



# THE FLORIDA VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®  
OF FLORIDA

## Cast An Informed Vote for Florida's Future

Florida's future is at a critical turning point. Your ideas and your voice are needed to help our state reach its potential. We salute you for picking up this Voter Guide and searching out information to help you cast an informed vote.

Florida's challenges are many. And there is no one better qualified than you to help pick our leaders.

The League of Women Voters is one of the nation's most respected nonprofits, dedicated to forming citizens, not partisans. Using debates and Voter Guides, we strive to help you make sense of the choices on both candidates and ballot amendments. It is only through your active citizenship that our government will be one that works for the people.

We hope you will find this edition of the *The Florida Voter* useful as you evaluate your choices and cast your important and precious vote, as we work together to select Florida's leaders.

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## A Voter's Guide to the 2010 Amendments....

### Amendment #1

#### Repeal of public campaign financing requirement

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution that requires public financing of campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.

**Effect of Passage:** Would repeal the public campaign financing requirement in the Florida Constitution, (Article VI, Section 7, Fla. Const.)

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Background:** Sixty-four percent of Florida voters approved using public financing for campaigns in 1998, raising to constitutional status public financing of statewide campaigns. Article VI, section 7 is implemented by statute which establishes the voluntary campaign spending limits that candidates who accept public financing must adhere to. In 2005, the Florida Legislature dramatically increased the spending limits by more than 300%, distorting the original purpose of the public financing system which was to hold down the cost of campaigns. In 2010, those voluntary spending limits are \$24.9 million in the gubernatorial race and \$12.5 million for other Cabinet races. Candidates for Governor and four Cabinet offices received a total of \$11 million in public funds to finance campaigns in the last statewide election in 2006. The Legislature could reduce the spending limits but have thus far refused to do so.

To qualify for public funding, gubernatorial candidates also must raise at least \$150,000 from Florida residents and other Cabinet candidates must raise \$100,000. Candidates qualify for public financing if they loan themselves no more than \$25,000 and receive no more than \$250,000 from a political party.

#### A Vote For Amendment #1...

- would end campaign financing that requires expenditure of

substantial public monies beginning in the 2014 election cycle.

- would increase the influence of special interests in elections.
- would reduce the number of candidates who can afford to run for office.
- would eliminate what some believe is one of the most significant campaign finance reforms in Florida history.
- would end limits on campaign spending that some believe infringe on the First Amendment right to freedom of speech.

#### A Vote Against Amendment #1:

- would continue the present system of public campaign financing.
- would continue to allow substantial public monies to be used to help finance the political campaigns of candidates who qualify for public financing.

### Amendment #2

#### Homestead ad valorem tax credit for deployed military personnel

**Ballot Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require the Legislature to provide an additional homestead property tax exemption by law for members of the United States military or military reserves, the United States Coast Guard or its reserves, or the Florida National Guard who receive a homestead exemption and were deployed in the previous year on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the Legislature. The exempt amount will be based upon the number of days in the previous calendar year that the person was deployed on active duty outside the continental United States, Alaska, or Hawaii in support of military operations designated by the Legislature. The amendment is scheduled to take effect January 1, 2011.

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YOUR 2010 ELECTION & VOTER GUIDE

**Effect of Passage:** Would amend Constitution to provide added property tax relief to designated military personnel. (Article VII, Section 3, Fla. Const.; would create Article XII, Section 31, Fla. Const.)

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Background:** State Representative Mike Horner (R-Kissimmee), joined by the Finance & Tax Council, filed the resolution to place this proposal on the ballot. Republican Majority Whip Andy Gardiner filed a similar resolution in the Senate. The Revenue Estimating Conference estimates that this proposal would have reduced receipts statewide approximately \$13 million if it had been in effect in FY 2009-2010, assuming current millage rates.

### A Vote For Amendment #2:

- would reduce property taxes for military personnel.
- would limit local property tax revenues statewide.
- would place a limitation on revenue in the Florida Constitution where it will be difficult to modify or remove.

### A Vote Against Amendment #2:

- would leave property taxes for military personnel at their locally established rates.
- would not place a new limit on property taxes for military personnel.
- would not place a limitation on state revenue in the Florida Constitution where it will be difficult to modify or remove.

## Amendment #3 (removed from ballot)

## Amendment #4 Referenda required for adoption and amendment of local government comprehensive land use plans

**Ballot Summary:** Establishes that before a local government may adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend a comprehensive land use plan, the proposed plan or amendment shall be subject to vote of the electors of the local government by referendum, following preparation by the local planning agency, consideration by the governing body and notice. Provides definitions.

**Effect of Passage:** Would amend Fla. Constitution to require voter approval of development proposals that conflict with already established comprehensive land use plans. Comprehensive plans are blueprints that cities and counties use to define how the lands in local communities may be developed. Article II, Section 7.

**Sponsor:** Florida Hometown Democracy, Inc., PAC

**Background:** Florida Hometown Democracy has collected signatures since 2003 to place its initiative on the ballot. Supporters contend the proposed amendment is necessary to deal with over-development and unfunded, inadequate infrastructure in Florida. The opponents argue it will delay comprehensive plan changes and adoptions by requiring each change be approved by referendum.

The Hometown Democracy petition initiative is led by a land use attorney and an environmental attorney with backing from groups such as Sierra Club of Florida. The Florida League of Cities, the Florida Association of Counties and the Florida Chamber of Commerce are among groups that oppose passage of the proposal.

### A Vote For Amendment #4...

- would change the current land use planning system to require citizen referendums on comprehensive plan changes.
- would reduce the authority of local elected officials for comprehensive land use plan adoption and change.
- would entail extra cost for referendum elections and could slow the comprehensive land use process.
- would introduce the potential for political advertising to influence referendum voting on land use decisions.
- would continue the current method of land use planning as established by the Legislature.
- would maintain the current level of public input.
- would maintain the status quo for lobbyists to influence decisions of local elected officials on land use plans.

### A Vote Against Amendment #4...

- would continue the current method of land use planning as established by the Legislature.

## Amendment #5 Standards for Legislature to follow in legislative redistricting

**Ballot Summary:** Legislative districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

**Effect of Passage:** Would set standards for drawing legislative districts after each census to reduce gerrymandering. (Would add a new section 21 to Article III, Fla. Const.)

