped me better understand how water quality connects directly to public health. Outside of work & school, I spend time in Florida's natural areas & at aquariums, which keeps me connected to local water systems in a hands-on way. I bring monetary discipline, science awareness & a respect for conservation work that produces results		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
3 If elected, what would be your top priority for the district?		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.		My top priority if elected would be to improve water quality and protect long-term water resources in Palm Beach County. That means supporting conservation practices that reduce runoff at the source, improving water quality monitoring, and making sure projects are chosen based on real, measurable results. I'd also want to keep the district efficient and accountable so taxpayer dollars are going where they are most impactful.		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
4 Is it important to maintain agriculture as a base of the county economy? Why?		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.		Yes. Agriculture is an important part of Palm Beach County's economy, but it's also closely tied to how land and water are managed. Farmers depend on healthy soil and reliable water, and good conservation practices help keep agriculture productive while protecting natural resources. The district should continue supporting farmers with the tools and resources they need to do both.		Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	

PORT OF PALM BEACH COMMISSION

The Port of Palm Beach District is an independent special taxing district and subdivision of the State of Florida, covering 971 square miles, or approximately 50 percent of Palm Beach County. The port itself sits on 150 acres in Riviera Beach; it is the fourth busiest container port in Florida and the 19th busiest in the nation, with container and bulk cargo and passengers. The Port District has statutory authority to levy ad valorem tax, but has not done so since Fiscal Year 1975. Primarily an export port, with 80 percent of cargo going to Caribbean island nations, it aims to facilitate the movement of goods from the county, region and state. The Port District is governed by a board of five commissioners elected at large for overlapping four-year terms by voters within the district. The commission is the governing body for the operation, maintenance and management of projects within the district. The commission selects its chairman, vice chairman and secretary-treasurer. The 2026 salary for a port commissioner is \$12,500.

..... Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS



*Incumbent

1

What unique qualifications and expertise do you possess that make you well suited for this office?

GROUP 5

DR. DEANDRE J. POOLE (D)*



HOMETOWN:
West Palm Beach
WEBSITE:
PooleforPort.com
FB: Poole4Port

I am uniquely qualified, having served as vice chair of the Port Commission. I have attended Commissioner workshops sponsored by the American Association of Port Authorities that address grant funding, fiscal management, administrative oversight, technology, and security matters. I have also traveled and toured two of the largest ports and cruise terminals in the world. In my first term, we secured over \$13 million in state funding and completed a \$36 million Port Infrastructure Project.

2

Do you support land expansion of the port, even if it means buying out owners of single-family homes in Riviera Beach?

No, I support land expansion only if the land is owned by the county or local municipality.

3

What problems, difficulties or challenges do you see in the Port of Palm Beach and what do you propose to do about them?

The biggest challenge is keeping up with infrastructure improvements as the Port gets busier, especially those near the water. Replacing one berth would cost \$60 million. The Port is on the right track, making money, increasing revenue, and securing grant funding to pay for an estimated \$244 million in infrastructure-related projects. We are currently working on a 15-year plan to fund infrastructure improvements.

4

Do you support term limits for Port of Palm Beach commissioners? If so, how long should they serve?

Yes, I support term limits. The Port of Palm Beach is an Independent Special District of the State of Florida. In 2024, legislation was passed limiting elected members of special districts, including the Port, to a 12-year term.

GROUP 5

TED SARANDIS (R)



HOMETOWN:
Westlake
WEBSITE:
VoteTed.net
FB: Ted-Sarandis
X: TSarandis23126

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

ELECTION INTEGRITY

Palm Beach County elections are secure, and the results can be trusted. Here is how:

- Supervisor of Elections staff conduct a logic and accuracy test before each election, and an audit after each election. The systems are certified by the Florida Department of State, and all voting in Florida is done using a paper ballot.
- The SOE conducts maintenance on the voter registration list every year to ensure that only eligible voters are registered.
- Vote-by-Mail ballots are only sent when a voter has requested one and provided identifying data. When a Vote-by-Mail ballot is returned, SOE staff do not remove it from the envelope until after verifying the voter's signature.
- Election workers are trained, nonpartisan professionals who serve voters with neutrality at every polling place. In addition, designated poll watchers may observe the process in accordance with Florida law, adding another layer of transparency and public oversight.
- Nearly every record related to the election is a public record open to inspection.

VOTER CONFIDENTIALITY

After you check in to vote, your voter record will be updated to show that you voted, but there is no way for anyone to see who you voted for. Every ballot is anonymous, with no name or number attached to it.

ELECTIONS EXPERIENCE TOUR

Take a behind-the-scenes look at elections in Palm Beach County. Palm Beach County residents are invited to the Supervisor of Elections Main Office for scheduled tours to see how elections are run from start to finish. Visit VotePalmBeach.gov to learn more.

— From the Supervisor of Elections website

REFERENDUMS, PALM BEACH COUNTY

LIBRARY DISTRICT EXPANSION AND MODERNIZATION PROGRAM TO BE FINANCED BY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Shall Palm Beach County issue bonds in the aggregate amount not exceeding \$175,000,000, bearing interest at rates not exceeding the legal limit and maturing not exceeding 20 years from the date(s) of issuance, payable from ad valorem taxes levied for such purposes within the Palm Beach County Library District for the purpose of providing funds to pay for the cost of acquisition, construction, reconstruction, expansion, improving and equipping Palm Beach County library facilities.

_____ For Bonds

_____ Against Bonds

Synopsis

Palm Beach County currently has libraries in 18 locations, an annex building and a bookmobile. Its main library on Summit Boulevard opened in 1972 and is now the smallest main library among the six largest systems in Florida. (Palm Beach County is the fourth most populous county in the state.)

This proposed bond issue would fund a new 150,000-square-foot state-of-the-art main library on Summit Boulevard, three times the size of the existing building, and the renovation of approximately a dozen other existing county libraries. The new main library would be similar to the Canyon Branch Library in western Boynton Beach. It would have a meeting room that can accommodate 600 people, outdoor parklike space, a technology center with a recording studio and AI lab, display

space, and conference rooms with video and smart boards.

The Palm Beach County Library System has successfully completed two major expansion programs funded by voter-approved bond issues passed in 1986 (67 percent approval) and 2002 (69 percent approval). Since 2015 all renovation and construction have been funded by property tax revenues from the Palm Beach County Library District, which was established by the Florida Legislature in 1967. To keep pace with Palm Beach County's increasing population, the County Library System continues to build new branches and modernize existing facilities to serve both longtime and new residents.

Only voters residing in the Library District will see this referendum on their Nov. 3 ballots, and only property owners in the Library District would pay the additional tax. If the bonds are approved, properties in the Library District will see a library debt line on their tax bill starting no earlier than fiscal year 2030. The amount is estimated to be \$6 per \$100,000 of taxable property value.

The Library District includes unincorporated areas and 24 municipalities that have joined the Library District: Atlantis, Belle Glade, Briny Breezes, Cloud Lake, Glen Ridge, Greenacres, Haverhill, Hypoluxo, Juno Beach, Jupiter, Jupiter Inlet Colony, Lake Clarke Shores, Loxahatchee Groves, Mangonia Park, Ocean Ridge, Pahokee, Palm Beach Gardens, Palm Beach Shores, Royal Palm Beach, South Bay, South Palm Beach, Tequesta, Wellington and Westlake.

In addition to the past bond issues, the Palm Beach County Library System has used other sources of funding. The primary source is the taxing district. The system is eligible to collect impact fees from development. It also is eligible to apply for State of Florida Public Library Construction grants.

Town Hall sessions are scheduled in September and October to explain the County's capital project plans for both libraries and parks. To find one near you, visit <https://pbclibrary.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>.

Yes — For the bonds means

If the referendum passes, Palm Beach County will issue up to \$175 million in bonds for library expansion to be repaid over 20 years by taxpayers in the County's Library District. The expansion plans include a new main library building on Summit Boulevard and approximately 12 renovations of existing libraries.

No — Against the bonds means

If the referendum fails, Palm Beach County will not issue the bonds to help pay for the Library System's expansion plans.

Proponents — League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County

Opponents — Not available at the time of publication

PARKS, SPORTS, RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND BOTANICAL GARDENS TO BE FINANCED BY GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS

Shall the County issue general obligation bonds in an amount not to exceed \$280,000,000, bearing interest at rates not exceeding the legal limit and maturing not exceeding 20 years from the date(s) of issuance payable from ad valorem taxes levied on all taxable property within the County to modernize aging parks and recreation facilities and botanical gardens, expand and update sports complexes, increase public beach access and trail connectivity and develop new regional parks.

_____ For the Bonds

_____ Against the Bonds

Synopsis

To accelerate its Parks Capital Projects Plan, Palm Beach County proposes to issue up to \$280 million in general obligations bonds, which would be repaid over as much as 20 years through ad valorem taxes on all taxable property within the county.

The planned capital improvements, located throughout Palm

Beach County, include sports complex modernization, new parks, mutual use sports improvements in collaboration with Palm Beach County school locations, historic and nature center projects, new sports facilities including off-highway vehicle trails and a sports fieldhouse with multi-court flex space, aquatic play structure and expansion of the teaching pool.

Countywide projects would include parks, trail and pathway connectivity; shade structure and natural shade expansion to build upon a parks regreening plan begun in 2023; sports field complex improvements for tournament play; master plan improvements at the Mounts Botanical Garden and well-maintained accesses to beaches and water bodies.

Only voters residing in Palm Beach County will see this referendum on their Nov. 3 ballot and only property owners would pay the additional tax. If the bonds are approved, properties will see a parks debt line on their tax bill starting no earlier than fiscal year 2030. The estimated amount of the line is \$5 per \$100,000 of taxable property value.

Aside from bond issue proceeds, funding sources for Palm

Beach County parks include impact fees, infrastructure sales tax proceeds, grants, philanthropic contributions through the Parks Foundation and earned revenue.

Yes — For the bonds means

If the referendum passes, the county will issue up to \$280 million in general obligation bonds to help fund its parks master plan. Property owners would see a parks debt line on their tax bill starting in or after fiscal year 2030. The estimated amount of the line is \$5 per \$100,000 of taxable property value.

No — Against the bonds means

If the referendum fails, no bonds will be issued and the master plan will not receive the extra \$280 million over 20 years.

Proponents — League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County

Opponents — Not available at the time of publication

REFERENDUMS, Cont.

REFERENDUM TO CONTINUE AD VALOREM LEVY FOR SCHOOL SAFETY, TEACHERS AND OPERATIONAL NEEDS

Shall the School District of Palm Beach County have continued authority to levy 1.00 mills of ad valorem millage for operational needs of public schools dedicated to funding school safety; school police; mental health services; arts, music, physical education, career and choice program teachers; and improved teacher pay beginning July 1, 2027 and automatically ending June 30, 2031, with oversight of all funds by an independent committee of citizens and experts?

_____ YES

_____ NO

Synopsis

This is a renewal of an existing property tax that supports public schools in Palm Beach County. Voters first approved the 1.00 mill in 2018 and renewed it in 2022. The measure would continue the current levy for four more years.

By law the money can only be spent on the categories named in the ballot language, which include school safety; school police; mental health services; teachers in arts, music, physical education, career and choice programs; and improved teacher pay. An independent citizens committee reviews all spending.

Yes - For the Referendum Means

If voters approve the referendum, school property taxes will continue to include 1.00 mill for school safety, teachers and operational needs. Local funding allows the District to provide salary supplements that average \$8,000 per year for teachers in Palm Beach County. This investment helps attract qualified educators and provides the stability students need in the classroom. Without this support, Palm Beach County would struggle to remain competitive with surrounding regions.

These funds provide more than 900 teaching positions across art, music and physical education. This investment also supports Choice and Career Academies in fields such as medical sciences and pre-med, engineering and technology, aviation and aerospace technology, performing arts, culinary arts and construction trades. The revenue also supports the presence of School Police and security personnel on every District-operated campus. It also helps provide a dedicated school counselor and a behavioral health professional at every school.

No - Against the Referendum Means

If voters reject the referendum, meaning the 1.00 mill is discontinued, the lost revenue will lead to decreases in the number of teachers as well as cut student support services throughout the School District of Palm Beach County. Teachers would face an immediate pay cut averaging \$8,000 per year. More than 900 teaching positions in the arts, physical education and Choice programs would be eliminated. Less funding would be available for student safety and mental health support.

Proponents — League of Women Voters of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County Classroom Teachers Association

Opponents — Not available at the time of publication

SPEAKERS' BUREAU

Trusted ★ Nonpartisan ★ Engaging ★ Informative

Our speakers are available by Zoom and to come to your group/community

- ★ **NEW!** The U.S. Constitution: The Cornerstone of American Democracy
- ★ **NEW!** Separation of Powers and Checks and Balances in the U.S. Constitution: Ensuring Balanced Governance
- ★ **UPDATED!** Identifying & Combating False Information
- ★ **NEW!** From Idea to Law: Understanding Florida's Legislative Process
- ★ **NEW!** Interacting with Public Officials and their Staff

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY



For more topics and information visit **LWVPBC.org**
or email **SpeakersBureau@LWVPBC.org**

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – SENATE

Florida has a bicameral (two houses) Legislature with a 40-member Senate as the upper body. Senators are elected for staggered four-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms. In odd-numbered years, the Legislative Session is convened annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, and is not to exceed 60 days. The primary responsibilities of the Legislature include approving a state budget as well as enacting, amending and repealing state laws. The Senate also confirms or rejects appointments made by the Governor for state officers and agency heads. Four senate seats serve Palm Beach County. The 2026 salary for members of the Florida Legislature is \$29,697.

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QUESTIONS



*Incumbent

1 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?

2 Insufficient affordable housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis, beyond tax and insurance reform, for both homeowners and renters?

3 Equitable and affordable access to healthcare is declining, in part due to the decrease of federal insurance subsidies. At the same time, more Medicaid costs are being pushed onto the states. How should the state address these issues?

4 Polls indicate the public is more concerned about the cost of property insurance than property taxes. What is your view and why?

DISTRICT 24

MACKENSON "MACK" BERNARD (D)*



HOMETOWN:
West Palm Beach
WEBSITE:
MackBernard.com
FB: MackBernardPBC

The two challenges I hear most from families in our district are the cost of living, especially housing and insurance, and the strain on our public schools and infrastructure as our communities grow. In my first six months back in Tallahassee, I will refile legislation to expand workforce housing incentives near job centers and transit, push for property insurance reforms that actually lower premiums instead of just stabilizing the market for insurers, and work with local governments on infrastructure funding tied to growth. I will also hold regular town halls across the district so residents can raise concerns directly to me. Affordability touches everything from teacher pay to small business survival, and the first six months should be about building coalitions to get real relief passed, not just filing bills that go nowhere.

