2026 NONPARTISAN VOTER GUIDE

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

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A Message from the President

BY JESSICA LOWE-MINOR
PRESIDENT | LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF FLORIDA EDUCATION FUND

Dear Florida voter,

Every election is an opportunity to exercise your constitutional right to vote and to make your voice heard. Every informed vote strengthens our communities and our democracy.

For more than a century, the League of Women Voters has worked to ensure voters have the nonpartisan information they need to participate in every election with confidence. Here in Florida, that work continues in communities across our state, where the League helps our neighbors register to vote, understand their ballot, navigate changes to election laws, and make informed decisions in the voting booth.

That is why we publish our highly-trusted nonpartisan voter guide each election season.

Inside our voter guide, you will find accessible information to help prepare for the general election, including information about the candidates, constitutional amendments, and more.

The League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund is proudly nonpartisan. We do not support or oppose candidates or political parties.

At a time when voters are surrounded by more mis- and disinformation than ever before, knowing where to turn for reliable election information matters. We hope this guide is not simply something you read, but something you use. Mark it up, bring it with you, share it with a neighbor, and use it to start conversations in your community.

Most importantly, make a commitment to vote. And then make a plan to vote.

Florida's future will be shaped by the choices voters make this election. Whatever your background, neighborhood, or political beliefs, your voice belongs in our electoral process.

Be informed. Be prepared. Be a voter.

In League,
Jessica Lowe-Minor
President
League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund

VOTE 411
ELECTION INFORMATION YOU NEED
www.vote411.org

Ways to Give

There are lots of ways to participate & donate to make a difference!

Scan the QR code or visit www.lwvfl.org/ways-to-give/

Voter Registration

To vote in an election, you must have been a registered voter in Florida at least 29 days before that election.

- *The deadline to register for the November 3, 2026 General Election is October 5, 2026.*

To register as a voter, you must:

- Be a U.S. citizen.
- Be a legal resident of Florida.
- Be a legal resident of the county in which you seek to be registered.
- Be at least 16 years old to preregister or at least 18 years old to register and vote.
- Not be a person who has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting in Florida or any other state without having your right to vote restored.
- Not be a person convicted of a felony without having your right to vote restored.

You can register to vote online at RegisterToVoteFlorida.org provided you have a valid FL driver license or FL identification card and know the last four digits of your social security number. Otherwise, a printed voter registration application can be obtained at your local Supervisor of Elections office or library.

Identification Assistance

Registering to vote and requesting a vote-by-mail ballot requires personal identification. If you do not have a valid FL identification card or FL driver license, there is an organization that can help you in both English or Spanish. Visit VoteRiders.org or call/text them at 1-866-1D -2-VOTE (1-866-432-8683).

Updates or Changes to Voter Registration

- You may change your address on file with your county's supervisor of elections at any time. including on Election Day.
- It's recommended that you update your signature on file periodically. You may do this by submitting an updated voter registration form to the Supervisor of Elections office

Three Ways to Vote

1. In-person during Early Voting

- You may vote at any early voting location in your county.
- Early voting dates vary by county so consult your county's Supervisor of Elections (SOE) website for the latest information on days, hours and locations. Find your SOE at dos.elections.myflorida.com/supervisors

2. In-person on Election Day

- On election day, you may vote only at your assigned polling location.
- Your polling place on election day is likely to be different from locations available during the early voting period. Voting hours on election day are strictly 7:00am – 7:00pm. You are allowed to vote as long as you are in line by 7:00pm.
- *If you encounter any form of harassment or obstruction while voting, we encourage you to call 1-866-OUR-VOTE (1-866-687-8683) immediately. Your right to vote must not be infringed.*

Forms of identification

When voting in person during early voting or on election day, you will be asked for identification. There are 12 accepted forms of identification for FL voters. The ideal identification includes your photo and signature, such as a valid FL driver license or FL identification card. These items are not used to check your address but only to confirm your identity.