**Sponsor:** FairDistrictsFlorida.org

**Background:** FairDistrictsFlorida.org is a non-partisan organization which includes the League of Women Voters of Florida, NAACP, and Democracia Ahora. This proposal would place standards in the constitution that would prohibit politicians from manipulating legislative district lines to favor incumbents or a particular political party. It would also prohibit the drawing of districts that reduce the ability of minorities to equally participate in the political process. It would require that districts be compact and have community-based boundaries.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue the standards are conflicting and will be difficult for the Legislature to implement. They also contend it could potentially reduce minority representation.

### A Vote For Amendment #5...

- would set non-political standards for redistricting.
- would reduce gerrymandering or the drawing of districts for political purposes.
- would protect the ability of minority voters to participate in the political process.
- would likely increase competition within elections.
- could lead to filing of litigation in implementing the provisions.

### A Vote Against Amendment #5...

- would continue to allow the Legislature to draw districts to favor an incumbent or a particular political party.
- would allow many incumbents to remain unchallenged.

## Amendment #6 Standards for Legislature to follow in congressional redistricting

**Ballot Summary:** Congressional districts or districting plans may not be drawn to favor or disfavor an incumbent or political party. Districts shall not be drawn to deny racial or language minorities the equal opportunity to participate in the political process and elect representatives of their choice. Districts must be contiguous. Unless otherwise required, districts must be compact, as equal in population as feasible, and where feasible must make use of existing city, county and geographical boundaries.

**Effect of Passage:** Would add a new section 20 to Article III, Fla. Const.

**Sponsor:** FairDistrictsFlorida.org

**Background:** (This proposal is identical to proposal 5, except that it would provide for federal congressional districting.) FairDistrictsFlorida.org is a nonpartisan organization which includes the League of Women Voters of Florida, NAACP, and Democracia Ahora. This proposal would place standards in the constitution that would prohibit politicians from manipulating legislative district lines to favor incumbents or a particular political party. It would also prohibit the drawing of districts that reduce the ability of minorities to equally participate in the political process. It would require that districts be compact and have community-based boundaries.

Opponents of the proposed amendment argue the standards are conflicting and will be difficult for the Legislature to implement. They also contend it could potentially reduce minority representation.

### A Vote For Amendment #6...

- would set non-political standards for redistricting.
- would reduce gerrymandering or the drawing of districts for political purposes.
- would protect the ability of minority voters to participate in the political process.
- would likely increase competition within elections
- could lead to filing of litigation in implementing the provisions.

### A Vote Against Amendment #6...

- would continue to allow the Legislature to draw districts to favor an incumbent or a particular political party.
- would allow many incumbents to remain unchallenged.

## Amendment #7 (removed from ballot)

## Amendment #8 Revision of the class size requirements for public schools

**Ballot Summary:** The Florida Constitution currently limits the maximum number of students assigned to each teacher in public school classrooms in the following grade groupings: for prekindergarten through grade 3, 18 students; for grades 4 through 8, 22 students; and for grades 9 through 12, 25 students. Under this amendment, the current limits on the maximum number of students assigned to each teacher in public school classrooms would become limits on the average number of students assigned per class to each teacher, by specified grade grouping, in each public school. This amendment also adopts new limits on the maximum number of students assigned to each teacher in an individual classroom as follows: for prekindergarten through grade 3, 21 students; for grades 4 through 8, 27 students; and for grades 9 through 12, 30 students. This amendment specifies that class size limits do not apply to virtual classes, requires the Legislature to provide sufficient funds to maintain the average number of students required by this amendment, and schedules these revisions to take effect upon approval by the electors of this state and to operate retroactively to the beginning of the 2010-2011 school year.

**Effect of passage:** Would amend the Constitution to increase permissible classroom size. (Would create new Section 31 in Article XII, Fla.Const. that would increase permissible classroom size)

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Background:** Current class size limits were passed in 2002 by 52 % of Florida voters. These limits set caps on a class-by-class basis. The current limits are being phased in and are scheduled to take full effect in August 2010. The state estimates it has spent approximately \$16 billion since 2002 to implement the class size limits. An additional \$2.9 billion is proposed for the 2010-2011 school year to meet the current limits.

The proposed amendment would ease the existing class size limits in the constitution by changing the maximum number of students allowed in the classroom. Senator Don Gaetz (R-Destin) and Representative Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel) sponsored the resolution to place this amendment on the ballot and they argue the current class size limits are too inflexible and cost the state too much. The Florida Education Association opposes the amendment and the teachers' union is calling on the state to fulfill the constitutional mandate approved by voters in 2002.

### A Vote For Amendment #8...

- would provide more flexibility in meeting class size requirements.
- would allow limits to be increased (by no more than five) on

# How & Why We Amend Florida's Constitution

The amendments that you will see on this year's ballot are proposed changes to the Florida Constitution. Like the Federal Constitution, our Florida Constitution establishes rules and basic rights. The Constitution consists of 12 articles, including a Declaration of Rights. It covers freedoms such as religion, speech, press, assemblage, work and bearing of arms.

Like our national Constitution, the Florida Constitution was established to secure the benefits of liberty, to perfect state government, ensure tranquility, maintain order and guarantee equal and political rights to all. The first Florida Constitution was established in 1838, during the process for statehood, and provides the framework for all of Florida's statutes.

The amendments that you will see on this year's ballot are proposed changes to the Florida Constitution.

## How do amendments get to the ballot? How do we amend the Florida Constitution?

1. **Proposal by Legislature:** An amendment of the Florida Constitution may be proposed by joint resolution and agreed to by 3/5th of the membership of each house of the Legislature. This is the most common method.
2. **Constitutional Revision Commission:** Every twenty years a commission is appointed by the Governor (15 members), Speaker of the House (9 members), President of the Senate (9 members), Chief Justice of the Supreme Court (3 members) and the Attorney General to convene and propose amendments to the constitution, that are then voted on by the citizens.

3. **Citizen Initiative:** Citizens may place an amendment on the ballot. After filing a copy of the amendment that has been signed by 8% of the number of voters in the previous presidential election (which must be signed by voters in one half of the congressional districts in the state), it goes through a number of steps including a review of the language by the Florida Supreme Court. Citizens have four years to gather signatures.

4. Other methods include Constitutional Convention called for by citizens and the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission which meets every ten years.

This year three of the five amendments were placed on the ballot by citizens: #4, 5 and 6. All other amendments were proposed by members of the Florida Legislature. This year's questions also include a referendum question, which is non binding, placed by the Legislature.

the maximum number of students in a class.

- would provide more local level control of teacher-student ratios.