Beyond tax and insurance relief, I support fully funding the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund instead of sweeping it into the general budget, which has happened too often. I also support incentives for accessory dwelling units, streamlined permitting for workforce housing near job centers and transit, and public-private partnerships that convert underused commercial property into housing stock. For renters, I support stronger notice requirements before large rent increases and expanding legal aid access so tenants understand their rights. None of this works without local governments having the tools and funding to act, so the state needs to be a partner to cities and counties on housing, not an obstacle. Florida cannot keep growing this way without a real, funded housing strategy that includes both homeownership and rental options for working families.

With federal subsidies shrinking and more Medicaid costs landing on the states, Florida needs to be honest about the gap that creates rather than passing the cost down to hospitals, providers, and ultimately patients. I support Florida accepting available federal Medicaid options that bring our own tax dollars back to our state to cover working Floridians who fall into the coverage gap, and I support protecting funding for community health centers that serve as the safety net when insurance falls short. The state also needs to look seriously at what is driving costs, including hospital consolidation and drug pricing, instead of only debating who pays. Healthcare access affects our workforce and our economy, not just individual families, so it should be approached as an economic issue as much as a health one, with real numbers and outcomes in mind.

I think the public has this right. Property insurance premiums have risen so fast in Florida that they now function like a second mortgage payment for a lot of families, and unlike property taxes, there is often no clear connection between what people pay and the actual risk on their home, especially after past reforms that were supposed to lower rates. Property taxes are a real concern too, but they are more predictable and tied to local budgets people can see and vote on. Insurance costs feel arbitrary to most homeowners, and premiums have kept climbing even as insurer profits and reinsurance markets have stabilized. I support continued oversight of the insurance market, transparency requirements so homeowners can see how rates are calculated, and stronger consumer protections so relief promised in past reform packages actually reaches homeowners.

DISTRICT 24

JACKIE GREEN (R)



HOMETOWN:
West Palm Beach
WEBSITE:
VoteJackieGreen.com

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

DISTRICT 26

RICK ROTH (R)



HOMETOWN:
Palm Beach County
WEBSITE:
RickRoth4Senate.com
FB: RickRothFL

Our state's rapid population growth drives our two most critical challenges: managing infrastructure concurrency and lowering housing costs. Smart Infrastructure & Concurrency: Florida must ensure that community growth matches public investment. We need to leverage Our state's tax revenues responsibly to fund essential infrastructure—such as widening and building roads—together with new home construction so that Our neighborhoods do not become overcrowded. Expanding Workforce & Affordable Housing: While the Legislature significantly increased funding for the Sadowski Trust Fund, we must continually review our progress. Within my first six months, I will advocate for refining incentive formulas to actively reward counties that successfully streamline and build entry-level homes. Expanding supply is the most effective way to stabilize an overheated housing market and help young families and working professionals put down roots.

Family financial security starts with curbing unnecessary government burdens. A major driver of our high cost of living in Palm Beach County is property taxation. I consistently oppose additional "penny taxes" for localized school or infrastructure initiatives that drive housing and rental expenses. To bring relief to both homeowners and renters, we must prioritize pro-growth state policies that cut red tape for builders, protect private property rights, and foster public-private partnerships to increase the supply of workforce housing without expanding the Size and scope of local government.

Post-pandemic adjustments have naturally shifted Medicaid enrollment back to pre-2020 baselines as eligibility guidelines are re-verified. Florida's strict income caps ensure that our safety-net resources are preserved for our most vulnerable residents—including children, seniors, and individuals with disabilities. State policy should focus on a hand-up, not just a handout. We must maintain temporary, compassionate assistance for those in a true crisis while promoting economic independence through job training and higher wages, empowering individuals to transition successfully into private healthcare coverage.

I hear about property insurance constantly from local families, and they are entirely right to be concerned—it is one of the biggest threats to family budgeting and homeownership stability in Florida. While property taxes have risen due to several years of high inflation impacting labor and construction materials, the crisis in our property insurance market is primarily driven by excessive litigation and regulatory costs. To bring financial relief to homeowners, our top legislative priority must be comprehensive legal reform to curb frivolous lawsuits, stabilize the insurance market, and drive down monthly premiums for Florida households.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – SENATE

Florida has a bicameral (two houses) Legislature with a 40-member Senate as the upper body. Senators are elected for staggered four-year terms and are limited to two consecutive terms. In odd-numbered years, the Legislative Session is convened annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, and is not to exceed 60 days. The primary responsibilities of the Legislature include approving a state budget as well as enacting, amending and repealing state laws. The Senate also confirms or rejects appointments made by the Governor for state officers and agency heads. Four senate seats serve Palm Beach County. The 2026 salary for members of the Florida Legislature is \$29,697.

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DISTRICT 26

DISTRICT 30

DISTRICT 30

DAVID RYAN SILVERS (D)



HOMETOWN:
Boca Raton

WEBSITE:
VoteDavidSilvers.com

FB:
David-Silvers-for-FL-Senate

IG: DavidSilvers_2026

Housing affordability and affordable healthcare, during my time in the House of Representatives I sponsored legislation to protect the affordable housing trust funds and once elected to the State Senate I intend on filing legislation to provide a statewide workforce housing program to work with local county commissions on a workforce housing program. I also plan to file legislation to expand medicaid, far too many Floridians are having to make decisions on whether to pay for rent or their medication and that just isn't right. As a legislature, we need to do better.

Solving Florida's housing crisis requires addressing the root cost drivers that make building and living here so expensive. First, we must expand the availability of homeowners insurance. When coverage is scarce, lenders can't write mortgages, landlords pass high carrying costs to renters, and builders face steep financing hurdles. Attracting competitive private insurers is foundational to affordability. Second, we must streamline the permitting process. When site plans and building permits stall for months, holding costs and interest inflate the final price of both single-family homes and multifamily units. Enforcing strict review deadlines cuts unnecessary red tape and lowers construction costs. Finally, we must ensure state housing trust funds remain fully dedicated to SAIL for multifamily supply and SHIP for down-payment assistance.

Addressing healthcare affordability as federal subsidies shift requires a balanced approach that protects vulnerable Floridians while safeguarding state taxpayers. First, we must expand the healthcare workforce and provider supply. Building on the "Live Healthy" framework, increasing residency slots, expanding loan forgiveness for doctors in underserved areas, leveraging telehealth and "hospital-at-home" models can lower overhead and ensure preventive care is accessible before costly emergency room visits occur. Second, we should stabilize the private insurance market. Exploring state-based reinsurance mechanisms and allowing small businesses to pool risk through association plans helps keep individual premiums attainable without relying solely on fluctuating federal funding. Finally, we must modernize Medicaid delivery through value-based care, preventive screenings, and fraud prevention. By focusing on efficiency, Florida can control program costs while preserving vital coverage.

Polls must always be viewed with care; results often shift depending on the question's wording & who is sampled. However, the underlying sentiment across Florida is unmistakable: property taxes are a predictable annual line item, while soaring insurance premiums are unpredictable costs that threaten family budgets & housing stability. Property taxes fund essential local services like first responders, roads, schools, & Florida already provides tools like the Save Our Homes cap to limit tax spikes. Insurance rates, by contrast, have escalated rapidly without corresponding local benefits, making coverage unattainable for many. We must tackle both, but lowering insurance costs demands immediate focus. The state must do more by increasing reinsurance capacity, attracting stable private insurers to foster real market competition, & ensure reforms translate into premium relief for policyholders...

LAUREN BOOK (D)



HOMETOWN:
Hollywood

WEBSITE:
LaurenBook.com

FB: LaurenBookFL

X: LeaderBookFL

IG: LaurenBookFL

Two challenges are making Florida affordable and keeping our children and communities safe. Families are being priced out by housing, property insurance, health care, child care, and everyday costs. In my first six months, I will fight for insurance accountability and homeowner relief, protect affordable housing funds, work to expand attainable housing near jobs, and support strong public schools. Safety has been my life's work. As a mom, educator, survivor, and child-safety advocate, I have helped pass more than two dozen laws protecting children and survivors of sexual abuse. I will continue that work by strengthening child protection laws, common sense gun safety laws, expanding mental health care, combating human trafficking and online dangers, and making sure families too often forgotten have a voice.

Housing affordability is one of Florida's most urgent challenges. Families who work here should be able to live here. I support fully funding the Sadowski housing trust, protecting existing affordable units, expanding down-payment and closing-cost assistance, and increasing attainable housing near jobs and transportation. The state should use public land responsibly, require long-term affordability when public dollars are invested, and give local governments flexibility to meet local needs. Renters deserve safe housing, clear fees, protection from retaliation, and meaningful notice of major rent increases. In District 30, I will bring local governments, housing advocates, employers, and responsible, community-focused developers together so state resources produce and protect homes people can actually afford.

Florida should expand Medicaid and stop leaving billions of federal health care dollars on the table. Expansion would cover working adults, strengthen hospitals, reduce uncompensated care, and help prevent families from falling into medical debt. In the Senate, I helped extend Medicaid coverage for new mothers and babies from 60 days to 12 months. I will build on that work by protecting coverage for children and postpartum parents, expanding mental health and substance-use treatment, addressing provider shortages, and funding enrollment assistance. As federal support changes, Florida must use its resources responsibly to preserve continuity of care, rather than shifting costs to families, hospitals, and local taxpayers.

The public is right to be alarmed. Property insurance has become one of the biggest affordability threats facing homeowners, condominium owners, renters, and small businesses. Premiums have risen sharply while families face higher deductibles, less coverage, and difficulty getting valid claims paid. Property taxes matter, but insurance can determine whether someone can keep a home or qualify for a mortgage. I support stronger oversight of insurers, transparent rate increases, accountability for delayed or underpaid claims, and greater investment in home hardening, flood control, stormwater systems, and resilience. Relief must reach policyholders, not simply improve insurance company balance sheets.

HECTOR RIVERA (R)



HOMETOWN:
Coral Springs

WEBSITE:
ElectRivera.com

FB: ElectRiveraFL

X: ElectRiveraFL

IG: ElectRiveraFL

Florida's biggest challenges are 1) Skyrocketing insurance costs, and 2) out-of-control over-development projects overwhelming aging infrastructures. Within my first six months, I will pursue the following solutions: Insurance: reform insurance by introducing a framework to create a program that will cross-collateralized insurance coverages, allowing policyholders to bundle coverages with other insureds in different quadrants with adverse-risk-of-loss at a singularity event, causing insurance carriers to reduce premiums and lower overall deductibles, while simultaneously allowing insurance carriers to Overdevelopment: I will pursue legislation restoring home rule principles, by limiting State preemption & establishing a Density Ceiling policy that prevents the State from overriding local zoning plans. This ensures that new developments are in line with what local communities, and that fees collected from developers stay within those communities to fund infrastructure improvements.

Beyond tax and insurance reform, I support and push for expanding the adoption of public private workforce housing partnerships that self-fund and reduce reliance on taxpayer subsidies. I would also create legislation to facilitate private individuals to invest in programs under a bill dubbed "Landlord Loan Act" said program will provide more housing opportunities to low-income families.

Push legislature at the State level that usher in the adoption of self-funding healthcare models that reduce costs without raising taxes. And support expanding state-negotiated prescription pricing, increasing telehealth access, as well as, creating targeted subsidies for vulnerable populations. Additionally, Florida should streamline Medicaid administration to reduce waste and redirect savings toward coverage expansion. Healthcare should be accessible, transparent, and financially sustainable for Florida families.

Polls are correct: Floridians are far more concerned about property insurance than property taxes. Insurance premiums have risen 100–300%, threatening homeownership and destabilizing entire communities. Property taxes are predictable and locally controlled, plus it has as a maximum cap increase on homestead property. Insurance premiums are volatile and influenced by legislative failures and special-interest pressure. My priority is to reform insurance by introducing a framework to create a program that will cross-collateralized insurance coverages, allowing policyholders to bundle coverages with other insureds in different quadrants with adverse-risk-of-loss at a singularity event, causing insurance carriers to reduce premiums and lower overall deductibles, while simultaneously allowing insurance carriers to continue to operate at currently permitted profit margins. Fixing insurance is essential to protecting Florida's middle class.

RECENT FLORIDA DRIVER LICENSE / ID NUMBER CHANGES AFFECTING FLORIDA VOTERS

Driver Licenses and Florida ID cards issued since July 31, 2024, have been assigned new numbers. If you have renewed or replaced your Driver License or Florida ID since then, please update your voter information to include your new Driver License or ID number to ensure the Supervisor of Elections office has the most current information on file. Voters are encouraged to keep their voter information up to date online at RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov or by contacting the SOE's office.

YOUR SIGNATURE IS IMPORTANT

Your handwriting may change over time, so it's important to update your signature periodically. The Supervisor of Elections uses the signatures included in your voter record to verify your identity on petitions, provisional ballots and Vote-by-Mail ballots. The signatures must match for the ballot or petition to count or other changes to be made.

Signature updates can be made at any time. You may use a paper voter registration application or an online application to do so. If you use the online voter registration application, the most recent signature from your Florida Driver License or Florida ID will be added to your voter record.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Florida has a bicameral (two houses) Legislature with a 120-member House of Representatives as the lower body. House members serve two-year terms and are limited to a total of eight consecutive years. In odd-numbered years, the Legislative Session is convened annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March, and is not to exceed 60 days. The primary responsibilities of the Legislature include approving a state budget as well as enacting, amending and repealing state laws. The House has the sole power to impeach (bring charges against) state officials. Nine state house seats serve Palm Beach County. The 2026 salary for members of the Florida Legislature is \$29,697.

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*Incumbent

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2 Insufficient affordable housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis, beyond tax and insurance reform, for both homeowners and renters?

3 Equitable and affordable access to healthcare is declining, in part due to the decrease of federal insurance subsidies. At the same time, more Medicaid costs are being pushed onto the states. How should the state address these issues?

4 Polls indicate the public is more concerned about the cost of property insurance than property taxes. What is your view and why?

DISTRICT 86

ELIZABETH BRENDEL PANDICH (D)



HOMETOWN:
Wellington

WEBSITE:
Pandich2026.com

IG: @PandichForFlorida

A statewide moratorium on data centers, very simple. Campaign Finance Transparency, which I have already started on in the form of a Candidate Pledge prior to the election. I want to prohibit PAC to PAC transfers. I want voters to know who is funding candidates.

Limit private equity homeownership. 1/7 houses on the market in the US are in Florida. We don't have a housing "shortage", we have greedy developers and compromised politicians, who are also greedy.