3. Vote-by-Mail

- Deadline to request that a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed to you is 12 days before the election:
  - *Deadline to make a request for the November 3, 2026 General Election is October 22, 2026 at 5 pm.*
- You can request a vote-by-mail ballot online at your county's Supervisor of Elections website. You can also request by calling the elections office or by submitting a written request. All written vote-by-mail requests must be submitted using the Statewide Vote-by-Mail Request Form available on your county's Supervisor of Elections website or at their office.
- If you miss the request deadline (October 22) to have a vote-by-mail ballot mailed to you, you can request a vote-by-mail ballot in person on or within 10 days of and up to 7 pm on Election Day. You have to complete an affidavit and specify the emergency under oath.
- You can return a vote-by-mail ballot using the U.S. Postal Service, taking into consideration that it must be received (not postmarked) by the elections office no later than by 7:00 pm on Election Day for your vote to be counted. Late arriving ballots are not allowed to be counted.
- Your vote-by-mail ballot can be returned to a secure ballot intake station located at early voting sites during the early voting period or directly to your county's Supervisor of Elections office by 7:00 pm on Election Day.
- On Election Day, you may return your vote-by-mail ballot only to the Supervisor of Elections office, or you may surrender your ballot at your assigned polling location for a new ballot and vote in person.

Some Vote-by-Mail tips:

- Only one ballot can be returned in each ballot mailing envelope. If two or more ballots are included in the same envelope, neither ballot will be counted.
- If you receive a vote-by-mail ballot but decide to vote in person, you can take your mail ballot with you, surrender it to a poll worker, and vote a regular ballot. If you do not bring your mail ballot, you will still be allowed to vote in person, once it has been determined that the mail ballot was not already received by the elections office. If this cannot be determined, you may vote with a provisional ballot.

Be sure to sign the outside of the return mailing envelope. Without a signature, your vote will not count unless you complete a Vote-By-Mail Ballot Cure Affidavit.

Dangers of Mis- and Disinformation in 2026

As we head into the 2026 election, mis- and disinformation are more prevalent than ever, threatening to undermine our democracy and the value of every person's voice. With the rise of social media and instant communication, false information can spread rapidly, often coming from our own friends and family. Learning to recognize and combat these threats is crucial to ensuring a fair and informed electoral process.

WHAT IS MIS- AND DISINFORMATION?

Misinformation: Sharing false information without the intent to harm.

Example: Your sister says a trusted friend told her that a local ballot measure will raise taxes.

Disinformation: Spreading false information with the intent to deceive.

Example: Your sister lies to you about a local ballot measure, telling you that it will raise taxes, because she knows that's the only way you won't support it.

While disinformation may seem worse, misinformation can be just as damaging. Remember the game "telephone"? Every day, we inadvertently play this game in conversations and online, often distorting important political information.

In 2026, we face a particularly challenging election landscape. With numerous high-stakes races across the country, political tensions are at an all-time high. This environment makes it easy for misinformation and disinformation to thrive, often spreading through personal networks. Information shared by friends and family is often trusted more than content from anonymous online sources, making it more likely for misinformation to be accepted and further spread.

Social media algorithms often create echo chambers, where we are exposed to information that aligns with our existing beliefs. This can make it harder to recognize false information, especially when it comes from people we know and trust. Mis- and disinformation can be emotionally charged, designed to provoke strong reactions. When this information comes from close contacts, it can feel more personal and impactful.

HOW CAN YOU SPOT MIS- AND DISINFORMATION?

We're all susceptible, but these steps can help you spot false information before it spreads:

- Research the Source: Who is sharing this information? If it's online, does the website seem reputable, or does it have known political affiliations? If it's in person, is this individual known for exaggeration, or do they have relevant expertise?
- Check the Date: Don't get incensed over old articles that no longer apply. Always check the publication date.
- Cross-Check: Are reliable news sources reporting the same information? If not, it's unlikely your smaller source has a scoop others don't.
- Read Past the Headline: Headlines can be misleading. Make sure to read the entire article for context.
- Question Emotionally Charged Content; Is the person or outlet using emotionally manipulative language to provoke a reaction? That's a red flag. Reliable sources let facts drive the narrative, not emotions. Be aware of loaded language.

HOW TO STOP MIS- AND DISINFORMATION

- Once you've identified false information, follow these steps to prevent its spread: Don't Engage: It might be tempting to comment on an inaccurate post, but engagement only increases its visibility. Avoid liking, clicking, sharing, or commenting on such content.
- Share Correct Information: For every piece of misinformation you encounter, try to share accurate information. Redirect the conversation towards facts.
- Report When Needed: If you see disinformation online, report it to ReportDisinfo.org. You can also report misleading social media posts directly to the platforms.