### A Vote Against Amendment #8...

- would leave class sizes as provided by the 2002 constitutional amendment.
- would discourage Legislature from proposing that class size limits be eliminated.
- would cost the state additional dollars in fully implementing the original class size amendment.

## Amendment #9 (removed from ballot)

## Referendum Balancing the Federal Budget — A Nonbinding Referendum Calling for an Amendment to the United States Constitution

**Referendum Language:** In order to stop the uncontrolled growth of our national debt and prevent excessive borrowing by

the Federal Government, which threatens our economy and national security, should the United States Constitution be amended to require a balanced federal budget without raising taxes?

**Background:** The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the national debt in 2011 will reach \$15.5 trillion. The rapid rise of the national debt since 2000 was caused by the expense of foreign wars, tax cuts, structural debt and recent bail out and economic stimulus packages. The Legislature proposed this non binding referendum to allow Floridians to send a message to Washington. While Florida, like 48 other states, must balance their budgets annually, it is noteworthy that the state's FY recent budget was balanced largely using federal stimulus monies.

### A Vote For This Referendum...

- would send a message that Floridians would like a balanced federal budget with no new taxes.
- would only be advisory if passed.

### A Vote Against This Referendum...

- would suggest that the Legislature needs to be more specific as to where the federal budget will be cut.

# How the Candidate Information was Gathered

Questions for the candidates were developed by League members using knowledge of recent events and issues that pose challenges in the months and years to come. The League of Women Voters of Florida has experience with monitoring governmental activity at the state and national level.

Questions for each race are located above the candidate response areas, and correspond to the answers by number.

The voters of Florida must choose representatives and executives who will lead them with vision and integrity while seeking solutions that address the needs of the future.

The areas of greatest interest for this election were identified as:

- The Economy
- The Budget, both federal and state
- Energy Policy
- Foreign Involvement
- The Polarization of the Governmental Process
- Public Education

Information is provided on the retention of Florida Supreme Court justices via the public information staff of the Florida Supreme Court. In this voter guide edition of *The Florida Voter*, the League has included information on all three branches of government, the judicial, executive and legislative, as well as amendments to the Florida Constitution. Study and read about the issues and the candidates; your beliefs and aspirations for Florida and the nation will be reflected in your vote.

For more information on U. S. Congress, Florida Senate or House of Representatives races, visit [Vote 411.org](http://Vote411.org).

Using software developed by the national League of Women Voters, candidates were sent an email asking them to provide background information as well as responses to Florida League-generated questions. The questions were straightforward and were not posed anticipating specific answers. The responses were limited to 300 characters each.

Each response is in the candidate's own words. The League has made no substantive changes to candidates' responses. For more information on U. S. Congress, Florida Senate or House of Representatives races, visit [Vote 411.org](http://Vote411.org). Questions were prepared and responded to for those races as well.

**US Senate Question #1:** What steps do you believe the federal government should take in order to create new jobs and facilitate a strong economic recovery?

**US Senate Question #2:** Many Floridians are concerned about the federal deficit. How would you approach reducing the federal deficit using revenue increases (taxes) and/or spending reductions? Which budget items, if any, would you reduce, and how would you increase revenues?

**US Senate Question #3:** How would you work with your fellow Senate members to reduce polarization among various interests and to benefit the American people?

## UNITED STATES SENATE UNITED STATES

### Marco Rubio (R)



Attorney | Age: 39 | Married | Family: Jeanette Dousdebis Rubio (Wife), Children: Amanda, Daniella, Anthony and Dominic | Currently resides in Miami, Florida | Birthplace: Miami, Florida | Education/Degrees: BS, University of Florida; JD, University of Miami | Community Involvement: Marco has served on the boards of the Latin Builders Association and Alafit International, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting global literacy. He also remains engaged in the West Miami community where he served as a city commissioner prior to being elected to the state house. 2030 South Douglas Road, Suite 105, Coral Gables, FL 33134. Campaign Phone: (786) 953-6711 | [www.marcorubio.com](http://www.marcorubio.com) | [team@marcorubio.com](mailto:team@marcorubio.com)

**Question #1:** I believe we need to directly address the uncertainty in the market caused by policies coming from Washington. We need to permanently extend the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts, repeal Obamacare, halt regulations that hurt job creation and promote fair and free trade.

**Question #2:** The federal deficit and debt will only be overcome with spending cuts and robust economic growth. I have outlined 25 simple ideas that will create jobs and cut spending that are located on my website. We must act now to stop piling debt on the backs of millions of young Americans.

**Question #3:** We will work with anyone who supports making America the best place on the planet to do business and the strongest military force in the world. But we will fight against anyone who supports policies that will rob us of economic opportunities or lead us down the road of government dependency.

**Question #4:** America needs to develop alternatives to petroleum and invest in renewable energies. However, in the interim, we need to safely expand domestic production as relying solely on importing brings national security and economic dangers.

**Question #5:** There is no greater risk to our security than radical Islamic terrorists. We must be active in targeting and destroying terrorist cells and their leaders. If they are captured, we need to try them before military tribunals in Guantanamo not in civilian courts in Manhattan.

**Question #6:** I will focus on three goals: first, repeal and replace Obamacare; second, empower individuals to control their own healthcare choices; and third, restore control of health policy to the states. I have also outlined 10 specific steps we can take to lower health care costs on my website.

**Question #7:** I believe that research and development results in innovations that help drive America's economic edge. However, we must continue to invest and improve our education system, space exploration and other programs to ensure our continued success.

**Question #8:** I am the only candidate who will challenge the direction big-spending politicians are taking our country and offer a clear and positive alternative. America is the greatest country in the world but to stay there we must address the national debt and other issues facing our nation.

**US Senate Question #4:** What changes, if any, do you think need to be made to the United States' energy policy?

**US Senate Question #5:** The U. S. "War on Terror" is being waged on many fronts, including foreign battlefields and in legislative enactments such as the Patriot Act. How would you address both foreign and domestic terrorist threats on the U.S.?

**US Senate Question #6:** What changes, if any, do you think need to be made to current health care policy?

**US Senate Question #7:** Do you support increasing funding for long-term investment in research and development, particularly space exploration, energy, and/or medicine?