For starters, don't vote for the ballot initiative to lower/remove homeowners taxes. That takes a whole lot of money out of the pot that we are going to need. The administration also just announced that they are rolling back Medicare Part D for 2027, so add that to the list. While I would like to have a brilliant response to this, I can't. We have a path of destruction that keeps rolling through, so it's difficult to even assess the damage when the storm is still beating us up. That is by design. One short term solution would be medical debt forgiveness. If we can bail out banks, airlines, the auto industry, we can bail out people in their hardest times.

Because most people aren't stupid and understand that their taxes go towards things they need and/or appreciate. They also realize that insurance companies are profiting: paying their executives bank, give money to politicians for favors, not paying out for their homeowners claims but to shareholders instead. We, the people, are tired of corporations being more important than us.

DISTRICT 86

JOHN SNYDER (R)*



HOMETOWN:
Stuart

WEBSITE:
ElectJohnSnyder.com

FB: JohnSnyderFL

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

DISTRICT 87

EMILY WATSON GREGORY (D)



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Jupiter

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Florida's two biggest challenges are the affordability crisis and our broken property insurance system. Florida has simply become too expensive for Floridians, with families and seniors struggling to keep up with rising housing, insurance, grocery, and everyday costs. In my first six months, I will fight to lower costs, hold insurance companies accountable, and advance real property insurance reform that puts policyholders first and brings premiums down. Floridians who work hard should be able to afford to stay in the communities they call home.

Hardworking Floridians have earned an affordable place to call home. We need to increase the supply of housing that working families, seniors, teachers, nurses, first responders, and young people can actually afford. I support fully funding Florida's affordable housing programs, protecting those dollars from being diverted to other purposes, encouraging the construction and preservation of workforce housing, and giving local governments the flexibility to address the specific housing needs of their communities. Florida's economy depends on people being able to afford to live in the communities where they work, raise their families, and contribute.

Florida cannot afford to respond to shrinking health care access by shifting even more costs onto families. We should expand Medicaid, protect coverage for children, seniors, people with disabilities, and working families, and maximize every available federal dollar rather than leaving resources on the table. We also need to strengthen Florida's health care workforce, expand access to primary and preventive care, and support community health centers and hospitals that serve uninsured and underserved Floridians. My background is in public health, and I believe strongly that preventive, affordable care saves lives and saves taxpayers money. When people lose coverage, they do not stop getting sick, they often end up receiving more expensive care later. Florida should focus on keeping people healthy and insured.

I understand why Floridians are more concerned about property insurance. For too many homeowners, insurance has become one of the fastest-growing and least predictable expenses in their household budget. Our homes represent years of hard work and investment, but families and seniors are being forced to question whether they can afford to remain in them. Florida needs real insurance reform centered on policyholders, not insurance companies. I support expanding access to affordable state-backed coverage, increasing transparency and accountability when insurers raise rates or deny legitimate claims, and pursuing solutions that spread risk and lower premiums. Property tax relief can help homeowners, but it cannot substitute for fixing an insurance system that is making homeownership increasingly unaffordable.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES			
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DISTRICT 87	DISTRICT 88	DISTRICT 88	DISTRICT 89
JON MAPLES (R)  HOMETOWN: Jupiter WEBSITE: VoteMaples.com FB: VoteJonMaples Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	JERVONTE EDMONDS (D)*  HOMETOWN: West Palm Beach FB: JervonteEdmonds Florida's two most urgent challenges are affordability and strengthening our education-to-workforce system. Families need relief from rising housing, insurance and everyday costs, but Florida's long-term success also depends on preparing every child for opportunity. I support a comprehensive education plan that starts by expanding access to VPK so parents have greater access to quality early learning while they work, improves teacher pay so Florida can recruit and retain excellent educators, and strengthens career and technical education, apprenticeships and partnerships with our colleges and employers. At the same time, I will continue pursuing affordable housing and insurance solutions. Our goal should be simple: make Florida more affordable today while investing in the people who will drive our economy tomorrow. Florida needs a housing strategy that supports the full spectrum from current homeowners to renters, first-time buyers and families experiencing homelessness. I support fully funding our state affordable-housing programs, strengthening My Safe Florida Home and investing in programs that help homeowners repair, beautify and preserve their properties. I will continue pursuing my HB 311 approach to incentivize private investment in homeownership assistance. We should also partner creatively with churches, nonprofits and responsible developers to build attainable housing and cut unnecessary bureaucracy that drives up costs and delays construction. Finally, we must address housing instability among school-age children, because a child cannot be expected to succeed in the classroom without a stable place to call home. Healthcare should be accessible and affordable regardless of a family's ZIP code or income. As federal support changes, Florida must protect essential care while being responsible with taxpayer dollars. I support maximizing federal funding, strengthening Medicaid accountability, and expanding partnerships with qualified nonprofit providers, community health centers and free clinics to bring care directly into underserved communities. We should expand primary, preventive, maternal and mental healthcare, address shortages of doctors and nurses, lower prescription drug costs, and use mobile and telehealth services where appropriate. Florida should also evaluate responsible ways to close coverage gaps. Our goal should be better health outcomes not simply more spending by getting people affordable care before preventable conditions become expensive emergencies. Property insurance is the greater threat to the American Dream for many Florida families. Insurance costs can force people from homes they worked decades to own, erode generational wealth and make homeownership harder for the next generation. Property taxes deserve responsible relief, but they also fund critical services, including schools, healthcare, children's services and water management. I have filed legislation to provide insurance premium relief for homeowners, and I support expanding My Safe Florida Home, stronger rate transparency and mediation resources for insurance disputes. We must also address rising HOA and condo association costs, strengthen homeowner protections and dispute resolution, and confront the impact of large institutional investors purchasing significant numbers of homes and competing with families. Our goal should be protecting homeownership, not simply shifting costs from one bill to another.	WILLIAM JOSEPH (R)  HOMETOWN: Lake Worth Beach WEBSITE: VoteWilliamJoseph.com FB: VoteWilliamJoseph The affordability and Housing crisis, to fix the affordability and Housing crisis in our state, the State and local governments must increase housing supply, streamline approvals, and protect vulnerable residents from displacement. To solve the affordable housing crisis requires a combination of increasing overall supply, lowering construction costs, and providing direct financial support to lower-income renters. The States can address rising health insurance and Medicaid costs by funding local subsidy programs, streamlining administrative processes, and capping provider price growth. Property insurance costs are more causing more immediate financial strain and anxiety for homeowners than property taxes. Because Property taxes usually increase at a slower, more predictable rate tied to assessed home values or local caps.	CATHY HIGGINS (R)  HOMETOWN: Atlantis WEBSITE: VoteCathyHiggins.com Important Challenges: 1. We need to remedy the disparity between the high cost of living (home prices, insurance costs, taxes, groceries, gas) and wages to give relief to those in an affordability crisis. 2. We also need to focus on public safety, education, quality of life, managing traffic and improving infrastructure to support the growing population. Actions to take: 1. Find ways to cut spending in areas that are not essential for safety, quality of life and education to provide tax relief. Reform the insurance industry, eliminate fraud, and make all types of insurance, homeowners, health, car, and business liability more affordable. 2. Support our police, first responders and educators by paying them competitive wages. Give parents school choice that best suits the needs, interests and talents of their children. Manage development strategically and thoughtfully with proper infrastructure in place to avoid traffic, overcrowding and safety issues. I am a licensed Florida Realtor, and the home prices and rents are directly related to supply and demand. If the demand exceeds the supply, prices go up and vice versa, if supply exceeds demand, prices will reduce. The way to alleviate the high prices of homes and rentals is to build more affordable housing to catch up with the increased population. However, we need to be thoughtful and strategic in that to make sure the infrastructure and space is available to not overcrowd and negatively impact safety. We need to have more insurance companies in the market across states to offer more competitive pricing. We need to crack down on insurance fraud and its negative impacts. We can also encourage non-profit organizations to offer free medical services to those who are financially struggling. Both are a concern for me. However, with property insurance, once your house is paid off, you may decline having property insurance or self-insure, but with property taxes, you have to pay them each year, whether your house is paid off or not. That being said, essential services for safety, first responders, education need to be properly funded.
Candidate did not respond to our invitation.			
Candidate did not respond to our invitation.			
Candidate did not respond to our invitation.			

QUESTIONS		DISTRICT 89	DISTRICT 90	DISTRICT 90
?		DEBRA TENDRICH (D)*	ROB LONG (D)*	IONEL ROIBAN (R)
*Incumbent		 HOMETOWN: Lake Worth WEBSITE: ReelectDebra.com FB: DTendrich IG: @DebraTendrich	 HOMETOWN: Delray Beach WEBSITE: RobLongforFlorida.com FB: RobforFlorida IG: _TheLongGame_	 HOMETOWN: Boynton Beach WEBSITE: VoteRoiban.com
1	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?	1) Affordability: Housing, insurance, groceries, utilities, childcare, and health-care put too much pressure on families and seniors. I have effectively worked to reduce costs locally, including securing \$250,000 in summer camp scholarships to help working parents with childcare costs. In my first six months, I will continue pushing for solutions that address housing and insurance costs, protect families from unnecessary tax and fee increases, and make everyday expenses more affordable. 2) Political Division: When politics becomes more important than solving problems, Floridians lose. I filed five bills that passed both chambers unanimously, including HB 277, the most comprehensive domestic violence reform our state has seen in decades. In my first six months, I will continue building bipartisan coalitions to advance solutions on education, public safety, the environment, and other issues affecting Floridians. We accomplish more when we treat each other like neighbors.	Florida's biggest challenges are affordability and resilience. Upon reelection, I will continue fighting proposals that shift costs onto renters, businesses, and local services in the name of property-tax relief, because that can make housing affordability worse rather than better. I will also keep pushing for cleaner water and stronger protections against harmful chemicals like PFAS, building on my work with the Joe Casello Act. And while property insurance reform will take sustained bipartisan work, I will continue pushing for a serious conversation focused on reducing costs for homeowners without creating new risks for taxpayers.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.
2	Insufficient affordable housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis, beyond tax and insurance reform, for both homeowners and renters?	Housing is one of the biggest affordability concerns I hear from Floridians, especially here in Palm Beach County, where renters and homeowners are feeling the strain. I believe we must increase housing supply while protecting housing stability. I support fully funding Florida's state and local affordable housing trust funds, strengthening SHIP and SAIL to build and preserve affordable housing, expanding rental assistance, and increasing down-payment and closing-cost assistance for first-time homebuyers. We should also make it faster and easier to build housing through predictable permitting, redevelopment of underused properties, and public-private partnerships. Affordable housing must work for renters and homeowners, including the teachers, first responders, healthcare workers, and other employees our communities depend on. The goal is simple: more housing, more pathways to homeownership, and greater stability for Floridians who want to remain in their homes and communities.	Florida needs more housing people who live and work here can actually afford. I support fully funding Florida's housing trust funds, expanding SHIP and SAIL, using appropriate public land for workforce housing, and helping first-time buyers with down-payment assistance. We should also preserve existing affordable units, encourage adaptive reuse and mixed-income development, and give local governments flexibility to add housing where infrastructure can support it. The state should be a partner in creating housing, not simply preempt communities with one-size-fits-all mandates.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.
3	Equitable and affordable access to healthcare is declining, in part due to the decrease of federal insurance subsidies. At the same time, more Medicaid costs are being pushed onto the states. How should the state address these issues?	Healthcare must remain accessible and affordable. Florida cannot simply shift rising costs onto families or taxpayers. As federal subsidies decline, I support pursuing every available federal waiver and funding opportunity to help Florida families maintain coverage while maximizing federal dollars and controlling state costs. At the same time, we must protect Medicaid access for the people who depend on it most, especially children, people with disabilities, foster youth, seniors, and other vulnerable Floridians. They should not lose access to doctors, medications, therapies, or essential care because costs are being shifted to the state. Strengthening primary and preventive care can improve outcomes and help avoid more expensive emergency care later. We should also improve provider access and reimbursement, reduce unnecessary administrative costs, and address prescription drug costs. Our goal should be better access, better outcomes, and responsible use of taxpayer dollars.	Florida should use every available tool to keep people insured and protect access to care. That includes maximizing available federal Medicaid dollars, protecting coverage for children, seniors, people with disabilities, and working families, and improving reimbursement so providers can continue serving Medicaid patients. We also need to strengthen the health-care workforce, expand access to mental-health and primary-care services, reduce prescription-drug costs, and invest in preventive care. Shifting costs onto patients or allowing people to lose coverage ultimately makes care more expensive for everyone.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.
4	Polls indicate the public is more concerned about the cost of property insurance than property taxes. What is your view and why?	I do believe property tax reform is necessary, but the larger affordability concern I hear across our entire community is property insurance. I served on the Select Committee on Property Taxes during the 2026 Legislative Session, and many of our conversations about taxes quickly turned to insurance costs, which were among the biggest concerns Floridians raised. Florida homeowners are well over two times the national average for insurance. While stabilizing the market is important, stabilization at unaffordable rates is not enough. I speak with homeowners whose property taxes are relatively predictable, while insurance increases leave them afraid to file legitimate claims or even considering going uninsured. Property insurance reform would also benefit renters and businesses because those costs are often passed through in rents and operating expenses. Making insurance more affordable would address Florida's affordability crisis in a much broader way.	I agree that property insurance is the more immediate affordability crisis for many Florida homeowners. Property taxes matter, but cutting them in a way that simply shifts costs into fees, assessments, or reduced local services does not solve the underlying problem. I opposed Amendment 3 because it risks doing exactly that. Florida should focus on bringing down insurance premiums through stronger competition, mitigation and resilience programs, transparency, consumer protections, and reforms that make the market more stable without leaving taxpayers holding the risk.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES			
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DISTRICT 91	DISTRICT 91	DISTRICT 92	DISTRICT 92
LUIS GARCIA (D)  HOMETOWN: Boca Raton WEBSITE: VoteforLuisGarcia.com The affordability crisis and healthcare access 1- Seek statutory remedies to the underlying insurance fraud problem in soFLA which results in the highest USA homeowner insurance rates (plumber kickbacks paid by public adjusters & contractors plus requiring licensure of restoration company door to door marketers & salespersons to eliminate fraud by corrupt restoration contractors) 2- Reinstating Medicaid funding for ALL floridians and also PACE which specifically helps frail seniors stay at home instead of nursing homes.	PEGGY GOSSETT-SEIDMAN (R)*  HOMETOWN: Highland Beach WEBSITE: PeggyforFL.com FB: Peggy.Gossett.Seidman Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	STEVE BYERS (R)  HOMETOWN: Delray Beach WEBSITE: VoteSteveByers.com FB: VoteSteveByers X: @Steve_Byers1 IG: @VoteSteveByers One of the fastest-growing threats to property rights in Florida isn't coming from Washington—it's happening right in our own neighborhoods. I have watched the steady rise in HOA abuse across our state. We've seen homeowners burdened by excessive fines, selective enforcement, abuse of power, costly litigation, allegations of fraud, and even cases where HOA disputes have escalated into criminal matters. That's not the American dream. That's government overreach at the neighborhood level. HOAs have a legitimate purpose. They help protect property values and maintain community standards. But they were never intended to become unaccountable mini-governments with unlimited power over the people who fund them.	KELLY SKIDMORE (D)*  HOMETOWN: Deerfield Beach WEBSITE: KellySkidmore.com FB: RepSkidmore IG: KellyAnnSkidmore 1. Property Insurance premiums. I will reintroduce legislation to require the secretary of the Office of Insurance Regulation to initiate a national catastrophic risk pool with a minimum of three entities to pool risk and reduce premiums. Reports presented to the last two House Speakers proved a 30% reduction in premiums with only three pooled entities. That information was never shared with the members of the House. 2. Florida is one of only nine states that have failed to expand Medicaid. With more than 800,000 uninsured Floridians, the failure to expand coverage results in increased costs for all of us, as families without insurance are forced to use the hospital emergency departments as their only source of care. As a donor state to the federal government, meaning Floridians pay more in federal taxes that we receive in services, drawing down the federal dollars we deserve makes good economic sense. I will continue to pursue the expansion through the legislative and budget process.
WE MUST offer additional subsidies to assisting working poor people to pay rent. FL must restrict Big Investors buying up real estate which prevents true resident home ownership.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	This is a local problem. Empower a local solution.	A number of bills have previously been filed that would help first-time home buyers with down payment assistance, tax exemptions, and other opportunities, as well as programs to assist elderly, long-time Florida homeowners from being forced out of their homes. Priority should be given to that legislation. Florida continues to be an attractive place to live, and developers are responding to the need for additional inventory, but the affordable housing and conservation land swaps benefit only the developer and not the potential homeowner. Programs like Hometown Heroes that provide assistance to a select group of people help immensely, by leave far too many in the gap. Renters will surely bear additional costs should Amendment 3 pass and the additional tax burden that non-homesteaded properties will bear will be passed on to them by individual and/or corporate landlords. Relief must be prioritized for them by capping annual increases and disallowing mid-lease increases, as well.
FUNDING must be diverted from other parts of Florida's \$118,000,000,000 !! WE CAN DO THIS! Personally, I lost my \$1,250 United Healthcare HMO monthly insurance coverage which I had for 14 years due to the end of subsidies. At 60,it is terrifying to know I am uninsured since I have chronic medical concerns.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	This is a federal issue just by the nature of the question. I will affect Florida laws for Health Care Freedoms.	The United States continues to experience some of the worst outcomes and most expensive care in the world. Those who can afford that expense and even have the resources for concierge care are not experiencing that. But if countries should be evaluated on how they provide care for the least among us, we're failing. Bigly. We currently have the largest measles outbreak in the past 30 years because nonprofessionals have questioned the efficacy and safety of vaccines, and belittled the application of science. Illnesses spread more quickly in low-income communities that have limited access to medicine and doctors. The country is off course and should reexamine the role and mission governments have in ensuring public health.
Property insurance is a much bigger problem than taxes. BUT, most people assume that our premiums are sky high to insurance carrier greed. That is a tiny part of the problem. Florida is number one in the USA for property insurance fraud & overbilling. THAT is the main problem!	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	Insurance affects nearly every Florida family. Whether it's homeowners' insurance, auto insurance, or business coverage, rising premiums are putting tremendous financial pressure on hardworking Floridians. I have spent more than 21 years working in and around the insurance industry, and I've watched the system become increasingly difficult for consumers. Too often, everyday policyholders are left paying more while large insurance interests wield enormous influence over the legislative process. Florida deserves an insurance market that is fair, competitive, transparent, and accountable. We need policies that encourage a healthy insurance industry while also protecting the people who faithfully pay their premiums and expect honest treatment when they need it most. I will not be afraid to ask the hard questions or challenge powerful special interests when Florida families are being left behind. I believe our laws should serve the people—not just the largest corporations.	My constituents have not reached out with concerns about property taxes, but they have contacted me en masse regarding soaring property insurance premiums. Most homeowners chose the neighborhoods, cities, and counties where they reside based on safety, aesthetics, schools, parks, etc. They know what their property taxes pay for and those municipal and county budgets are available for review and are approved at public meetings. Insurance company executive compensation has no such transparency. No one really knows what the true profits of the insurance companies are because Florida allows a shell game of parent companies charging their own subsidiaries huge fees so that the subsidiary shows a loss and the profit that went to the parent company is hidden. Limiting the ability for homeowners to sue their insurance company when legitimate claims go unpaid and creating a \$2 billion slush fund for insurance companies to use was actually an anti-consumer approach to the insurance crisis.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE – HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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QUESTIONS