By recognizing and combating mis- and disinformation, we can ensure that our democracy remains strong and that every person's voice is heard accurately and fairly.

How Amendments Get on the Ballot in Florida

In November 2026, three proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution will be on every ballot. Amendments to the Florida Constitution need 60% of the vote for an amendment to pass. While there are five methods for placing a proposed amendment on the ballot, only the first one described below was used in 2026.

1 A joint resolution of the Florida Legislature: This is the only authorized method by which the legislature may propose amendments to the State Constitution. The resolution must pass each house by a three-fifths vote of the membership. All three amendments were placed on the 2026 ballot by a joint resolution of the Florida legislature.

2 A citizens' initiative: This process requires a specific number of petitions signed by registered Florida voters before the proposed amendment can appear on the ballot. Per the Florida Constitution, the number of signatures required is eight percent of the voters who cast ballots in the last presidential election. In addition, the signatures must also come from voters in at least one-half of the congressional districts of the state.

3 A proposal from the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC): The CRC convenes once every 20 years to examine the Florida Constitution and propose changes. The CRC has authority to propose to voters a revision of all or any part of the Florida Constitution.

4 A proposal from the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission: The 22-appointed-member commission convenes once every 20 years (alternate 10 year intervals from the CRC) to examine the state's budget and expenditure processes and revenue needs.

5 By Constitutional Convention: A state constitutional convention is a gathering of elected delegates who propose revisions and amendments to a state constitution. In Florida, there have been six conventions since 1838. None have occurred since the current constitution was ratified in 1968.

AMENDMENTS

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.

Synopsis:

This amendment is proposed by the Florida State Legislature. It will amend Article III, Section 19. The term "revenue collections" refers to the last completed fiscal year's net revenue collections for the general revenue fund.

This proposed amendment passed the House 100-1 and the Senate 29-4.

Budget stabilization funds (BSF) are a form of savings account where states can place revenue, such as tax receipts, that will be used to finance unexpected budget deficits or emergencies. All 50 states have some form of a budget stabilization fund. The Florida BSF was created in 1992 after 83% of voters approved the Constitutional Amendment. The constitution requires that the balance of the Florida BSF not fall below 5% of revenue collections. The maximum balance allowed for the Florida BSF is 10% of the revenue collections. For example, for fiscal year 2024-2025, the amount in the BSF was 9.3% of the state's revenue collections. 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% of annual revenue collections. The legislature would also be required to transfer funds into the BSF each year. The amount transferred would be either $750 million, or however much is needed to bring the fund up to the 25% limit, whichever is less.

Under this amendment, funds could only be withdrawn from the BSF under three conditions:

The legislature passes a bill to withdraw funds to pay the expenses associated with an emergency. The legislature passes a bill to withdraw funds to cover a shortfall in revenue, such as less than anticipated sales tax receipts. The legislature determines there is a nonrecurring critical state need, the principal balance of the BSF is greater than 15% of state revenue collections, and two-thirds of the legislature approves the withdrawal of funds.

This amendment would also allow the legislature to suspend the annual revenue transfer to the fund under either of the following circumstances:

No more than once every five years, the legislature determines that there is a critical state need that requires funding in an amount exceeding what would have been transferred into the BSF, and two-thirds of the legislature approves the suspension of the transfer. The legislature withdraws funds from the BSF during the same fiscal year for an emergency or revenue shortfall.

The fiscal impact on the state is indeterminate, but likely insignificant.

Opponents: Florida Education Association, LWV of Florida

Supporters: Florida Legislature (House 100-1, Senate 29-4)

A YES VOTE WOULD...: increase the amount of funds held in the Budget Stabilization Fund from 10% to 25% of revenue collections. Require an annual transfer to the fund equal to $750 million or 25% of the revenue collections (whichever is lesser). Define how money can be withdrawn from the fund. Allow the legislature to suspend the transfer under certain conditions.

A NO VOTE WOULD...: keep the maximum allowable amount of funds in the Budget Stabilization Fund at 10% of revenue collections.

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.