**US Senate Question #8:** If elected, how do you plan to use your position to improve the lives of Florida's citizens?

**SENATE UNITED STATES SENATE UNITED STATES SENATE UNITED STATES SENATE**

## Kendrick B. Meek (D)



U.S. Representative, 17th District of Florida | Age: 43 | Married | Family: Wife, Leslie; Children, Lauren and Kendrick, Jr. | Currently resides in Miami, FL | Birthplace: Miami, FL | Education/Degrees: Miami Springs Senior High School, 1985 B.S., Criminal Justice, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), 1989 | U.S. Representative, 17th District of Florida 111 N.W. 183rd Street, Suite 325, Miami Gardens, FL 33169 Campaign Phone: (305) 655-3213 www.kendrickmeek.com info@kendrickmeek.com

**Question #1:** My first priority is turning Florida's economy around. To create jobs, we must continue boosting small business loans,

closing loopholes for companies that ship jobs overseas, and providing targeted tax incentives for high-growth industries such as tourism and agriculture.

**Question #2:** To reduce the deficit, I support allowing the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and corporate interests to expire, restoring pay-as-you-go budgeting, responsibly ending the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and passing health care reform, which reduces the nation's deficit by \$1.2 trillion in the long-term.

**Question #3:** Hyper-polarization deadlocks our political process. We can begin to bridge these divides by hewing to a more bipartisan approach. This is the attitude I've adopted my entire career as a legislator, most notably by seeking bipartisan sponsors on most of the legislation I've introduced.

**Question #4:** We need to shift to a new domestic clean energy economy. I would support building more solar plants across our state to make Florida a leader in this field. I would also support a cap-and-trade system because strong energy legislation needs to address the issue of climate change.

**Question #5:** On the domestic front, we need to build our capabilities from the ground up by equipping state and local officials with the resources and training they need. On the international stage, we must redouble our focus on disrupting, dismantling, and defeating Al Qaeda, our greatest terrorist threat.

**Question #6:** I am the only major candidate who has supported and voted for comprehensive health care reform. I believe current health care policy should also allow the federal government to negotiate drug prices, as well as permit the reimportation of safe and affordable prescription drugs for seniors.

**Question #7:** I am a strong supporter of making long-term investments to grow our economy and create jobs, especially in areas such as R&D, clean energy, and medical innovation. I have supported increasing R&D and clean energy tax credits and have always been a vocal advocate for NASA and our Space Coast.

**Question #8:** As a former skydiver and Florida state trooper, I know what it means to work hard like regular Floridians who punch in and punch out every day. As Florida's Senator, I would dive head first into the major issues of the day and not be afraid to act on behalf of the people of Florida first and foremost.

## Charlie Crist (NPA)



Governor of Florida | Age: 54 | Married to Carole Crist | Family: Parents: Dr. Charles Crist, Sr & Mrs. Nancy Crist. Sisters: Margaret, Elizabeth & Catherine. 2 step daughters | Currently resides in St. Petersburg, FL | Birthplace: Altoona, PA | Education/Degrees: Cumberland School of Law and Florida State University | Community Involvement: Governor of Florida, Attorney General of Florida, Education Commissioner of Florida, Florida State Senator 300 Beach Drive NE, Suite 125, St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Campaign Phone: (727) 498-5806 www.charliecrist.com charlie@charliecrist.com

**Question #1:** Revitalizing our economy and creating jobs should be priority one. The first thing the federal government can do to stimulate the economy is to reduce unnecessary spending, create a business climate that promotes job growth and put America on a path to keep taxes low.

**Question #2:** The deficit should be reduced by decreasing spending. A commission on waste in government should be established to examine the elements of fraud and eliminate wasteful spending, and the recommendations made by the current deficit commission must be seriously considered.

**Question #3:** As an independent member of the U.S. Senate, I will be in a unique position to avoid partisan bickering and take the best ideas from both parties to build governing coalitions as I have done as Governor that create jobs, protect our environment, reduce the deficit, and strengthen our economy.

**Question #4:** We must break our dependence on foreign sources for our energy needs. We can accomplish this goal by promoting the development of reliable solar & wind energy resources, as well as increasing the use of natural gas & safe nuclear energy. This has economic, environmental & national security benefits.

**Question #5:** The war on terror must be fought aggressively and, in the long-term, our success will largely depend on reducing our dependence on foreign oil. We are less safe when we are sending tax dollars for oil to countries that harbor those that would harm us.

**Question #6:** I support a free market health care solution similar to the Cover Florida Health Care plan, which I proposed and signed into law. The Cover Florida Health Care plan provides uninsured Floridians with 27 health care options that best meet their needs. On average, Cover Florida premiums are \$150.

**Question #7:** I support long-term funding for research and development for space exploration, energy and medicine, as well as stem cell research.

**Question #8:** I will be an independent Senator who will avoid partisan bickering & take the best ideas from both parties to promote policies to keep our economy strong, make sure another BP oil spill never happens, reduce the deficit, put Floridians back to work, and keep our communities safe.

**Governor Question #1:** What is your long-term economic vision for Florida?

**Governor Question #2:** How do you plan to meet Florida's citizens' needs and balance the budget while facing at least a \$5 billion revenue shortfall?

**Governor Question #3:** In light of several recent examples of political corruption and mishandling of government resources within Florida (i.e. the "Wafflegate," Sansom, and RPOF credit card scandals, among others), how do you plan, if elected, to ensure that your administration will operate lawfully and in the sunshine?

**Governor Question #4:** What changes would you make in Florida's K-29 educational system?

**Governor Question #5:** The Governor makes numerous appointments to critical boards such as the Public Service Commission, the Board of Education, and Water Management Districts. What criteria will you use in making these appointments to ensure that the public's interest is best served?

**Governor Question #6:** If elected, how do you plan to use your position to improve the lives of Florida's citizens?

**GOVERNOR**

**GOVERNOR**

**GOVERNOR**

**GOVERNOR**

**GOVERNOR**

**GOVERNOR**

## Alex Sink (D)



Florida CFO and Business Leader | Age: 62 | Married to Bill McBride | Family: Proud mother of two children, Bert and Lexi | Currently resides in Thonotosassa, FL | Birthplace: Mt. Airy, NC | Education/Degrees: College Degree from Wake Forest University | Community Involvement: Served as vice chair of Florida TaxWatch and on the Commission on Government Accountability to the People. Dedicated her time to Florida's children through service on Governor Chiles' Commission on Education, the Hillsborough Education Foundation and as chair of Take Stock in Children. Civic work also includes service in the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, Leadership Florida and as Chair of the Board of the United Way of Hillsborough County.