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*Incumbent

1

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?

2

Insufficient affordable housing is hurting Florida families and limiting Florida's economy. What state measures do you support to address the affordable housing crisis, beyond tax and insurance reform, for both homeowners and renters?

3

Equitable and affordable access to healthcare is declining, in part due to the decrease of federal insurance subsidies. At the same time, more Medicaid costs are being pushed onto the states. How should the state address these issues?

4

Polls indicate the public is more concerned about the cost of property insurance than property taxes. What is your view and why?

DISTRICT 93

ANNE MILLINGTON GERWIG (R)*



HOMETOWN:

Wellington

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AnneGerwigWellington

1. Cost of living-it's become very expensive to live in South Florida and affordability is a real problem for our residents. 2. Development- we have seen the impacts of rapid development on our infrastructure. We need to make sure that we preserve the ecosystem and the way of life that has made this area so attractive.

The state has made several attempts to encourage development of affordable and workforce housing. Some of these efforts have been effective, along with working with local housing partners to encourage the development of particularly work force units.

The fraud we have seen in these programs is unacceptable. We also need to be paying properly for the services that are required. We need to expand programs that help health care professionals pay off their student loans by working in underserved areas or with underserved groups. My Dept of Health bill (that was passed in the house but failed in the senate did that- it expanded the program that helped dentists and hygienists access loan forgiveness. Money already dedicated for that purpose was not being utilized because of weaknesses in the system. We can't expect medical professionals to work for such low compensation rates especially in such a high cost market.

The property insurance rates have started to stabilize but they have not dropped significantly. The tort reforms enacted 3 years ago are helping but the cost of repairs (inflation) is still a problem, along with the risk of storms. We need to continue to make our homes as resilient as we can and offer tax incentives for that. Property taxes have risen and people are still concerned about that but the services they receive are seen as valuable to them also. We should be looking at ways to lower both, as they are both part of the affordability crisis.

DISTRICT 93

AUGUST MANGENEY (D)



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The two biggest challenges are affordability and whether Florida is still creating real opportunity for the next generation. I am running because I am not raising my children in the Florida I grew up in. My grandparents came to Florida because it's where they could afford to buy a home. It's where they thought their kids had the best chance to succeed - and they were right. Today, families are being squeezed by housing and insurance costs while the Legislature spends its time waging culture wars. In my first six months, I will focus on increasing housing supply, lowering insurance premiums, improving public schools, and expanding career and technical education and apprenticeships. My guiding principle is the American Dream: that through hard work you should be able to make a better life for your family. The state can, and must, make that easier instead of continuing to ignore and distract from the problems we face.

We need to build more housing, period, but we also need to build it where people actually live and work. I support reducing unnecessary restrictions on housing and density, converting underused commercial property, encouraging development near jobs and transportation, and using targeted incentives when developers produce genuinely attainable housing. I also want infrastructure to keep pace with growth. As a father, I think about whether my children will be able to afford to stay in Florida when they grow up. I also know employers cannot recruit and keep workers if those workers cannot afford to live here and the economic gains from an affordable Palm Beach County will be felt for years after construction ends. More homes that fit the needs and budgets of middle class Floridians, sensible planning, and fewer unnecessary barriers are all part of the answer.

Florida should expand Medicaid. I have said before that refusing available federal funds while so many Floridians lack coverage is a moral failure, and I still believe that. It is also bad economics. Uninsured people still get sick, and when they rely on emergency rooms the cost is passed on to hospitals, taxpayers, employers, and families through higher insurance premiums. I would also invest in community health centers, preventive care, mental health treatment, and the training of more nurses and physicians. We should be trying to keep people healthy before a manageable condition becomes an expensive emergency.

Every single year my property insurance is more expensive than the year before even though I have never made a claim. Property insurance premiums are what causes mortgage payments to go up. It is a major factor in making home ownership unattainable, and for too many, it's what makes a home they worked so hard to buy impossible to keep. Florida needs more competition, better oversight, faster handling of legitimate claims, and stronger incentives like the My Florida Safe Homes program for roofs, storm hardening, and other mitigation that reduces risk. I don't love paying property taxes, but property insurance is the real issue and the legislature is trying to change the subject because they are unwilling to take on the hard work of meaningful insurance reform. I am running because we need to do the hard work. We need to focus on what will actually lower housing costs and improve the lives of middle class Floridians.

DISTRICT 94

DOUGLAS ALAN BARROW (NPA)



HOMETOWN:

Palm Beach Gardens

WEBSITE:

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The two most important challenges facing Florida are protecting our communities and natural resources from unchecked data-center development and ensuring that Florida's extraordinary growth is managed responsibly.

Florida's affordable housing crisis cannot be solved by simply building more units or spending more taxpayer money. As an Independent, I believe we need a balanced approach that increases housing opportunities while protecting existing communities and ensuring that government programs actually benefit the people who live and work here.

Florida could address this through a combination of cost control, targeted state support, and greater flexibility in how healthcare is delivered. The state should first focus on lowering the underlying cost of care rather than simply shifting costs between taxpayers, insurers, hospitals, and patients. That can include increasing price transparency, encouraging competition among hospitals and insurers, expanding telehealth, reducing unnecessary licensing barriers, and increasing the supply of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals—especially in underserved areas. For Medicaid, Florida should closely evaluate every available federal funding option while protecting the state from commitments that could become financially unsustainable if Washington later reduces its contribution. Florida can also strengthen efforts to move patients toward preventive and primary care, which is generally less expensive than relying on emergency rooms for routine healthcare.

I understand why Floridians rank property insurance as the greater immediate concern. For many homeowners, premiums have increased dramatically, coverage has become more difficult to obtain, and families are paying thousands of dollars more each year simply to protect the same home. For retirees and families on fixed incomes, that can determine whether they can afford to remain in Florida. But as an Independent, I don't believe we should be forced to choose between addressing insurance costs and property taxes. Both are contributing to Florida's affordability crisis, and both require action.

DISTRICT 94	DISTRICT 94
ELIZABETH ANNE HOLMES (D)  HOMETOWN: Wellington WEBSITE: ElizabethHolmesforFlorida.com FB: ElizabethforFlorida IG: @ElizabethforFlorida Hardworking people and retirees are facing a growing affordability crisis. It is becoming increasingly more difficult for working people and retirees to afford to build a good life here. The pressure impacts every aspect of our lives -- insurance, healthcare, housing, public education, access to services, and more. We need decisions in the legislature to be met with oversight -- focused on our community needs, not on the needs of big corporations. In order to put our communities first, we must root out corruption and hold corporations accountable for price gouging--cap rate increases and tax excess profits. I will always act in the best interest of my community members, not for special interests and big corporations.	MEGAN WEINBERGER (R)*  HOMETOWN: Palm Beach Gardens WEBSITE: MegforFlorida.com FB: MegForFlorida Candidate did not respond to our invitation.
Big developers must be held accountable to build workforce and affordable housing. In addition, legislation must be passed to cap rental rates, homeowner's insurance rates, and profits for utility companies. A statewide catastrophic fund is necessary to bring down insurance prices.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.
Florida must expand Medicaid access under the Affordable Care Act. In HD 94, we must expand access to healthcare in rural areas by paying doctors and healthcare workers a stipend to work full-time in rural areas.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.
Property insurance is one of the biggest challenges facing Floridians today. Insurance companies must be held accountable, and we need real solutions to lower costs for hardworking families and seniors. We must cap insurance rate increases, tax excessive insurance company profits, and require companies that sell homeowners insurance in other states to offer coverage in Florida. We must implement a state-backed universal windstorm coverage available to every Floridian. These steps would spread risk, increase competition, help lower insurance costs, and protect Floridians from excessive prices. Working people and seniors deserve affordable, reliable property insurance and the peace of mind that comes with knowing their homes are protected.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

LET SOCIAL MEDIA DO THE TALKING

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PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

FLORIDA AMENDMENT 1

Budget Stabilization Fund

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the amount of funds that may be retained in the budget stabilization fund from 10% to 25% of general revenue collections, require the Legislature to transfer the lesser of \$750 million or the amount required to reach 25% of the general revenue collections each year unless certain conditions are met, and allow the Legislature to withdraw funds for critical state needs.

☐ YES
☐ NO

SYNOPSIS

This amendment is proposed by the Florida State Legislature. The term “revenue collections” refers to the last completed fiscal year’s net revenue collections for the general revenue fund. Budget stabilization funds (BSF) are a form of savings account (“rainy day fund”) where states can place revenue, such as tax receipts, that will be used to finance unexpected deficits or emergencies. All 50 states have some form of one. The Florida BSF was created in 1992 after 83 percent of

voters approved a Constitutional Amendment.

The Constitution currently requires that the balance of the BSF not fall below 5 percent of revenue collections. (The maximum balance allowed is now 10 percent.) The last time that Florida withdrew more money from the BSF than it deposited was in 2008 during the Great Recession.

This proposed amendment would increase the maximum amount of funds that can be retained in the Florida BSF, changing the limit to 25 percent of annual revenue collections. The Legislature would be required to transfer funds into the BSF each year: either \$750 million, or however much is needed to bring the fund up to the 25 percent limit, whichever is less. Under this proposed amendment, funds could only be withdrawn under three conditions: an emergency, a revenue shortfall and a non-recurring critical state need, as determined by the Legislature. The amendment also restricts the frequency and under what circumstances the Legislature could decide to suspend the annual transfer.

The Amendment does not change cost or revenue, only that money would be diverted from public programs into a locked account.

YES - FOR THE REFERENDUM MEANS

If voters pass Amendment 1, it would increase the amount of funds held in the Budget Stabilization Fund from 10 percent to 25 percent of revenue collections. It would require an annual transfer to the fund equal to \$750 million or 25 percent of the revenue collections (whichever is less). It would define how money can be withdrawn from the fund, and allow the Legislature to suspend the transfer under certain conditions.