Synopsis:

This amendment is proposed by the Florida State Legislature. It will amend Article VII, Section 3. It passed the House 110-1 and the Senate 37-0.

This proposed amendment would exempt the value of certain tangible personal property (such as farm equipment or tools) used in agriculture or agritourism from ad valorem property taxes, if the property:

is habitually located or typically present on agricultural land. is used for producing agricultural products or for agritourism and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the agricultural land.

Tangible personal property (TPP) 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 Florida Legislature's Bill Analysis & Fiscal Impact Statement states that the Revenue Estimating Conference estimated this amendment, if approved by voters, will have a negative recurring impact on local government revenues of $31 million, beginning in Fiscal Year 2027-28.

Opponents: Florida Education Association, LWV of Florida

Supporters: Florida Legislature (House 110-1, Senate 37-0)

A YES VOTE WOULD...: exclude tangible personal property, such as farm equipment or tools, from the calculation of property taxes if the property is typically present on agricultural land, used for farming or agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the land.

A NO VOTE 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 agricultural land, used for farming or agritourism activities, and owned by the landowner or leaseholder of the land.

AMENDMENTS

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.

Synopsis:

This amendment is proposed by the Florida State Legislature. This amendment passed 75-27 in the House (16 not voting) and 30-8 in the Senate (2 not voting).

This amendment would revise Article VII Sections 4, 6, and 9 and create new Article XII - Save Our Homes From Excessive Property Taxes. If passed, it would become effective January 1, 2027.

Ad valorem and Non-ad valorem Taxes: Tax bills have ad valorem taxes, which are based on a property's assessed value. These are referred to as "property taxes." Tax bills also have non-ad valorem taxes, which are flat fees that are collected to pay for specific local services or infrastructure improvements. This amendment only alters ad valorem taxes.

Millage Rates: The Florida Constitution caps property tax millage rates for local governments at 10 mills. One mill equals $1 of tax for every $1,000 of assessed property value. So a rate of one mill on a $200,000 house equals $200. Examples of current rates in Florida municipalities:

- City of Miami: 7.5539 mills
- City of Tampa: 6.2076 mills
- City of Orlando: 6.6500 mills

"Permanent residence" is defined as the place a person considers their permanent home to which, whenever absent, they will return.

For homeowners who permanently reside on their property (house or condominium), there is a portion of the home's assessed value that is not subject to ad valorem taxes or "property taxes." This is known as the "homestead exemption." Currently, the first $25,000 of assessed value is exempt from all property taxes, including those levied by school districts. An additional $25,000 of assessed value is exempt from all property taxes except those levied by school districts. This additional $25,000 exemption applies to the assessed value of homestead property valued between $50,000 and $75,000.

The bill passed by the Legislature (CS/HJR 1F) is summarized below.

- For homeowners with homesteaded property established by December 31, 2026, the homestead exemption for all property taxes, except those levied by school districts, would increase to:
- up to $150,000 of the assessed value beginning on January 1, 2027.
- up to $250,000 of the assessed value beginning on January 1, 2028.
- Homesteads established on or after January 1, 2027 are only eligible for these changes after establishing residency status for five years. After the fifth year, these homesteads are eligible for the maximum $250,000 exemption.
- For homeowners with less than 5 years of homestead exemption, up to $25,000 of assessed value is exempt from all property taxes and an additional $25,000 is exempt from all property taxes, except non-school tax levies.
- The new exemption values will be adjusted annually for positive inflation growth beginning January 1, 2028.
- For non-homestead residential property (own home, but not permanent resident) and non-residential property, the maximum increase in annual property assessment used to determine property taxes is reduced from 10% to 5%, beginning January 1, 2027.
- Requires the legislature, through general law, to establish a procedure for counties and municipalities to schedule for further exemption of property taxes on all homestead property up to remaining assessed value, if a county or municipality chooses to do so.
- Property tax levied by counties and municipalities is limited to only cover expenditures to:
- Provide for public safety, including law enforcement, fire service, and emergency medical service;
- Provide funding for education and public schools;
- Finance or refinance infrastructure, including expenditures on road and bridge construction and maintenance and stormwater control;
- Finance or refinance natural resource projects, including flood control measures;
- Issue local bonds for uses consistent with the approved used above and to make debt service payments for existing obligations;
- Meet obligations for retirement benefits of local government employees;
- Fund the operations and administration of county officers and commissioners established under Article VIII of the Florida Constitution and municipalities, and the expenditures approved by such county officers or county or municipal governing bodies, except those expenditures prohibited by general law.