2101 Palm Ave., Tampa, FL 33605  
Campaign Phone: (813) 374-9175  
www.alexsink2010.com  
contact@alexsink2010.com

**Question #1:** I will revive our economy in the short term by stabilizing and expanding small businesses, remake our economy in the long term by focusing on the development of innovative industries, such as new energy and biotech, and reform our government. My business plan can be found at [www.AlexSink2010.com](http://www.AlexSink2010.com).

**Question #2:** I will tackle Florida's budget challenges through smarter, more aggressive economic development policies and using my business experience to cut government waste. It will take a combination of running government more cost-effectively, drawing down federal funds, and a focus on growing our economy.

**Question #3:** The culture of corruption in Tallahassee has to end. For 26 years, I was a respected business leader and as Florida's CFO, I have held politicians accountable and provided greater transparency to our citizens. In February I laid out a meaningful ethics reform plan to restore trust in our government.

**Question #4:** As the mother of two children who graduated from Florida's public schools, I understand the importance of providing a quality public education. That's why my education principles are grounded in innovation and excellence. I know that successful schools begin at the local level – not in Tallahassee.

**Question #5:** I will seek individuals who have subject matter expertise, and who have demonstrated upstanding moral character, ethical integrity and a record of service to their communities and state. My appointments will also strive to reflect the rich geographic, ethnic, racial and gender diversity of Florida.

**Question #6:** I have a plan to create jobs, grow our economy, improve our schools, and finally hold politicians accountable. I've focused on solving problems my whole life as a business leader, and I will build a brighter future for our state with common-sense solutions that address the needs of our citizens.

## Rick Scott (R)



Businessman | Age: 57 | Married to Ann Scott for 38 years | Family: Two daughters, Jordan and Allison | Currently resides in Naples, FL | Birthplace: Bloomington, IL | Education/Degrees: Bachelors Degree from University of Missouri-Kansas City Juris Doctorate from Southern Methodist University  
300 S.E. 2nd Street, Ste. 850, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301  
Campaign Phone: (954) 915-3360  
[www.rickscottforflorida.com](http://www.rickscottforflorida.com)  
[rscott@rickscottforflorida.com](mailto:rscott@rickscottforflorida.com)

**Question #1:** I am going to make Florida the number one state for job creation. My 777 plan will create 700,000 jobs by following seven steps over the next seven years. By eliminating unnecessary regulation, cutting taxes and shrinking the size of government, Florida's economy will grow and flourish.

**Question #2:** I will implement accountability based budgeting and make sure that every dollar the state spends is spent prudently. Just like our citizens and small businesses have to, I will set priorities and allocate the tax dollars accordingly.

**Question #3:** Accountability and transparency are two fundamental principles on which I have built my campaign. Under a Scott administration the Governor's office will be an open book. The money that is spent in Tallahassee comes from the people and our citizens should know exactly how it is being spent.

**Question #4:** As Governor, I will promote reforms that reward effective teachers. I will institute a system that evaluates and compensates teachers called the "Learn and Earn" program. As students learn more, teachers will earn more.

**Question #5:** We need to remove the politics from the appointments process and focus on appointing qualified people that will work for Floridians, not special interests. As Governor, I will appoint independent thinkers that have the required knowledge and background to serve on a particular board.

**Question #6:** I plan to improve the lives of Floridians by making Florida the number one state for job creation. By eliminating unnecessary regulation, cutting taxes and shrinking government we will be able to provide Floridians with the job opportunities that are so desperately needed.

**Attorney General**

**Question #1:** The First District Court of Appeal recently ruled that members of the public have no right under Florida's Sunshine Law to be heard in public meetings that fall within the Sunshine Law provisions. What action, if any, would you take in response to this ruling?

**Attorney General**

**Question #2:** What legal action, if any, will you take in response to the Deep Water Horizon oil disaster?

**Attorney General**

**Question #3:** What changes, if any, would you make in the Medicaid fraud unit, or any other fraud investigation unit?

**Attorney General**

**Question #4:** What changes, if any, would you make in the present organizational structure as it relates to fraud investigation, financial regulation and financial integrity?

**Attorney General**

**Question #5:** If elected, how do you plan to use your position to improve the lives of Florida's citizens?

**ATTORNEY GENERAL****ATTORNEY GENERAL****ATTORNEY GENERAL****ATTORNEY GENERAL****Pam Bondi (R)**

Prosecutor | Age: 44 | Single | Family: 4th generation Floridian from a family of educators. I have no children | Currently resides in Tampa, FL | Birthplace: Tampa, FL | Education/Degrees: I went to King High School in 1983, received my BA from the University of Florida 1987 and went on to receive my law Juris Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law in 1990. | Community Involvement: The Junior League of Tampa, Goldberg Criminal Law Inn of Court, The Spring of Tampa Bay Board of Directors (Tampa's Shelter for Domestic Violence), Frequent community lecturer on subjects involving safety for senior citizens, schools and universities, Florida Bar lecturer on continuing

legal education, Founded a program to adopt a local low-income school to provide entire holiday gifts for the entire school, Active in animal rescue, and Annual guest lecturer to Leadership Tampa and Hillsborough

610 S. Boulevard, Suite 102, Tampa, FL 33606

Campaign Phone: Phone: (866) 246-9110

www.pambondi.com

info@pambondi.com

**Question #1:** I will be a strong advocate of government operating in the light of day. I believe that broad proposals to exempt information from public record can set a dangerous precedent and erode away the public's access to government, diminishing our rights and freedoms.

**Question #2:** The Attorney General has an important responsibility to protect the needs and rights of Florida's families, businesses, consumers and our environment. I will aggressively seek just and appropriate compensation for those who have been impacted by the oil spill, in a court of law if necessary.

**Question #3:** As a career prosecutor, I have the courtroom-tested experience to protect Floridians from fraud. I will work with our Legislature to ensure that our AG has the appropriate authority and necessary resources to aggressively seek out and prosecute criminals who commit fraud against our citizens.

**Question #4:** I will work to reallocate resources within the office of the statewide prosecutor to focus on all the fraud cases that are on the rise due to our ailing economy. I will also work closely with the State Attorney's Offices and the United States Attorney's Offices to share resources and information.

**Question #5:** I believe our Attorney General has the profound responsibilities to defend the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep our families, seniors, elderly and children safe from crime and must defend our Constitution. My career as a prosecutor has given me the experience necessary to be Florida's Top Cop.