NO - AGAINST THE REFERENDUM MEANS

If voters reject Amendment 1, Florida would keep the maximum allowable amount of funds in the Budget Stabilization Fund at 10 percent of revenue collections.

OPPONENTS

Florida Education Association, League of Women Voters of Florida

SUPPORTERS

Florida Legislature (House 100-1, Senate 29-4). Florida GOP

FLORIDA AMENDMENT 2

Exemption of Tangible Personal Property on Agricultural Land from Taxation

BALLOT LANGUAGE

Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to exempt tangible personal property habitually located or typically present on land classified as agricultural, used in the production of agricultural products or for agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land from ad valorem taxation. If approved this amendment would first apply for tax years beginning January 1, 2027.

☐ YES
☐ NO

SYNOPSIS

This amendment is proposed by the Florida State Legislature. It would exempt the value of certain tangible personal property such as farm equipment or tools used in agriculture or agritourism from property taxes. That would

happen if the tangible personal property is typically present on agricultural land, and is used for producing agricultural products or for agritourism, and owned by the land’s owner or leaseholder.

Tangible personal property refers to physical, movable assets such as furniture, machinery, tools and equipment. Businesses pay property taxes on equipment used in the business, except for certain exempt categories, including motor vehicles, household goods and the first \$25,000 of TPP value for each taxpayer.

The Legislature’s Revenue Estimating Conference says this amendment, if approved by voters, will mean local governments will lose about \$31 million annually, beginning in FY 2027-28.

YES - FOR THE REFERENDUM MEANS

If voter pass Amendment 2, the Constitution would exclude tangible personal property, such as farm equipment or

tools, from the calculation of property taxes if the property is typically present on the agricultural land, used for farming or agritourism, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder.

NO - AGAINST THE REFERENDUM MEANS

If voters reject Amendment 2, Florida would continue to include tangible personal property, such as farm equipment or tools, in the calculation of property taxes if the property is typically present on the agricultural land, used for farming or agritourism, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder.

OPPONENTS

Florida Education Association, League of Women Voters of Florida

SUPPORTERS

Florida Legislature (House 110-1, Senate 37-0)
Florida GOP, Florida Farm Bureau Federation

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA CONSTITUTION

FLORIDA AMENDMENT 3

Increased Homestead Exemption; Lower Cap on Increases in Non-Homestead Property Assessments

BALLOT LANGUAGE

This amendment increases the homestead exemption, for all non-school taxes, to \$150,000 in 2027 and \$250,000 in 2028, and adjusts for inflation thereafter. It requires the Legislature to prescribe a uniform procedure for counties and municipalities, for their respective levies, to increase the homestead exemption up to full assessed value, and allows special districts, subject to referendum approval, to do the same. Persons who are not Florida residents on December 31, 2026, will receive the existing homestead exemption upon qualifying for a homestead exemption, with the increased homestead exemption beginning with the fifth year of exemption, to the extent permitted by the U.S. Constitution. This amendment reduces the annual cap on assessment increases for non-homestead properties from 10% to 5%. This amendment requires counties and municipalities to use property taxes solely for public safety, education and schools, infrastructure, natural resources, bond debt service, retirement benefits for employees, and operations and administration. Other expenditures may be approved by county officers or county or municipal governing bodies unless prohibited by general law, notwithstanding Article VII, Section 9(a) of the Florida Constitution, which allows counties and municipalities to levy property taxes for their respective purposes. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2027.

☐ YES
☐ NO

SYNOPSIS

This amendment is proposed by the Florida State Legislature. If passed, it would become effective January 1, 2027. It would increase the homestead exemption for all property taxes, except those levied by school districts, to up to \$150,000 of a home's assessed value beginning January 1, 2027, and up to \$250,000 of the assessed value beginning January 1, 2028. The new exemption values would be adjusted annually for positive inflation growth beginning January 1, 2028. For non-homesteaded residential property and non-residential property, the maximum annual increase in property assessment will decrease from 10 percent to 5 percent, beginning January 1, 2027. (Homesteaded homeowners here fewer than five years would have to wait.)

Currently, for homeowners who permanently reside on their property, \$25,000 of assessed value is exempt from all property taxes, including those levied by school districts. A second \$25,000 is exempt from all property taxes except those levied by school districts. Beginning in 2025, the

second \$25,000 exemption increased each year based on the Consumer Price Index. (In 2025, the second exemption was \$25,722.)

The amendment would require the Legislature to set a procedure for counties and municipalities (local governments) to schedule further exemptions on all homesteaded property up to the remaining assessed value, if a county or municipality chooses to do so. It also limits what counties and municipalities may spend the property tax revenue for: public safety, including law enforcement, fire service and emergency medical service; education and public schools; the finance or refinance of infrastructure; the finance or refinance of natural resource projects; local bonds for uses consistent with approved uses and debt service payments for existing obligations; retirement benefits of local government employees; operations and administration of county officers and commissioners and expenditures they approve, except those prohibited.

If the amendment passes, permanent residents with a homesteaded property will receive significant property tax relief; owners of non-homesteaded property also will receive a break because the amount their assessment can increase each year will be reduced. However, local governments will receive significantly less revenue to fund services used by the entire community. Since this amendment also dictates how property taxes are spent, local governments are further constrained in how they manage their budgets.

The decrease in local government revenue (each municipality) will vary depending on the mix of homesteaded vs other property. A State analysis says local governments can expect drastic reductions in revenue — nearly \$5 billion less revenue in 2027-28, \$8.8 billion less in 2028-29, \$9.7 billion less in 2029-30, \$10.7 billion less in 2030-31 and \$11.9 billion less in 2031-32. These values do not take into consideration the further revenue loss if a county or municipality reduces exemptions more than \$250,000.

Among the impacts: ratings agencies expect greater credit pressure for local governments; decreased future revenues would constrain local services; taxing districts such as Children's Services Councils, hospital districts, mosquito control and water management would feel effects; municipalities would either cut budgets for public services such as parks, libraries, transportation, health and others, or find a way to monetize them with fees. In addition, the safety net initially proposed to aid 29 fiscally constrained counties was eliminated from the final legislation.

The revenue loss could be offset by increasing millage rates and fees and/or making budget cuts. Renters would likely

incur additional costs, and businesses could have higher overhead. Counties and cities could rely more on non-advalorem revenues such as local sales taxes, fuel taxes, tourist taxes and water, sewage and garbage rates. New fee-based systems could include fire protection services. Homeowners may still receive a property tax bill to pay for special assessments, which could occur more often. Impact fees charged to new real estate developments to cover expanding public infrastructure could rise to shift the burden of new growth onto developers.

YES - FOR THE REFERENDUM MEANS

If the amendment passes, Florida would increase the current homestead property exemption from \$50,000 to \$150,000 effective January 1, 2027, and then to \$250,000 effective January 1, 2028. It also would lower the annual increase cap on non-homestead property from 10 percent to 5 percent. It also would allow the Legislature to dictate how counties and municipalities spend tax revenue.

NO - AGAINST THE REFERENDUM MEANS

If the amendment fails, Florida would keep the current property tax structure in place.

OPPONENTS

Florida Tax Watch, Florida Policy Institute, Florida for All, Florida PTA, Florida State Director of MomsRising/MamásConPoder, Southern Poverty Law Center, Florida League of Cities, Florida Association of Counties, Florida Rising, Florida Education Association, Pastors for Florida's Children, SEIU Florida State Council/SEIU 1991, The Tax Foundation, Florida Student Power, Editorial Boards of the Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Miami Herald, Orlando Sentinel, Palm Beach Post and Sun-Sentinel, Vote No On 3, 3° Degrees Florida, Floridians for Shared Prosperity, League of Women Voters of Florida, Florida Professional Firefighters, Florida Fraternal Order of Police, Florida Fire Chiefs Association, Florida Festivals and Events Association, Catalyst Miami, Community Spring, EduVoter Action Network, Equal Ground Education Fund, Families for Strong Public Schools & Voters for Strong Public Schools, Florida AFL-CIO, Florida Voices for Health, NAACP FL State Conference, Progress Florida, UnidosUS, 1,000 Friends of Florida, Florida Rural Economic Development Association... For the most updated list of all opponents and proponents to the amendments, visit Vote411.org

SUPPORTERS

Florida Legislature (75-27 House, with 16 not voting; 30-8 Senate, with 2 not voting), Florida Realtors, Florida GOP

FLORIDA GOVERNOR**

The Governor heads the executive branch of state government, is chief executive officer of Florida, and chairs the state Cabinet. Everyday job duties include oversight of the state's executive leaders, policy review and big-picture budget management. The Governor has the power to execute Florida's laws, call out the state militia to preserve the public peace and fill vacancies in many elected and appointed offices. The Governor's State of the State address to the Legislature, at least once per session, explains the condition of state government and suggests new legislation. The Governor must be at least 30 years old and have been a resident and registered voter of Florida for at least seven years. A Governor who has been elected to two consecutive four-year terms must be out of office for at least one election cycle before being eligible for reelection. The Governor's 2026 salary is \$141,400.

Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS



**These Governor candidates also have write-in opponents whose names do not appear on the ballot.

1 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?

2 Equitable and affordable access to healthcare is declining, in part due to the decrease of federal insurance subsidies. At the same time, more Medicaid costs are being pushed onto the states. How should the state address these issues?

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

4 What is your long-term plan for public education, specifically concerning teacher retention, curriculum changes, and the role of parental rights laws?

GOVERNOR

BYRON DONALDS (R)



WEBSITE:
ByronDonalds.com
FB: ByronDonalds

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

GOVERNOR

DAVID JOLLY (D)



HOMETOWN:
Dunedin
WEBSITE:
DavidJolly.com
FB: DavidJollyFlorida
X: DavidJollyFL
IG: DavidJollyFL

I am running for Governor to build a Florida that is more affordable, more accountable, and more focused on the future. I believe government should improve people's lives, the economy should work for everyone, and every Floridian deserves dignity and equal opportunity. The first issue where I can make the greatest difference is affordability. Rising costs for housing, insurance, healthcare, childcare, and groceries have made it harder for working families to get ahead. I will support policies that strengthen workers' rights, raise wages, and create pathways to good-paying jobs. The second issue is education. Florida needs a renaissance in public education. I will fully fund neighborhood public schools, raise teacher pay, reduce overcrowding, expand student support services, and protect the independence and excellence of our colleges and universities. By making Florida more affordable and investing in education, we can create opportunity and security for every Floridian.

Equitable, affordable healthcare is declining as federal subsidies shrink and states shoulder more Medicaid costs. Florida should expand Medicaid and bring home billions in taxpayer dollars now funding care elsewhere. Expansion would help hundreds of thousands access affordable coverage and reduce uncompensated care that drives up premiums. As costs shift to states, we must also improve how care is delivered by investing in preventive services, behavioral health, maternal health, chronic disease management, and care coordination to reduce avoidable ER visits. Stronger fraud prevention, transparency, and efficient administration are essential. Rural communities face provider shortages and hospital closures, so Medicaid dollars should stabilize local hospitals, expand telehealth, and support community-based networks. Healthcare shouldn't depend on income or geography. By expanding Medicaid and modernizing care delivery, Florida can improve outcomes and strengthen rural communities.

Florida's housing crisis is pushing homeownership and stable rentals out of reach for working families, seniors, veterans, and young people. As Governor, I would focus on lowering costs by fully funding the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund and ensuring those dollars build affordable and workforce housing as intended. I support smart-growth infrastructure, mixed-income development, and removing unnecessary local barriers that restrict supply. Stabilizing the property insurance market is also essential, as rising premiums are driving the affordability crisis. To reduce homelessness, I support a Housing First approach that pairs permanent housing with mental health care, addiction treatment, job training, and healthcare. We must prioritize veterans, seniors, youth aging out of foster care, and families at risk of eviction. Housing is essential infrastructure, and every Floridian deserves safe, stable, affordable homes.

Florida needs a ten-year renaissance in public education; a long-term plan to strengthen public education by supporting teachers, improving curriculum, and keeping parents engaged as partners. The teacher shortage stems from years of low pay, rising living costs, burnout, and policies that have left educators feeling undervalued. I would prioritize higher salaries, housing assistance, loan forgiveness, and stronger mentorship and professional development to improve recruitment and retention. We must also improve school climate by reducing unnecessary bureaucracy and expanding mental health and behavioral supports. Curriculum should be high-quality, evidence-based, and focused on literacy, math, science, civics, financial literacy, CTE, and media literacy, free from partisan interference. Parents deserve transparency and meaningful involvement, and parental rights laws should encourage collaboration rather than conflict. We must value educators and support Florida families.

OTHER CANDIDATES

Refer to VOTE411 for their answers.



Dean Ocean Abrams (NPA)
WEBSITE:
DeanAbrams.com



Charles Burkett (NPA)
HOMETOWN: Miami Bch.
WEBSITE:
BurkettforGov.com
FB: @BurkettforGov
X: @BurkettforGov
IG: @BurkettforGov



Jeffrey Peter "Dr. Jeff" Datto (NPA)
FB: DrJeffDatto



Moliere Dimanche (NPA)
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IG: MoeDimanche



Scott Jewett (Libertarian)
WEBSITE:
ScottJewett.com



Frank J. Russo (NPA)
WEBSITE:
Russo2026.com

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

The Chief Financial Officer, one of three elected members of the Florida Cabinet, heads the Department of Financial Services, overseeing the state's accounting and auditing functions and unclaimed property, monitoring investment of state funds and managing the state's deferred compensation and risk management programs. The CFO also serves as State Fire Marshal and oversees the insurance, banking and funeral industries. The CFO is third in the line of succession, after the Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General, to the Governor. The CFO is limited to two consecutive four-year terms but is eligible to run again after one election cycle out of office. The 2026 salary for the CFO is \$139,988.

..... Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS		CFO	CFO
 *Incumbent		BLAISE INGOGLIA (R)*  WEBSITE: BlaiseforFlorida.com FB: BlaiseforFlorida	ANNETTE TADDEO (D)  HOMETOWN: Miami WEBSITE: AnnetteTaddeo.com FB: Annette.Taddeo X: Annette_Taddeo IG: @Annette_Taddeo
1	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 did not respond to our invitation.	I am running for Chief Financial Officer because Florida families deserve a CFO who will fight for them. The CFO should be an independent watchdog for consumers and taxpayers – not a lapdog for the governor or anyone else. The two most compelling issues facing Floridians are affordability and anti-corruption. The CFO has direct regulatory oversight over the insurance industry, yet homeowners are being crushed by rising insurance costs while the government looks the other way. The insurance industry has more sway in the CFO's office than the voters. As CFO I will hold insurers accountable and demand transparency. And Tallahassee's culture of pay-to-play politics has eroded public trust. The cost of corruption to the Florida taxpayer is too high and getting higher. I will crack down on corruption, enforce transparency laws, audit no-bid contracts as required by law, and put Floridians – not political insiders – first.
2	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 did not respond to our invitation.	Florida's insurance market is failing homeowners and businesses when they need it most – after a hurricane, a flood, or a fire. Insurers file for rate increases claiming losses, while funneling profits to affiliated companies hidden from regulators. Florida's own Office of Insurance Regulation commissioned a report proving it – and buried it. As CFO, I will demand full transparency and expose the affiliate arrangements insurers use to hide profits while charging Floridians the highest premiums in the nation. Stabilizing the market also requires protecting the resources Florida needs when disaster strikes. The same emergency fund that should be there for the next hurricane was drained to spend \$1.2 billion on Alligator Alcatraz – over \$1 million a day, twenty times more than most other detention facilities. No-bid contracts, no audits, no accountability. As CFO I will ensure Florida's emergency fund is protected for actual emergencies, not political stunts.
3	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 did not respond to our invitation.	Florida's property insurance crisis has one root cause: a system rigged to protect carriers over consumers. Insurers claim losses to justify rate increases while funneling billions to their affiliated companies. Florida's own regulator commissioned a report proving it – and buried it rather than share it with lawmakers. Floridians have been paying for a lie. As a five-year member of the Florida Senate Banking and Insurance Committee, I saw firsthand how the system is failing consumers – and as CFO, I will put consumers first. I will demand full transparency in the affiliate arrangements insurers use to hide profits, strengthen oversight, aggressively enforce consumer protections, and increase competition so homeowners get the coverage they pay for. The politicians in Tallahassee who are supposed to hold insurers accountable have looked the other way. I will not.
4	What are the most significant changes or risks you see on the horizon for Florida's economy?	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	Florida's economy faces three significant risks. First, the housing and affordability crisis. Florida families and workers are being priced out of the state. Businesses cannot find workers because people cannot afford to live here. As a small business owner, I have lived this firsthand. Second, corruption and the erosion of public trust. When billions flow through no-bid contracts with no audits, when Hope Florida funds meant for sick children get diverted to political ad campaigns, and when those charged with oversight look the other way – Florida families lose faith. An economy cannot thrive without trust, and right now that trust is broken. Third, one-party rule with no checks and balances. When the CFO acts as a guard dog for the governor instead of a watchdog for taxpayers, no one is asking the hard questions. That is how economies fail. As CFO I will be the independent check this state desperately needs.

MAKE AN EDUCATED CHOICE

VOTE THE ENTIRE BALLOT WITH CONFIDENCE IN YOUR DECISIONS

LEARN ABOUT THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR POSITIONS ON THE ISSUES

- **Do your research.** Review this Voters' Guide. Check the candidates' websites, read their mailers and listen to their commercials. You will learn how they stand on the issues and the tone of their campaign. Note party affiliations since most candidates support the positions of their party. Follow their endorsements to see who and which groups are supporting them.
- **Attend information sessions.** Candidate forums, political meetings and presentations by such organizations as the League of Women Voters will give you a chance to learn more about the candidates and where they stand on issues that are important to you. Consider the views of people who are politically active and whom you respect.
- **Follow the news.** Review many sources (including newspapers, periodicals, the internet and campaign finance reports, which list contributions and expenditures).
- **Beware of fake news.** Check such sites as PolitiFact.com and FactCheck.org.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A CANDIDATE

- Do they share your views on most issues?
- Do they communicate well?
- Are they prepared for the position by experience or training?
- Do they know the issues and understand the impact of their decisions on the voters?
- Are they honorable?
- Are they accessible to their constituents?
- Do they have the skills a leader needs?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

The Attorney General, one of three elected officials in the Florida Cabinet, is chief law enforcement officer of the state, responsible for enforcement of state consumer protection and antitrust laws, civil prosecution of criminal racketeering, protection of civil rights and defense of the state in court actions. The Attorney General represents the state when individuals appeal convictions, issues legal opinions on application of state law and defends the constitutionality of statutes enacted by the Legislature. The Attorney General must be at least 30 years old, a state resident for seven years and a member of The Florida Bar for five years. They are second in the line of succession, after the Lieutenant Governor, to the Governor. The Attorney General is limited to two consecutive four-year terms but is eligible to run again after one election cycle out of office. The Attorney General's 2026 salary is listed as \$139,988.

..... • Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS		ATTORNEY GENERAL	ATTORNEY GENERAL	UPDATE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION
?		JOSE JAVIER RODRIGUEZ (D)	JAMES UTHMEIER (R)*	
*Incumbent		 WEBSITE: JJR.Vote FB: JoseJavierJJR	 WEBSITE: JamesforFL.com	
1	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 did not respond to our invitation.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
2	What do you believe to be the role of the state government regarding federal immigration practices?	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
3	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 did not respond to our invitation.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
4	The Florida Cabinet, acting as the Board of Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund, manages over 12 million acres of public lands. What is your philosophy on conservation, acquisition, and protection of natural resources, including Florida Forever projects, state parks, and coastal areas?	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	

UPDATE YOUR VOTER INFORMATION

Once you have registered to vote in Florida, you do not have to register again, but you do need to keep your information, including your residential and mailing address, up to date. You can change or update your voter information at any time, but a political party change for a Primary Election must be made no later than 29 days before that election.

Use a printed or online Voter Registration Application Form to update your address, name, political party or signature, and to request a replacement voter information card. You can return the completed application by mail to P.O. Box 22309, West Palm Beach, FL 33416, or at any of the four Supervisor of Elections offices during business hours.

The SOE office may send you a notice asking you to confirm your address. When it receives information from the post office or another governmental agency source that you have moved, it will send you a notice to confirm the address change. If the information shows that you may no longer live in the state, the Supervisor of Elections will send you a follow-up address confirmation final notice. If the notice comes back undeliverable or you do not respond within 30 days, your registration status will be changed from Active to Inactive.

As an inactive voter, you are still registered and can vote, but you may not sign a petition. Your inactive status reverts to active status if you update your voter registration record, go to the polls to vote or request a Vote-by-Mail ballot. However, if you do not take any of these actions after two general (federal) elections from the date you were first made inactive, your name will be removed from the voter registration system. You will then have to re-register to vote in Florida.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

The Commissioner is a constitutional officer and one of three elected members of the Florida Cabinet. 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 issuance of various state vocational licenses and firearms permits. The Commissioner is fourth in the line of succession, after the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and CFO, to the Governor. The Commissioner is limited to two consecutive four-year terms but is eligible to run again after one election cycle out of office. The 2026 salary is \$139,988.

..... • Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS



*Incumbent

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

JOEY MENDOZA ATKINS (D)



HOMETOWN:
Jupiter
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JoeyforFlorida.com
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IG: JoeyforFlorida

I'm running to make Florida healthy and affordable again, and to protect our natural resources from overdevelopment. Just two examples of common-sense issues that aren't covered in my other answers later on include cannabis legalization and protecting immigrant farm workers. A majority of Floridians voted to legalize cannabis in 2024, and researchers believe that legal access to cannabis could potentially alleviate the opioid addiction crisis among veterans. However current Commissioner Wilton Simpson has aggressively restricted hemp products and consistently thwarted attempts to legalize marijuana. Meanwhile, protecting immigrant farm workers would also help stabilize food costs by preventing artificial labor shortages, reducing crop spoilage, and saving farmers millions in turnover and recruitment expenses. When workers leave due to indiscriminate and extremist state government crackdowns or poor conditions, production plummets, driving up grocery prices due to scarcity.

I would support common-sense pro 2nd Amendment state-level public safety bills such as statewide safe storage mandates: requiring firearms in homes with minors to be secured with a trigger lock or inside a safe, and Universal Background Checks: endorsing bills that close private sale and gun show loopholes by requiring background checks for all firearm transfers.

The most critical issue facing Florida's agriculture and forestry sectors is rapid urban sprawl and land-use conversion. Rising land values and population growth are accelerating the loss of vital rural and green spaces to residential development, which threatens both the state's economic viability and its natural ecosystems. Florida's agriculture sector is undergoing rapid transformation due to biological shocks, environmental stressors, import competition, and accelerating urbanization. Citrus greening, laurel wilt, and hurricane-related damage have sharply reduced yields and acreage, while rising imports erode market share and depress prices. Urban development and recreational land-use expansion are accelerating land-value increases, which in turn drives farmland loss and abandonment. There is an urgent need for integrated strategies that improve resilience, strengthen land conservation, and enhance the long-term competitiveness of FL's agricultural sector.

Property insurance and rent inflation, aggressive debt collection, and predatory scams are some of the key issues currently squeezing Floridians. We consistently rank fourth in the nation for per-capita debt collection complaints, and nearly 47% of state debt collection complaints cite abusive, predatory, or threatening behavior by collectors. One idea would be to launch a searchable, real-time database displaying consumer complaints by company name (similar to the federal CFPB portal) to deter deceptive local trade practices through radical transparency. Other ideas include creating a centralized "Single Digital Doorway" intake portal to instantly route complaints to the precise jurisdiction without forcing consumers to navigate bureaucratic mazes, and to transition the division's primary focus from educational brochure distribution to robust enforcement, particularly when it comes to renter's rights.

AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER

WILTON SIMPSON (R)*



WEBSITE:
WiltonSimpson.com
FB: SimpsonWilton

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

1 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?

2 This elected office regulates gun licenses. What legislation or programs would you support to protect our youth and the public at large from gun violence?

3 What is the most important issue facing agriculture and forestry in Florida? How do you balance the needs of agriculture, forestry and the green industry (nurseries, landscapes) with environmental concerns?

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

JUDICIAL RETENTION: FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of Florida is the highest court in the state. It consists of seven members — the Chief Justice and six justices. Five members are chosen from five districts around the state and two are selected at large. The justices are appointed by the governor to terms that do not exceed six years. Immediately after appointment, the justices must appear on the ballot in the next General Election that occurs more than one year after their appointment. Afterward, they serve six-year terms and remain in office if retained in the General Election near the end of each term. Citizens throughout the state vote to retain or not retain each justice in office.

Voters in Palm Beach County and the rest of the state are asked to vote “Yes” to retain or “No” to not retain the Supreme Court justice on the ballot. If a justice is not retained, the governor appoints a replacement through the Judicial Nominating Commission. Judges must retire at age 75. The 2026 salary for a Supreme Court justice is \$264,136.



CARLOS G. MUÑOZ

Carlos G. Muñoz is the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Appointed to the court in 2019 by Gov. Ron DeSantis, he was elected chief justice in 2022. A Yale Law School graduate, he previously served as general counsel of the U.S. Department of Education, deputy attorney general of Florida and deputy general counsel to Gov. Jeb Bush, and also worked in private practice.

POLITICAL PARTIES, WRITE-INS AND NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

POLITICAL PARTIES

There are currently two major parties

Florida Democratic Party (DEM)
Republican Party of Florida (REP)

and 15 minor parties in the State of Florida:

American Solidarity Party of Florida (ASP)
Boricua Party (BPP)
Coalition with a Purpose Party (CPP)
Conservative Party of Florida (CSV)
Constitution Party of Florida (CPF)
Ecology Party of Florida (ECO)
Florida Forward Party (FFP)
Florida Natural Law Party (NAT)
Green Party of Florida (GRE)
Independent Party of Florida (IND)
Libertarian Party of Florida (LPF)
No Labels Party of Florida (NLP)
Party for Socialism and Liberation – Florida (PSL)
People’s Party (PEO)
Reform Party (RFM)

Florida is a CLOSED PRIMARY STATE. That means that in a primary election, only those voters who are registered with a party will be able to

select that party’s candidates. If you register as an Independent, you are indeed a member of a political party and will be able to select the candidates from the Independent Party if there is an Independent Party primary. When you complete your Voter Registration Application if you truly wish not to be affiliated with any political party and you recognize that you will not have the opportunity to select a candidate for any political party, you should leave the political party box empty to indicate that you wish to be a non-party affiliate (NPA). Do not fill in “Independent” as that is, indeed, a political party in the State of Florida.

NON-PARTY AFFILIATES (NPAs)

Those voters who have not registered with a party will not have the opportunity to select a partisan candidate in the primary election. NPA candidates are included in this Voters’ Guide since they have met the necessary access requirements and their names appear on the ballot.

WRITE-IN CANDIDATES

In Florida, you cannot just write in any random

name on your ballot. A write-in candidate must meet certain ballot access requirements to qualify but does not have to pay a filing fee. A space is left on the ballot to write in the candidate’s name, although their name does not appear. You must know and write in the name of the specific candidate, which can be found on the website of the Supervisor of Elections (VotePalmBeach.gov) under Candidate Information. No write-in candidate has ever won an election in Florida.

*In this Voters’ Guide, you will find double asterisks (**) in the races where a candidate has one or more write-in opponents.*

NONPARTISAN CANDIDATES

Nonpartisan candidates including Judges and School Board members run for election at the time of the August primary, and all voters — regardless of their political party affiliation — are eligible to participate in selecting these candidates. These nonpartisan candidates must win by a majority vote. If no candidate wins a majority in the primary, the top two vote getters will be on the ballot in the General Election in November.

JUDICIAL RETENTION: 4TH DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL

Florida's District Courts of Appeal, established in 1956, provide the opportunity for multi-judge panels to review decisions of lower tribunals. DCA judges are appointed by the governor, and serve six-year terms. They are eligible for successive terms under merit retention by voters in their respective districts. The Fourth DCA has 12 judges, including the chief judge, and hears appeals of cases from the 15th, 17th and 19th circuits, which encompass Palm Beach, Broward, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. Throughout Florida there are six DCAs.

Voters in Palm Beach County and the rest of the Fourth District are asked to vote "Yes" to retain or "No" to not retain each Fourth DCA judge who is on the ballot. Judges not retained are replaced by the governor when their terms end in the January following the General Election. All DCA judges have been retained since the merit retention system was established in the 1970s. The 2026 salary for a DCA judge is \$223,318



ALAN O. FORST

Alan O. Forst is a judge on Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal, appointed in 2013 by Gov. Rick Scott. A Catholic University of America law graduate, he previously chaired Florida's Reemployment Assistance Appeals Commission, worked in private practice and held legal positions with the U.S. Department of Justice, U.S. Department of Labor and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.



SHANNON K. SHAW

Shannon K. Shaw is a judge on Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal, appointed in 2025 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. A Vanderbilt University law graduate, she served as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida from 2017 to 2025. She previously worked in private practice and as a judicial law clerk in federal court.