A Balancing Act

Permanent residents with homestead property will receive significant property tax relief due to a permanent increase in the homestead property exemption amount. By January 1, 2028, a home valued at $250,000 or less will pay no ad valorem property taxes, except for those taxes levied by school districts. Owners of non-homesteaded property will also receive a property tax break because the amount their property assessment can increase each year is reduced from 10% to 5%, which reduces their property taxes..

However, this means that local governments, county and municipalities, will receive significantly less revenue to fund government services that these same residents use. Since this amendment also dictates how property taxes are spent by counties and municipalities, local governments are further constrained in how they manage their budgets.

The Revenue Estimating Conference analysis (under the Florida Legislature) dated July 10, 2026 states local governments could expect nearly $5 billion less revenue in 2027-2028. That number is estimated to

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AMENDMENTS

FLORIDA AMENDMENT 3

INCREASED HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION; LOWER CAP ON INCREASES IN NON-HOMESTEAD PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Continued from page 5

increase to $8.8 billion in 2028-2029, $9.7 billion in 2029-2030, $10.7 billion in 2030-2031 and $11.9 in 2031-2032 . These values do not take into consideration the total loss in revenue if a county or municipality reduces property tax exemptions for homestead property even further.

Impact of the increased property tax exemptions:

- Moody's, Fitch and S&P Global Ratings all expect greater credit pressure for local governments if voters approve the proposed property tax amendment.
- The amendment would significantly decrease future revenue collection by counties and municipalities, which would constrain overall growth of local government.
- The original proposed trust fund was eliminated from the final legislation, leaving no safety net for the 29 fiscally constrained counties or lapsed critical services. FL Dept of Revenue's List of Fiscally Constrained Counties
- Adversely impacts counties, municipalities, and special districts like Children's Services Councils, Hospital Districts, Mosquito Control Districts and Water Management Districts.
- Services like public parks, public transportation, recreation centers, public health services, public landscaping, environmental resources would lose millions of dollars needed to provide those services. This will force municipalities to either cut services or monetize services such as increase parking rates and charge entrance fees for parks & recreation centers.
- Public libraries are funded primarily through local property taxes and serve more than 23 million Floridians through 541 library locations, 22 bookmobiles, millions of annual visits, workforce development programs, digital access services, literacy initiatives, and educational programming.

Shifting How Tax Revenue May Be Collected:

The revenue loss would have to be offset by increasing taxes and fees and/or making budget cuts, effectively leading to a cost shift as Floridians either pay more in other ways or lose vital public services.

- Increase Property Taxes: Local governments can still make up the revenue shortfall by increasing property taxes on homestead and non-homestead properties. Because apartment buildings and rental houses fall into the category of non-homestead properties, landlords are likely to pass these added costs onto tenants in the form of higher rent. Commercial property owners will have higher overheads costs for their businesses.
- Non-ad valorem Taxes: These taxes are not tied to property values, which means they are not affected by this amendment. Counties and cities could make up the loss in funds resulting from higher homestead exemptions by relying more heavily on these revenue sources, which can include local sales taxes, motor fuel taxes, tourist development taxes and utility taxes (water, sewage, garbage). Additionally, local governments could pass ordinances to increase or create new fees to raise money. For example, fire protection services currently paid for by property taxes could be shifted to a fee-based system.
- Special Assessments: Homeowners may still receive a property tax bill to pay for special assessments, which may now occur more often. Assessments are one time fees issued to cover unexpected expenses or major projects.
- Impact Fees: Impact fees are charged to new real estate developments to cover the cost of expanding public infrastructure (such as schools, roads, and emergency services). Cities and counties facing constrained property tax budgets will likely look to maximize or restructure their impact fee schedules to shift the financial burden of new growth onto developers.
- Monetizing City Assets (naming rights, billboards or advertising) may be another way counties and municipalities could raise revenue to cover the shortfall due to decreased property tax revenue.