**Dan Gelber (D)**

Attorney | Age: 49 | Married | Family: Wife: Joan Silverstein Kids: Sophie, 12; Hannah, 9; Max, 6 | Currently resides in Miami Beach | Birthplace: Miami Beach, FL | Education/Degrees: B.A., History, Tufts University J.D., University of Florida | Community Involvement: Big Brothers, Big Sisters program for 26 years, Co-founder of Camp Fiesta, a camp for kids with cancer, 100 Days of Service as part of the campaign  
801 Arthur Godfrey Road, Suite 300, Miami Beach, FL 33140  
Campaign Phone: (305) 538-8373  
www.DanGelber.com

dan@dangelber.com

**Question #1:** I haven't read the ruling and don't want to comment on something on which I may have to take a legal position. I believe that having open meetings are inadequate if there is not an opportunity for the public to be heard. I have advanced much legislation intended to make government more accessible.

**Question #2:** My first concern is that the crush of litigation doesn't overwhelm the interests of Floridians. I have recommended a legislative agenda to aggressively hold BP accountable. Small businesses and individuals who may lack the ability to file claims should be given needed aid from the state.

**Question #3:** For Medicaid fraud, I would ask for more manpower (as more investigators or prosecutors means greater return to taxpayers). I would try to coordinate better with other agencies tasked with enforcement and focus on the kinds of cases that change the behavior in the marketplace.

**Question #4:** I think the AG office needs to take on a greater enforcement mission that up to now was spread over various agencies. The enforcement mission should be primarily with the AG – when you give regulators a dual mission of regulation and enforcement, you make it harder to do both well.

**Question #5:** I would use my office to aggressively prosecute consumer fraud; and attack waste and abuse in government programs. Additionally, I would partner with agencies with a public corruption mandate. Finally, I would have zero tolerance for public records law violations.

**Commissioner of Agriculture Question #1:** What changes, if any, would you propose for consumer protection?

**Commissioner of Agriculture Question #2:** What changes, if any, would you propose for consumer protection?

**Commissioner of Agriculture Question #3:** What changes, if any, would you propose in pesticide and chemical regulation to protect Florida's waterways and lands?

**Commissioner of Agriculture Question #4:** There is a national trend fueling demand for locally grown food/produce that is readily available to consumers and chefs. This trend is further supported by the 150% increase in farmers' markets since 1997. What actions, if any, will you take to support Florida agriculture's participation in this movement?

**Commissioner of Agriculture Question #5:** What steps, if any, will you take to expand the market for Florida's agricultural products, either through assisting small scale local farmers or large producers and shippers of produce and food products abroad?

**Commissioner of Agriculture Question #6:** If elected, how do you plan to use your position to improve the lives of Florida's citizens?

## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

## COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

### Adam Putnam (R)



Cattle rancher, citrus grower, U.S. House of Representatives | Age: 36 | Married | Family: 4 children | Currently resides in Bartow, FL | Birthplace: Bartow, FL  
Education/Degrees: University of Florida, Food and Resource Economics, B.S. | Community Involvement: Kiwanis, Christ Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 547, Bartow, FL 33831  
Campaign Phone: (863) 578-5303  
www.adamputnam.com  
campaign@adamputnam.com

**Question #1:** To keep Florida competitive, we must foster a business-friendly environment, maintain a technologically competitive industry, expand beyond traditional crops, create clean,

renewable, agriculture-based energy and aid consumers in securing a safe, affordable, abundant food supply.

**Question #2:** The Department of Agriculture works to protect Florida's 18 million consumers from unfair and illegal business practices. As Commissioner, I will modernize systems to ensure an effective department that addresses specific protection, including food production and the do-not-call list.

**Question #3:** I support environmental policies that are based on sound science. As part of the oil spill recovery, I will seek funds from responsible parties to enhance detections of harmful chemicals in oysters and shellfish to ensure public safety and recovery of the waterfront industry.

**Question #4:** I will promote local farmers markets with initiatives, such as working to double the value of food stamps and WIC when used to purchase locally grown products, remove unnecessary barriers on small farmers, and expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables in food banks, schools and urban areas.

**Question #5:** I will further utilize the Fresh From Florida campaign to connect local farmers and retail outlets. Additionally, I will fight for fair trade agreements to open new markets and increase export opportunities.

**Question #6:** I will aggressively protect our 18 million consumers and \$100 billion agriculture industry by addressing challenges, including clean water, childhood nutrition, renewable energy and consumer protection.

### Scott Maddox (D)



Attorney | Age: 42 | Married to Sha Maddox since 1994 | Family: Jack, 14; Denver, 13 | Currently resides in Tallahassee, FL | Birthplace: Hialeah, FL | Education/Degrees: B.S., Political Science and Public Administration, Florida State University, 1989 J.D., Florida State College of Law, 1994, member of an award-winning Moot Court team | Community Involvement: I have served on several charitable boards and have been active in many community organization: Elder Care Services, Leon County Schools Foundation, March of Dimes, Big Brothers Big Sisters, United Way of the Big Bend, Boys and Girls Town of North Florida, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Big Bend Deaf and Hard of Hearing Resource Center, Tallahassee Museum, Mary Brogan Museum, Girl Scout Troop 14, Capital City Jaycees, Masonic Lodges Blueprint 2000, Tourist Development Council, Tallahassee Convention and Visitors Bureau, Challenger Learning Center, Florida League of Cities, Sunshine State Governmental Financing Commission, Economic Development Council, Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, Tallahassee Prayer Breakfast, Faith Presbyterian Church  
PO Box 1507, Tallahassee, FL 32302  
Campaign Phone: (850) 222-6050  
scottmaddox.com  
scott@scottmaddox.com

**Question #1:** Agriculture is the #2 revenue generator for the citizens of the State of Florida. As your next Commissioner of Agriculture, I will work to protect and promote Florida agriculture both locally and statewide. We need a strong agriculture culture to stay economically viable and competitive.

**Question #2:** Agriculture Commissioners have traditionally come from big citrus and big cattle and have overlooked the consumer protection aspects of this position. Consumer services makes up 2/3 of the job description. When elected, I'll use the full authority of my office to protect the people of Florida.

**Question #3:** We have amazing water resources in Florida. When elected, I will continue to advocate to protect our environment and look for ways to restore the Everglades and further reduce unintended pollution from our farms. I am the best qualified candidate to balance both agriculture and consumer needs.

**Question #4:** Florida is lucky to have such diverse agriculture. It is in the best interest of Florida's communities and the health of our citizens that we adjust a portion of our marketing to highlight advantages of local markets, such as diversity, sustainability, wellness, and transportation cost.