MARK W. KLINGENSMITH

Mark W. Klingensmith is a judge on Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal, appointed in 2013 by Gov. Rick Scott. A University of Florida law graduate with an LL.M. from Duke University, he served as chief judge of the court from 2022 to 2025. He previously worked in private practice and as a circuit court judge in Florida's Nineteenth Judicial Circuit.



CAROLINE SHEPHERD

Caroline Shepherd is a judge on Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal, appointed in 2025 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. A New England School of Law graduate, she previously served as a circuit court judge in Florida's Fifteenth Judicial Circuit from 2019 to 2025, as a county court judge in Palm Beach County, and as an assistant state attorney in the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit.



JOHNATHAN D. LOTT

Johnathan D. Lott is a judge on Florida's Fourth District Court of Appeal, appointed in 2025 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. A University of Chicago law graduate, he previously worked in private practice, served as a circuit court judge in Florida's Seventeenth Judicial Circuit where he presided in family court, and as an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida.

ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Accessible In-Person Voting (Early Voting & Election Day)

Polling locations in Palm Beach County are accessible and usable by persons with disabilities in compliance with the Florida Americans with Disabilities Accessibility Implementation Act and the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly & Handicapped Act.

- All locations feature ExpressVote ADA-accessible ballot marking devices, equipped with audio ballots, Braille keypads and sip-and-puff technology for independent voting.
- Voters with disabilities may request assistance at polling locations, either from a person of their choice or from trained Election Workers. Assistance is available in marking the ballot or navigating the polling location.

Accessible Vote-by-Mail (OmniBallot System)

Vote-by-Mail offers a safe, reliable and accessible option for voting in Palm Beach County. People with disabilities can request a Vote-by-Mail ballot, just like all eligible voters, avoiding challenges in getting to the polls in person. The Supervisor of Elections Office uses Democracy Live's OmniBallot system, which allows voters with disabilities to access and mark their ballot independently using screen readers such as JAWS and NVDA.

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The U.S. House of Representatives is made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. Florida has 28. Representatives are elected every two years (with no term limits) to serve the voters of a specific Congressional District. A Representative must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state he or she represents. Duties include making laws, serving on committees, electing the House leadership, and originating all matters of taxation. Representatives maintain offices in their home district and in Washington, D.C., where they provide constituent services. The 2026 salary is \$174,000 per year.

Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS



*Incumbent

DISTRICT 21

ALEXANDER COOKE (NPA)



HOMETOWN:
Jupiter
WEBSITE:
AlexCookeforCongress.com
FB: CookeforFlorida
X: AlexanderRCooke
IG: AlexCookeforCongressFL21

America is a sovereign nation which must control its borders. Enforcement must be professional, constitutional and accountable. The expansion of ICE enforcement has raised serious concerns about training, use of force and accountability. Armed federal agents operating in our communities must be properly trained, clearly identifiable and held accountable when they violate the law or use unjustified force. A badge cannot put anyone above the law. We must also go after employers who knowingly exploit undocumented workers for cheap labor. No business should profit by paying people under the table or using immigration status to silence workers. Enforce the law on both sides—not just against the person with the least power. And fix legal immigration so people who follow the rules aren't trapped for years in a broken bureaucracy. Secure the border. Enforce the law. Protect people. Fix the system.

Tackling Florida's cost of living crisis. I will fight to lower property insurance costs by creating a federal backstop that brings more competition into Florida's insurance market, support local food production and distribution to shorten supply chains and lower grocery costs. We need to create a real workforce housing plan, one that doesn't just benefit developers. Real healthcare reform, so simple injuries don't break the bank. Finally remove the cap on social security and properly fund medicare/medicaid then lock these funds such that they can never be used for anything beyond their stated purpose ever again. Second, just as important is how we get things done. I will introduce clean, single-issue bills—not thousand-page packages filled with unrelated spending and political favors. If a bill lowers insurance costs, Congress should vote on lowering insurance costs. No games, no hidden agendas.

Freedom of Speech to me is the right to speak your mind without fear of any government repercussion. The key point being the government cannot silence you. However, we must expand on this to explain that as long as you are not infringing on anyone else's rights you are free to live your life as you see fit. This is my full view of our freedoms here in our country.

Education decisions should primarily be made by parents, teachers, and local communities, not bureaucrats in Washington. However, the federal government plays an important role in protecting students' civil rights, supporting students with disabilities, and ensuring that federal education funding is used effectively. I support strong early childhood education, high-quality K-12 schools, robust vocational and technical training programs, and making higher education more affordable. We must also prepare students for an economy increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence and automation. Federal policy should empower communities with resources and flexibility rather than impose one-size-fits-all mandates.

DISTRICT 21

JAMES MARTIN (D)



HOMETOWN:
Hobe Sound
WEBSITE:
JamesMartinforFlorida.com
FB: James Martin for Congress
X: MartinforFL
IG: MartinforFL

My overarching view is that the United States needs a safe, fair, transparent, and humane immigration system. We can be a nation of laws, while treating people with dignity. In the Coast Guard, I saw the human side of immigration up close. I pulled people out of the ocean who had risked everything for a shot at a better life. That experience left me with a real respect for what it takes to leave everything behind, and a conviction that our system should be both secure and humane. In Congress, I'll fight for an orderly, legal pathway to citizenship; permanent protection for Dreamers, who know no home other than this one; and an end to militarized deportation sweeps that tear apart families and gut local economies. I will also support hiring more asylum judges to appropriately support the number of asylum cases while also preventing backlogs and extended asylum parole periods.

First, the cost of living crisis. It is the number one issue on the minds of Treasure Coast families. That means reining in reckless tariffs that raise the price of everyday goods and squeeze small businesses owners. We also need to confront the property insurance crisis head-on. If Tallahassee won't stabilize rates, Congress should create a federal backstop to Citizens Insurance so young families can buy homes and seniors can keep theirs. Lastly, part of addressing the cost of living crisis is ensuring quality healthcare options are available to all Americans. Second, clean water. Our economy and way of life depend on the St. Lucie Estuary and Indian River Lagoon. I will fight for federal infrastructure dollars to finish the EAA reservoir, accelerate septic-to-sewer conversions in coastal zones, and stop toxic discharges from Lake Okeechobee. Moreover, I will defend bedrock environmental laws like NEPA which are being gutted right now to benefit special interests at our expense.

I spent a decade in uniform under an oath to support and defend the Constitution, so this question is not academic for me. Freedom of speech means the government cannot punish you for criticizing it. It is how voters hold officials accountable, how a free press does its job, and how every major reform in American history got its start. It also means defending speech I personally disagree with, because a First Amendment that only protects popular opinions protects nothing at all. What worries me now is watching officials treat these rights as a political weapon by rewarding friends and punishing critics. That is not what the Founders intended, and it is not what I swore to defend.

I am the son of a longtime Florida public school teacher, so I grew up seeing what teachers give and what they are paid. The federal government's job is to fill the gaps states leave, and that starts with teacher pay. As the father of a two-year-old, I know firsthand the prohibitive costs of preschool and daycare. I support universal pre-K with real quality standards, because early education closes gaps that last a lifetime. For higher education, Florida's Bright Futures and Prepaid programs show what is possible, and federal dollars should help every state build pathways like them, including two years of free or reduced-cost community college. Education is the great equalizer in our society, and Washington should treat it that way.

DISTRICT 21

BRIAN MAST (R)*



WEBSITE:
MastforCongress.com
FB: BrianMastFL

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

1

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

2

Name your top two legislative priorities for the next Congressional term.

3

"Freedom of speech" is included in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Exactly what does "Freedom of Speech" mean to you?

4

What role do you believe the federal government should play in education at the pre-school level, K-12 level and higher education?

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The U.S. House of Representatives is made up of 435 elected members, divided among the 50 states in proportion to their total population. Florida has 28. Representatives are elected every two years (with no term limits) to serve the voters of a specific Congressional District. A Representative must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state he or she represents. Duties include making laws, serving on committees, electing the House leadership, and originating all matters of taxation. Representatives maintain offices in their home district and in Washington, D.C., where they provide constituent services. The 2026 salary is \$174,000 per year.

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DISTRICT 22	DISTRICT 22	DISTRICT 23	DISTRICT 23
CASEY ASKAR (R)  WEBSITE: CaseyAskar.com FB: CaseyAskar Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	PIA DANDIYA (D)  WEBSITE: PiaforCongress.com X: PiaforCongress IG: PiaforCongress I believe we can secure our borders while still treating people with dignity and humanity. Immigration policy should reflect both strength and compassion. I support a balanced approach that strengthens border security, modernizes our asylum system, expands legal pathways, and protects due process. I also support comprehensive immigration reform that includes a roadmap to citizenship for people who are contributing to this country, including Dreamers, TPS holders, farmworkers, and essential workers. I know that immigrants strengthen our communities, our economy, and our country. At the same time, voters deserve an immigration system that is orderly, fair, and functional. I will not support policies that strip people of dignity, separate families unnecessarily, or use immigrants as political scapegoats. We need real solutions, not fear-based politics. Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	DEBORAH ADEIMY (R)  HOMETOWN: West Palm Beach WEBSITE: DebAdeimy4Congress.com FB: DebAdeimyCongress IG: DebAdeimyCongress Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	LOIS FRANKEL (D)  HOMETOWN: West Palm Beach WEBSITE: LoisFrankelforCongress.com FB: LoisFrankel IG: LoisFrankel I support comprehensive immigration reform that provides a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, strengthens legal protections for immigrant communities, and secures our borders while ensuring humane treatment and due process. This is about who we are as Americans. As I have said many times, "Security does not require brutality. Enforcement does not require lawlessness. And our immigration policy should reflect our values, not force us to abandon them." In Congress, I co-sponsored the American Dream and Promise Act of 2025, providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers and TPS holders, repeatedly voted against funding ICE's illegal and un-American attacks on our communities, and introduced the No Cages in the Everglades Act to prohibit inhumane immigration detention facilities, including "Alligator Alcatraz." Recently, I have spoken out against the Trump Administration's decision to terminate TPS protections for people from countries such as Haiti and Venezuela. Protecting Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid from cuts and lowering costs for working families are my top priorities. These programs are the backbone of America's social safety net, and I am committed to reversing the more than \$1 billion in Medicare and Medicaid cuts passed by President Trump and congressional Republicans. I also support expanding these programs through the Social Security 2100 Act, which would increase benefits for seniors, while lowering the Medicare eligibility age and expanding coverage. At the same time, I am focused on lowering the cost of living by making housing, health care, child care, and elder care more affordable. That includes ending Trump's inflationary tariffs, supporting universal pre-K and tax cuts for working families, and backing the American Affordability Act to expand affordable housing, reduce energy costs, strengthen the Child Tax Credit, and lower health care costs. To me, freedom of speech is about more than the right to speak. It's about ensuring every person has an equal opportunity to be heard, whether they're advocating for their community, standing up for LGBTQ+ equality, or speaking out against discrimination and injustice. I oppose efforts to censor educators, dismantle diversity and inclusion initiatives, or silence marginalized voices because those actions undermine the free exchange of ideas that strengthens our democracy. And I believe our democracy works best when everyone can exercise not only the freedom to speak, but also the freedom to vote without unnecessary barriers or intimidation. The federal government must continue enforcing our nation's civil rights laws in schools. However, decisions about curriculum and day-to-day classroom instruction should remain primarily the responsibility of state and local education authorities. I oppose Republican efforts to use the federal government to dictate what local schools can teach or discuss, including restricting honest conversations about race and racism or preventing students from talking about their gender identity. At the same time, I oppose efforts to weaken federal civil rights protections by rolling back safeguards for LGBTQ+ students, undermining enforcement of our anti-discrimination laws, or reducing the federal government's ability to ensure every child has equal access to a quality education.
Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	Affordability: I want to lower the cost of living by tackling rising housing costs, strengthening consumer protections, and cutting everyday expenses that squeeze working families. In Florida, skyrocketing insurance premiums and a changing demographic make affordability an urgent challenge. Economic Opportunity & Job Creation: I want to put more Americans on a pathway to good jobs – because when Americans succeed, the American economy succeeds. That means investing in infrastructure and small businesses to create good-paying jobs, while expanding workforce training and education so more people have the skills they need to thrive.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	Freedom of speech is one of the most fundamental rights we have as Americans, and a healthy democracy cannot exist without it. To me, it means every person has the right to speak their mind, share their beliefs, worship as they choose, peacefully protest, and criticize their government without fear of punishment or retaliation. It matters most when it protects views we may not agree with, because democracy depends on open debate, a free and independent press, and the ability of citizens to hold their leaders accountable. As a former teacher and high school principal, I saw every day how important it is to help young people think for themselves and engage respectfully even when they disagree. I am especially concerned when those in power try to silence dissent, intimidate journalists, or punish Americans simply for speaking out. In Congress, I will defend every American's...	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	
Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	As a Member of Congress, I would focus on policies that expand economic mobility and opportunity for young Americans. That begins with investing in excellent public education — from K–12 through affordable higher education and workforce programs that prepare students for the jobs of the future, especially as AI reshapes our economy. As an educator, this is extremely important to me, and we have important work to do in DC to serve kids and families across the country. We also need to civically engage young people across the country — not only when it comes to voting and strengthening our democracy, but also by investing them deeply in their local communities, which are the heartbeat of America. That means modernizing civic education and expanding service opportunities — from tutoring and mentoring in local schools, to organizing voter engagement in their communities, to serving as public health ambassadors addressing mental health and wellness.	Candidate did not respond to our invitation.	

UNITED STATES SENATE

The U.S. Senate is a legislative chamber in the bicameral (two houses) legislature of the United States. It and the House of Representatives make up the U.S. Congress. Each state is represented by two senators who serve staggered six-year terms (with no term limits). A senator must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least nine years, and a resident of the state represented. The Senate has several "advice and consent powers" not granted to the House, including treaties as a precondition to ratification; appointments of Cabinet secretaries, federal judges, military officers, regulatory officials, ambassadors and other federal uniformed officers; and conducting trials of federal officials impeached by the House. The 2026 salary is \$174,000 per year.

Some of this information was not available in time for this print issue. For more questions and candidates' answers, please visit Vote411.org

QUESTIONS

?

*Incumbent

1

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

2

Name your top two legislative priorities for the next Congressional term.

3

"Freedom of speech" is included in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Exactly what does "Freedom of Speech" mean to you?

4

What role do you believe the federal government should play in education at the pre-school level, K-12 level and higher education?