To view the City-level impact statement issued by the Florida League of Cities, visit https://www.flcities.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/2025-250K-City-Impact-Data.pdf

To view the County-level impact statement issued by the Florida Association of Counties, visit https://www.fl-counties.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/FAC-Fiscal-Impact-Readers-Guide-and-Backgrounder-6.3.pdf

Opponents as of August 28: 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, FL Rural Economic Development Assoc. FL chapter of the American Planning Association, Florida Engineering Society, American Council of Engineering Companies of Florida, Florida Association of County Engineers & Road Superintendents, Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association,Florida Library Assoc., Florida Assoc of Special Districts

Supporters as of August 28: Florida Realtors Board of Directors, Florida Legislature (75-27 House, with 16 not voting; 30-8 Senate, with 2 not voting).

A YES VOTE WOULD...: increase the current homestead property exemption from $50,000 to $150,000 effective January 1, 2027, and then increase to $250,000 effective January 1, 2028. Lower the annual cap increase on non-homestead property from 10% to 5%. Allow the legislature to dictate how counties and municipalities expend tax revenue.

A NO VOTE WOULD...: Keep the current property tax structure in place.

Get to Know the Candidates

Below are the major party candidates for US Senate, Florida Governor and Cabinet. To learn who the third party and independent candidates are for these statewide offices, please visit VOTE411.org. Candidate responses to questions posed by the League are also at VOTE411.org.

The League of Women Voters of Florida is proud to be nonpartisan, neither supporting nor opposing candidates or political parties at any level of government, but always working on vital issues of concern to members and the public.

CANDIDATE PHOTOS PROVIDED.

US SENATOR

Ashley Moody
(R)
ashleymoody.com/

Angela Nixon
(D)
angienixon.com/

GOVERNOR

Byron Donalds
(R)
byrondonalds.com/

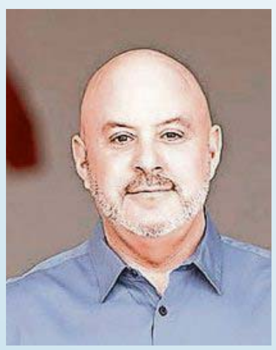
David Jolly
(D)
davidjolly.com/

ATTORNEY GENERAL

James Uthmeier
(R)
jamesforfl.com/

Jose Javier Rodriguez
(D)
jjr.vote/

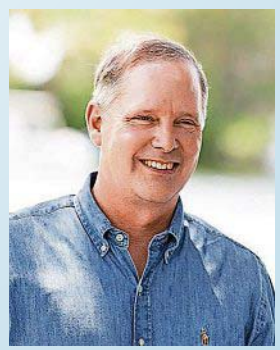
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)



Blaise Ingoglia
(R)
blaiseforflorida.com/

Annette Taddeo
(D)
annettetaddeo.com/

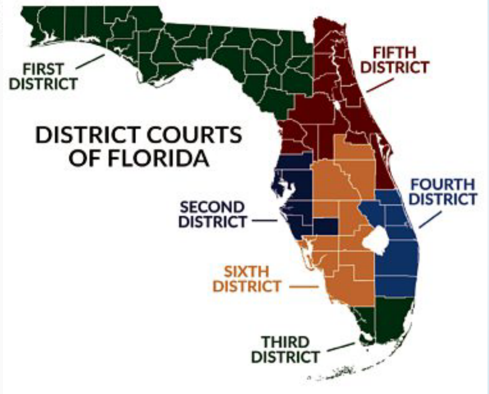
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE



Wilton Simpson
(R)
wiltonsimpson.com/

Joey Mendoza Atkins
(D)
joeyforflorida.com/

Retention Vote of Justices and Judges



For more information on your District Courts of Appeal, visit flcourts.gov.

IMAGE COURTESY OF FLORIDA JUDICIAL BRANCH.

The FAQ below is provided courtesy of The Florida Bar. More information about the Florida judicial system can be found at https://www.thevotesinyourcourt.com/

Why are appeals court judges and Supreme Court justices on the ballot this year?

Florida law requires Florida Supreme Court justices and appeals court judges to be placed on the ballot in nonpartisan elections every six years so voters can determine whether they should remain on their courts for another six-year term. These are called "merit retention" elections. This year, one Supreme Court justice and 22 appeals court judges will be on the ballot.