**Question #5:** Florida has one of the most fruitful and diverse agricultures in the world. Our products have international recognition: citrus and Apalachicola oysters are world-renowned for taste and safety. Stronger coordination of private and public entities will allow us to better promote our agriculture.

**Question #6:** I will fight to protect small business owners, small farmers, and our state's consumers. If you trust me with your vote, I will be your voice on the Florida Cabinet, fighting against special interests that have controlled our state for too long.

**Chief Financial Officer Question #1:** What changes, if any, would you make in Florida's investment policies?

**Chief Financial Officer Question #2:** What is your long-term economic vision for Florida?

**Chief Financial Officer Question #3:** What changes, if any, would you propose to make affecting property insurance coverage?

**Chief Financial Officer Question #4:** Would you seek to reinstate more frequent and comprehensive government audits?

**Chief Financial Officer Question #5:** What consumer protection initiatives related to financial services would you propose, if any?

**Chief Financial Officer Question #6:** What changes, if any, would you make in the present organizational structure as it relates to fraud investigation, financial regulation and financial integrity?

**Chief Financial Officer Question #7:** If elected, how do you plan to use your position to improve the lives of Florida's citizens?

## CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

### Jeff Atwater (R)



Community Banker | Age: 52 | Married | Family: Wife, Carole, Four Children | Currently resides in North Palm Beach, FL | Birthplace: St. Louis, MO |

Education/Degrees: University of Florida, B.A., Finance, 1981 University of Florida, M.B.A., 2002 | Community Involvement: I have been an active member of my community, having served on several advisory boards, such as: Children's Home Society, Board Member; United Way of Palm Beach County, Trustee; Palm Beach Gardens High School, Advisory Board; Roger Dean Stadium, Jupiter, Advisory Board; Northern Palm Beaches Chamber of Commerce, Director; Take Stock in Children, Mentor PO Box 14366, North Palm Beach, FL 33408 Campaign Phone: (850) 297-2802 www.jeffatwater.com jeff@jeffatwater.com

**Question #1:** Increase transparency and accountability in all state investment decisions — Seek the counsel of the most accomplished and credentialed financial professionals — Implement the highest standards for protection of all taxpayer assets

**Question #2:** Diversify Florida's economic base — Encourage economic development in clean industry, including green energy, bio-science, and high-tech — Champion the hard work of entrepreneurs and small business owners by reducing unneeded regulatory barriers to create jobs

**Question #3:** Ensure financial solvency and stability to protect consumers — Promote a broader property insurance marketplace with more competition to increase choice for consumers and lower premiums — Move toward increasing the private market's role and reducing Citizens' market share

**Question #4:** Increase standards for contract review and agency purchasing — Bring a standardized accounting system for financial compliance to increase oversight — Enforce the highest standards of accountability and transparency to protect Florida taxpayers

**Question #5:** Continue to increase consumer protection, like the Medicaid Strike Force, to combat fraud — Provide consumer information alerts to educate the public & increase awareness to prevent crime and fraud — Improve post-disaster oversight to safeguard tax dollars, reduce price gouging & protect consumers

**Question #6:** Establish a broad anti-fraud Strike Force targeting Medicaid fraud, automobile insurance fraud, and financial services fraud — Improve contract management that ensures tax dollars are deployed effectively through a fair, competitive, and cost-effective process

**Question #7:** Return our state to the forefront of economic opportunity — Implement policies that foster the entrepreneurial spirit of individuals & business owners — Establish the highest standards of professional conduct to ensure every tax dollar is deployed wisely — Reduce burdens on small business owners

### Loranne Ausley (D)



Attorney and Chair of Florida Healthy Kids Corporation | Age: 46 | Married | Family: Bill Hollimon - husband, Will Hollimon - son, John Hollimon - step-son | Currently resides in Tallahassee, FL | Birthplace: Tallahassee, FL |

Education/Degrees: J.D., Washington & Lee - 1990 B.A., Economics Randolph-Macon Woman's College - 1985 | Community Involvement: Chair of Florida Healthy Kids Corporation, Chair of Whole Child Leon (Board Member), American Cancer Society (present Board Member), Big Bend Jobs and Education Council (present Liaison), Florida Association of Counties and Florida League of Cities (present Board Member), Leadership Tallahassee (present Founding Member), Red Hills Triathlon (present Board Member), Tallahassee Civic Chorale (present Board Member), Tallahassee Urban League (present Board Member), Women for Growth (present Class XX), Leadership Florida Law Council, Washington & Lee University P.O. Box 10083, Tallahassee, FL 32302 Campaign Phone: (850) 222-0007 www.AusleyforCFO.com Loranne@ausleyforcfo.com

**Question #1:** I will push to ensure that Florida's pensions and investments continue to be fully funded, consistently invested with the principles of safety and liquidity, and transparent and accountable. I will endorse legislation to expand the SBA Board of Trustees to include people with financial experience.

**Question #2:** Florida must create an environment of innovation to diversify its economy and create jobs. This starts with investment in education from preschool through higher education. We will only be able to make these investments if we hold legislators accountable and end pay-to-play politics.

**Question #3:** Legislative changes have not stabilized the insurance market or reduced rates. Citizens is the state's largest insurance company and the CAT Fund faces a funding shortfall. I will advocate for lower rates through a stable regulatory environment and reduce taxpayer exposure for Citizens and the CAT.

**Question #4:** Yes. Florida taxpayers deserve more accountability and more transparency. Frequent and comprehensive audits of any program funded by taxpayers is a necessity.

**Question #5:** Consumers deserve protection, especially from predatory lenders. I will work with the Insurance Consumer advocate to push for more consumer protections from lenders that take advantage of our seniors and struggling homeowners.

**Question #6:** I will lead a Medicaid Fraud Strike Force that will ensure our health care resources go into improving quality coverage rather than waste and fraud. I will work to improve preventive controls, increase detection and monitoring efforts, and increase investigations and prosecutions.

**Question #7:** I'm running for CFO because Floridians need a fighter to clean up the mess Tallahassee. I've been a fighter my whole life — as a lawyer, as a legislator, and as an advocate for everyday Floridians. And now I'm going to take that same fight to the office of Chief Financial Officer.

The Supreme Court of the State of Florida is the highest court in the state of Florida and consists of seven judges. The Court is the final arbitrator of legal cases in the state, and its decisions are binding on all other Florida state courts.

The Chief Justice and six Justices are appointed by the Governor to term that are

six years in length and remain in office if retained in a general election near the end of each term.