U.S. SENATOR

NEIL GILLESPIE (NPA)



HOMETOWN:
Ocala

WEBSITE:
NeilGillespie4Senate.blogspot.com

FB: Justice-Network

X: Justice_Network

IG: @Neil4justice

Immigrants are essential for the U.S. economy. We need qualified, vetted, immigrants legally present in America. The de facto open border policy of the Biden administration was wrong. The Biden immigration policy has benefited the legal profession, not the American People. Business is great for immigration lawyers. But some like former lawyer Alexandra Lozano, "La Luz del Camino Legal", defrauded her clients. Most of my family came to America from Ireland. My maternal great-grandmother was Jewish. I have worked with and support immigrants are naturalized citizens. In Pennsylvania I was a licensed motor vehicle dealer with many immigrant customers. I support secure boarders because we need to know who is in our county, who is in our home. Immigrants' background must be vetted. I support the lawful removal of people who enter the United States illegally, but not the spectacle created by activists confronting ICE. I also support a path to citizenship for immigrants who follow the rules.

My top three legislative priorities (not two) for the next congress: 1. Restore checks and balances in government, separation of powers. Lawyers admitted to practice are officers of the court, part of the judicial branch of government, and must not serve in elected office in the legislature or executive branch. 2. Health care reform. I was born needing craniofacial surgery but my insurance denied coverage for surgery when I was age 18 under a preexisting condition clause. I propose national health coverage, with the ability to opt-out. Trial Lawyers add excessive costs, and force doctors to practice defensive medicine. 3. Guarantee the safety of Jews in the United States. America is the promised land that defeated fascism in Europe in 1945. Unfortunately, Israel cannot protect Jews. Its wars are creating antisemitism worldwide. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin made peace with the Palestinians (Oslo Accords). But on Nov-04-1995, an Israeli, Yigal Amir, murdered Rabin, ending the peace plan.

Freedom of speech is the right to express opinions and ideas without fear. First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances." That means we are not a "Christian Nation" as some claim. Catholics, Jews, Hindus, and Muslims are not "Christians". Also, the right to "petition the Government for a redress of grievances" is under threat with our current broken court system. Twenty-one years ago (in 2005) I sued a Florida law firm for stealing money from my settlement in a civil case. The courts could not resolve the case after 20 years, so I dropped it in 2025. Too many people end up suing their crooked lawyers. One well-known case is "Take Care of Maya", Maya Kowalski's family, who sued their former attorneys over alleged mishandling of settlement funds.

Parents have the most important role in the education of their children. My parents sent me to Catholic elementary school (grades 1-8) and Catholic high school (grades 9-12) where I was raised in Levittown, PA. The state, when acting "in loco parentis", is responsible for the child's safety at school. In higher education, students age 18 and older are generally considered adults for legal and institutional purposes. On September 27, 2016, I wrote President Obama about an African-American schoolgirl in Ocala who needed assistance attending public school, which is a federally protected activity under 18 U.S.C. § 245(b)(2)(A). The Ocala Star-Banner reported a racial incident at West Port High School where 3 students taunted the Black student while waving Confederate flags. The 15 year-old African-American victim being intimidated by whites was wrongly cited by the police in lieu of arrest. Obama never responded. Florida AG Pam Bondi failed to classify this as a hate crime. (FS 775.085)

U.S. SENATOR

ASHLEY B. MOODY (R)*



WEBSITE:
Moody.Senate.gov

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

Candidate did not respond to our invitation.

U.S. SENATOR

ANGELA NIXON (D)



HOMETOWN:
Jacksonville

WEBSITE:
AngieNixon.com

FB: AngieforFL

X: AngieNixon

IG: TheAngieNixon

Comprehensive, compassionate reform with a pathway to citizenship for undocumented residents, fair treatment of immigrants, and asylum claims processed fairly and efficiently. Ending the detention and deportation system that lets corporations profit off family separation and cruelty. Immigration reform must also protect workers and prevent exploitation. Corporations too often exploit a broken system to create a workforce vulnerable to abuse, wage theft, and unsafe conditions. That hurts all workers. Every worker, regardless of their birth place, deserves fair pay, safe conditions, and full protection of labor laws. We should never let businesses profit by creating a second class workforce, paying immigrants below market rate or using immigration status to silence workers. A fair immigration system and a strong labor movement go hand in hand. America is strongest when we protect human dignity, uphold the rule of law and ensure that every worker competes on a level playing field.

1. Medicare for all 2. Stopping corporations from causing excessive price spikes in groceries, fuel, and essential goods to pad their bottom lines.

Freedom of speech means that everyone has the right to express their opinions, beliefs, criticisms, and ideas without fear of government censorship or retaliation. It protects political dissent, journalism, religious expression, peaceful protest, artistic expression, and the free exchange of ideas that make democracy possible. Freedom of speech is one of the foundations of a free society because it allows people to challenge those in power, advocate for change, and engage in public debate.

The federal government should ensure every person, regardless of where they are born or their family's income, has access to quality education and a secure future. This means expanding universal early childhood education. Childcare and early learning are foundational investments, not luxuries. It means strengthening public K-12 schools, investing in teachers, and closing funding gaps between communities, so a child's ZIP code doesn't determine their opportunities. Public education, including school meals, should be completely free. Schools should expand access to college-level coursework and dual enrollment. Public colleges and universities should be tuition free. We should expand trade schools and workforce training, with living stipends. We should invest more in education than incarceration. Education is a public good, not a privilege. A skilled, educated workforce strengthens our economy, increases innovation and helps ensure everyone has a chance to reach their full potential.

EARLY VOTING SITES

Early Voting & Vote-by-Mail Ballot Drop Off Locations

Monday, Oct. 19, through Sunday, Nov. 1, 2026

7 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Photo ID Required

Acreage Branch Library 15801 Orange Blvd., Loxahatchee	Lantana Road Branch Library 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth
Belle Glade Library/Civic Center 725 N.W. 4th St., Belle Glade	Loula V. York Library 525 Bacom Point Road, Pahokee
Boca Raton Downtown Library 400 N.W. 2nd Ave., Boca Raton	Main Supervisor of Elections Office 4301 Cherry Road, West Palm Beach (You also may drop off your Vote-by-Mail Ballot at SOE satellite offices, during business hours, but there is no early voting there.)
Canyon Branch Library 8915 Senator Joe Abruzzo Ave., Boynton Beach	PBSC Lake Worth Main Campus 4200 S. Congress Ave., Lake Worth
Delray Beach Community Center 50 N.W. 1st Ave., Delray Beach	PBSC Loxahatchee Groves Campus 15845 Southern Blvd., Loxahatchee Groves
Dr. Andre Fladell Civic Center 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach	Royal Palm Beach Branch Library 500 Civic Center Way, Royal Palm Beach
Ezell Hester Community Center 1901 N. Seacrest Blvd., Boynton Beach	Spanish River Library 1501 N.W. Spanish River Blvd., Boca Raton
FAU Jupiter Campus, WB MC-13, Room 105, Use Lot 74 5353 Parkside Drive, Jupiter	Sugar Sand Park Community Center 300 S. Military Trail, Boca Raton
Gaines Park Community Center 1501 N. Australian Ave., West Palm Beach	Summit Main Library 3650 Summit Blvd., West Palm Beach
Gardens Branch Library 11303 Campus Drive, Palm Beach Gardens	Wellington Branch Library 1951 Royal Fern Drive, Wellington
Glades Road Branch Library 20701 95th Ave. S., Boca Raton	Wells Recreation Community Center 2409 Avenue H West, Riviera Beach
Greenacres Community Center 501 Swain Blvd., Greenacres	West Boca Branch Library 18685 State Road 7, Boca Raton
Hagen Ranch Road Library 14350 Hagen Ranch Road, Delray Beach	West Jupiter Rec and Community Center Complex 6401 W. Indiantown Road, Jupiter
Jupiter Community Center 200 Military Trail, Jupiter	

HOW TO VOTE IN PERSON

Bring current, valid identification with your photo and signature. If you forget your ID, you will be able to vote a provisional ballot. Your Voter Information Card does not count as ID to vote.

You may bring your sample ballot for reference.

Check in with an election worker who will ask for your photo/signature ID.

Receive your paper ballot and a privacy folder. (You may also ask to vote using the

ExpressVote device, which also produces a paper ballot.)

Go to the voting booth and mark your ballot.

Review your ballot. If you made a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Otherwise, bring your ballot to the tabulator.

Insert your ballot into the tabulator, one page at a time. An election worker will be standing by the machine to answer any questions you have and to collect your privacy folder.

Once your ballot has been accepted, your votes have been cast and no changes can be made.

TRACK YOUR VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT

One of the most useful Voting Tools on the website of the Supervisor of Elections (VotePalmBeach.gov) is “Your Mail Ballot Information.” Everyone who completes a Vote by Mail ballot (VBM) might be worried that

1. The voter may not receive it in time to fill it out and return it.
2. The VBM ballot may not be received in the office of the Supervisor of Elections in time.
3. The ballot may not be counted.

All of these issues can be tracked on the Supervisor’s website, **VotePalmBeach.gov**.

1. Go to **VotePalmBeach.gov** and click on “My Status.”
2. Scroll down and fill in
 - a. First name
 - b. Last name
 - c. Date of birth 00/00/0000
 - d. Click “I understand and agree”
 - e. Click “I am not a robot”
 - f. Click “Submit”

3. Scroll down more and you will see your Name, Voter Registration Number, Voter Information, Contact Information, Current Elections, View Sample Ballot and then Ballot Status. Under Ballot Status, there are four parts to the bar: Requested, Sent, Received and Counted. Each part will change from grey to blue as each step is completed so you can clearly see where your ballot is in the process. If you encounter any problems or see a glitch in the process, call the Supervisor of Elections office at (561) 656-6200 or (561) 276-1226.

SAMPLE BALLOTS

The Supervisor of Elections mails or emails personalized sample ballots before each election to voters who have not requested a Vote-by-Mail ballot.* Sample ballots are mailed before the election to allow voters time to make their voting decisions in advance and bring it for reference when voting at the polls.

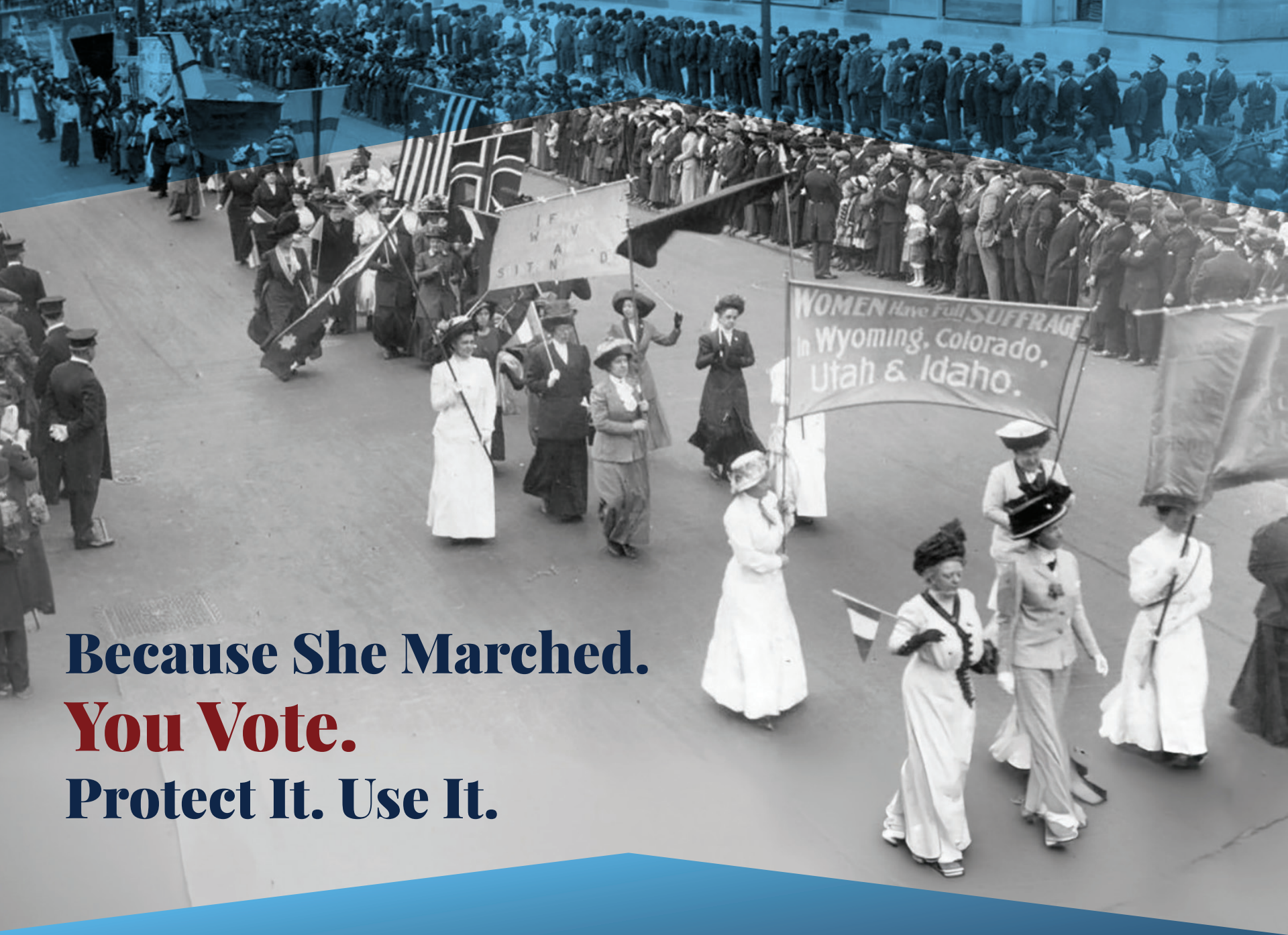
*Sample ballots are not typically mailed or emailed for Municipal Elections. They are available online at **VotePalmBeach.gov**.

HOW CANDIDATE MATERIAL WAS OBTAINED

Candidates were sent emails by the United States, Florida and Palm Beach County Leagues of Women Voters inviting them to provide information for both the online **VOTE411.org** site and this printed Voters’ Guide. Leagues requested biographical information and photos, as well as answers to questions formulated by members. Candidates’ responses were not edited, although they may have been cut from the bottom in this printed Voters’ Guide if the character limit was exceeded. The complete responses can be found on **VOTE411.org**.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TO VOTE EARLY

Using the Supervisor of Elections’ Early Voting Appointment Program, you may schedule a time window to vote at an Early Voting location of your choice to avoid waiting in line. You do not need to make an appointment to vote early. Visit **VotePalmBeach.gov/Voters/Early-Voting** to learn more.



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