What are the differences between a county judge, a circuit judge, an appellate judge and a state Supreme Court Justice?

In Florida, both county and circuit judges are trial judges. County judges hear criminal misdemeanors and civil cases in which the amount in dispute is $50,000 or less. Circuit judges deal with criminal felonies, domestic relations, juvenile matters, probate issues and civil cases in which the disputed amount is greater than $50,000. Judges on the six District Courts of Appeal review the decisions of the lower trial courts. The Florida Supreme Court reviews death penalty appeals, appeals from the appellate courts, resolves conflicts among appellate courts, and manages Florida's court system.

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

A "Yes" vote means you want the judge or justice to be retained in office. A "No" vote means you want the judge or justice to be removed from office. The majority of voters decide.

Do appeals court judges and Supreme Court justices have opponents?

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

How do appeals court judges and Supreme Court justices get into office?

The governor appoints judges or justices from lists submitted by the Judicial Nominating Committee, which screens candidates and makes recommendations based on their merits. Newly appointed judges go on the ballot for the first time within three years after appointment. If voters retain them, they then go on the ballot again every six years.

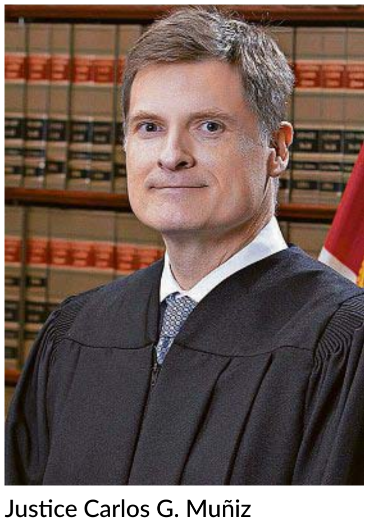
Can appeals court judges and Supreme Court justices state their views on issues that may come before them?

Canon 7 of the Code of Judicial Conduct forbids judges and justices from saying how they will decide future cases. Judges and justices must remain impartial and decide cases without regard to their personal views or beliefs.

Can I read the opinions of the judges and justices in cases they decided?

Yes. Records of judges' decisions can be found on the decision pages of the websites for the District Courts of Appeal and the Florida Supreme Courts.

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



Justice Carlos G. Muñiz
IMAGE COURTESY OF THE FLORIDA BAR.

Justice Carlos G. Muñiz was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Ron DeSantis on January 22, 2019, becoming the 89th Justice since statehood was granted in 1845. Prior to joining the Court, he served on the staff of Secretary Betsy DeVos as the presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed general counsel of the United States Department of Education.

In addition to working as an attorney in the federal government and in private practice, Justice Muñiz had an extensive career in Florida state government. He served as the deputy attorney general and chief of staff to Attorney General Pam Bondi; as deputy chief of staff and counsel in the Office of the Speaker of the Florida House of Representatives; as general counsel of the Department of Financial Services; and as deputy general counsel to Governor Jeb Bush.

Justice Muñiz is a graduate of the University of Virginia and of Yale Law School. After law school, he clerked for Judge José A. Cabranes of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit and for Judge Thomas A. Flannery of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

Justice Muñiz lives in Tallahassee with his wife, Katie Muñiz, and their three children. He grew up in the Northern Virginia suburbs of Washington, D.C., where he attended St. James Catholic School and Bishop Ireton High School.

In addition to Justice Muniz, the following 22 district courts of appeal judges have qualified for merit retention on the November 2026 general election ballot.

1st DCA:
- Joseph Lewis, Jr.
- Rachel Nordby
- Tim Osterhaus
- Clay Roberts
- Raymond Treadwell

2nd DCA
- Drew Atkinson
- Morris Silberman
- Daniel H. Sleet
- Andrea Teves Smith

3rd DCA
- Kansas R. Gooden
- Monica Gordo
- Fleur Jeannine Lobree
- Thomas Logue
- Bronwyn Catherine Miller

4th DCA
- Alan O. Forst
- Mark W. Klingensmith
- Johnathan D. Lott
- Shannon K. Shaw
- Caroline Cahill Shepherd

5th DCA
- John M. Harris
- Scott D. Makar
- F. Rand Wallis