In this "merit retention" election, voters decide only if the new Justice will remain in office. If not retained in office by a 50% vote of the state, the Governor then appoints a replacement through the Judicial

Nominating Commission process used for initial appointments. After this first merit retention election, Justices face the voters in the same type of merit retention election every six years thereafter until they leave or reach retirement age.

## SUPREME COURT JUSTICES • MERIT RETENTION VOTE

### Chief Justice Charles T. Canady

Chief Justice Charles Canady was born in Lakeland, Florida, in 1954. He received his B.A. from Haverford College in 1976 and his J.D. from the Yale Law School in 1979.

Justice Canady practiced law with the firm of Holland and Knight in Lakeland from 1979 through 1982. He practiced with the firm of Lane, Trohn, et al., from 1983 through 1992.

From 1984 to 1990, Justice Canady served three terms in the Florida House of Representatives, and from 1993 to 2001, he served four terms in the United States House of Representatives. For three terms, from 1995 to 2001, Justice Canady was the Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution.

Upon leaving Congress, Justice Canady became General Counsel to Governor Jeb Bush.

He was appointed by Governor Bush to the Second District Court of Appeal for a term beginning November 20, 2002. On August 28, 2008, Justice Canady was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Charlie Crist and took office on September 8, 2008.



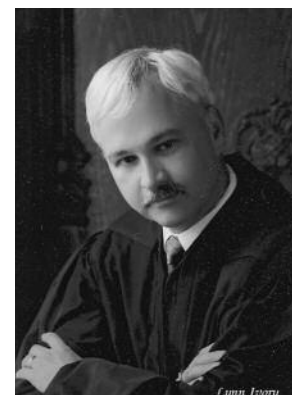
### Justice Ricky Polston

Justice Ricky Polston was born in 1955 and raised in the Panhandle town of Graceville. He earned a bachelor's degree from Florida State University in 1977, summa cum laude. He worked in Tampa as a certified public accountant from 1977-1984 with an international accounting firm, and has maintained his certification in the field since then.

Justice Polston earned his law degree from Florida State in 1986 with high honors and was engaged in the private practice of law in Tallahassee from 1987-2000 (Martindale-Hubbell AV rating and Bar Register Preeminent Attorneys).

Gov. Jeb Bush appointed him to the First District Court of Appeal in January 2001 and he served on that court until his appointment to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist in October 2008. He has been an adjunct law professor at Florida State University since 2003.

Justice Polston and his wife have 10 children, six of whom are brothers they adopted from foster care.



### Justice Jorge Labarga

Justice Jorge Labarga was born in Cuba in 1952. He arrived in the United States at the age of 11 and initially lived with his family in Pahokee, Florida. He graduated from Forest Hill High School in West Palm Beach in 1972 and received his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1976, followed by his law degree in 1979.

Justice Labarga began his legal career in West Palm Beach, where he worked first as an assistant public defender and then as an assistant state attorney before going into private practice, specializing in personal injury trial work and criminal defense.

Justice Labarga was appointed a circuit judge in Palm Beach County by Gov. Lawton Chiles in 1996. In January 2009, Gov. Charlie Crist appointed Justice Labarga to the Florida Supreme Court.

Justice Labarga and his wife have two daughters.

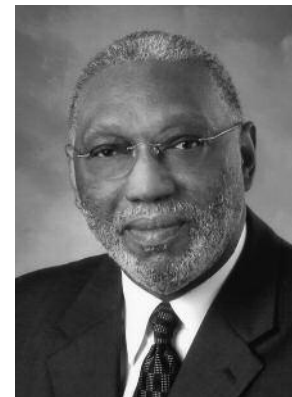


### Justice James E.C. Perry

Justice James E.C. Perry was born in New Bern, N.C., in 1944. He earned a bachelor's degree from Saint Augustine's College in 1966. After serving in the U.S. Army as a first lieutenant, he attended Columbia Law School and earned his law degree in 1972.

Justice Perry specialized in civil and business law as an attorney in private practice. He was appointed a circuit judge in Florida's 18th Judicial Circuit, which includes Brevard and Seminole counties, by Gov. Jeb Bush in 2000 and served as a chief judge of the circuit for a two-year term beginning in July 2003. Justice Perry was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Charlie Crist in March 2009.

As founder and president of the Jackie Robinson Sports Association, Justice Perry built a baseball league serving 650 at-risk boys and girls – the largest in the nation. He and his wife have three children.



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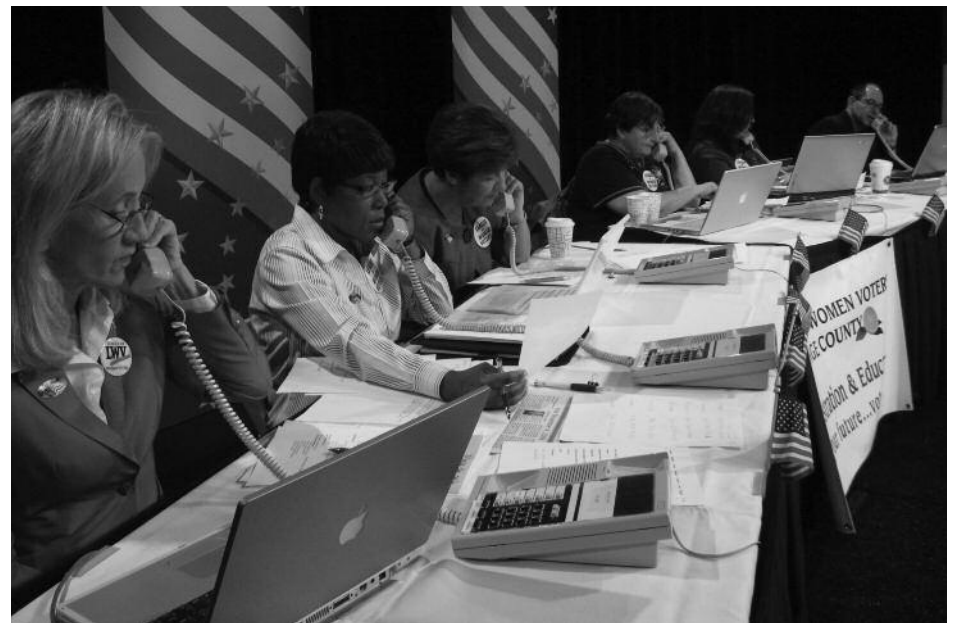
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