

**Official General Election Ballot
November 5, 2024
Hamilton County, Florida**

Instructions: To vote, fill in the oval (●) completely next to your choice. Use only the marking device provided or a black or blue pen.

If you make a mistake, ask for a new ballot. Do not cross out or your vote may not count.

To vote for a write-in candidate, fill in the oval (●) and print the name clearly on the blank line provided for the write-in candidate.

President and Vice President (Vote for One)		Sheriff (Vote for One)		District Court of Appeal	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Donald J. Trump JD Vance	REP	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Brian S. Creech	REP	Shall Judge M. Kemmerly Thomas of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office?	
<input type="radio"/> Kamala D. Harris Tim Walz	DEM	<input type="radio"/> Mike Cohen	IND	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
<input type="radio"/> Chase Oliver Mike ter Maat	LPF	<input type="radio"/> Justin Luckette	NPA	<input type="radio"/> No	
<input type="radio"/> Claudia De la Cruz Karina Garcia	PSL	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Leslie Jones	REP	No. 1 Constitutional Amendment Article IX, Section 4 and Article XII	
<input type="radio"/> Randall Terry Stephan Broden	CPF	<input type="radio"/> Charlene Robinson	NPA	Partisan Election of Members of District School Boards	
<input type="radio"/> Peter Sonski Lauren Onak	ASP	Superintendent of Schools (Vote for One)		Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to require members of a district school board to be elected in a partisan election rather than a nonpartisan election and to specify that the amendment only applies to elections held on or after the November 2026 general election. However, partisan primary elections may occur before the 2026 general election for purposes of nominating political party candidates to that office for placement on the 2026 general election ballot.	
<input type="radio"/> Jill Stein Rudolph Ware	GRE	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Lee Wetherington-Zamora	REP	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input type="radio"/> Paula G. Williams	DEM	<input type="radio"/> No	
United States Senator (Vote for One)		Justice of the Supreme Court		No. 2 Constitutional Amendment Article I, Section 28	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Rick Scott	REP	Shall Justice Renatha Francis of the Supreme Court be retained in office?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
<input type="radio"/> Debbie Mucarsel-Powell	DEM	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes		<input type="radio"/> No	
<input type="radio"/> Feena Bonoan	LPF	<input type="radio"/> No		Right to Fish and Hunt	
<input type="radio"/> Tuan TQ Nguyen	NPA	District Court of Appeal		Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to preserve forever fishing and hunting, including by the use of traditional methods, as a public right and preferred means of responsibly managing and controlling fish and wildlife. Specifies that the amendment does not limit the authority granted to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission under Section 9 of Article IV of the State Constitution.	
<input type="radio"/> Ben Everidge	NPA	Shall Judge Stephanie Ray of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
<input type="radio"/> Write-in		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes		<input type="radio"/> No	
Representative in Congress District 3 (Vote for One)		<input type="radio"/> No			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Kat Cammack	REP	Shall Judge Bradford L. Thomas of the First District Court of Appeal be retained in office?		<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	
<input type="radio"/> Tom Wells	DEM	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes		<input type="radio"/> No	
State Senator District 3 (Vote for One)		<input type="radio"/> No			
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Corey Simon	REP	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes			
<input type="radio"/> Daryl Parks	DEM	<input type="radio"/> No			
State Representative District 7 (Vote for One)					
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Jason Shoaf	REP				
<input type="radio"/> Kenny Beasley	DEM				
1 - Jennings City Hall		Vote Both Sides of Page		Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01	

No. 3 Constitutional Amendment Article X, Section 29	No. 4 Constitutional Amendment Article I, New Section	No. 6 Constitutional Amendment Article VI, Section 7
<p>Adult Personal Use of Marijuana</p> <p>Allows adults 21 years or older to possess, purchase, or use marijuana products and marijuana accessories for non-medical personal consumption by smoking, ingestion, or otherwise; allows Medical Marijuana Treatment Centers, and other state licensed entities, to acquire, cultivate, process, manufacture, sell, and distribute such products and accessories. Applies to Florida law; does not change, or immunize violations of, federal law. Establishes possession limits for personal use. Allows consistent legislation. Defines terms. Provides effective date.</p> <p>The amendment's financial impact primarily comes from expected sales tax collections. If legal today, sales of non-medical marijuana would be subject to sales tax and would remain so if voters approve this amendment. Based on other states' experiences, expected retail sales of non-medical marijuana would generate at least \$195.6 million annually in state and local sales tax revenues once the retail market is fully operational, although the timing of this occurring is unclear. Under current law, the existing statutory framework for medical marijuana is repealed six months after the effective date of this amendment which affects how this amendment will be implemented. A new regulatory structure for both medical and nonmedical use of marijuana will be needed. Its design cannot be fully known until the legislature acts; however, regulatory costs will probably be offset by regulatory fees. Other potential costs and savings cannot be predicted. THIS PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT IS ESTIMATED TO HAVE A NET POSITIVE IMPACT ON THE STATE BUDGET. THIS IMPACT MAY RESULT IN GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUE OR AN INCREASE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICES.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion</p> <p>No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. This amendment does not change the Legislature's constitutional authority to require notification to a parent or guardian before a minor has an abortion.</p> <p>The proposed amendment would result in significantly more abortions and fewer live births per year in Florida. The increase in abortions could be even greater if the amendment invalidates laws requiring parental consent before minors undergo abortions and those ensuring only licensed physicians perform abortions. There is also uncertainty about whether the amendment will require the state to subsidize abortions with public funds. Litigation to resolve those and other uncertainties will result in additional costs to the state government and state courts that will negatively impact the state budget. An increase in abortions may negatively affect the growth of state and local revenues over time. Because the fiscal impact of increased abortions on state and local revenues and costs cannot be estimated with precision, the total impact of the proposed amendment is indeterminate. THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THIS AMENDMENT CANNOT BE DETERMINED DUE TO AMBIGUITIES AND UNCERTAINTIES SURROUNDING THE AMENDMENT'S IMPACT.</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>	<p>Repeal of Public Campaign Financing Requirement</p> <p>Proposing the repeal of the provision in the State Constitution which requires public financing for campaigns of candidates for elective statewide office who agree to campaign spending limits.</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Countywide Emergency Fire Rescue Services and Facilities One Cent Discretionary Sales Tax For Enhanced Fire Protection and Rescue Services</p> <p>Shall Hamilton County levy a countywide one cent sales surtax? The proceeds of the sales surtax shall be used solely for emergency fire and rescue services and facilities as provided by Section 212.055(8), Florida Statutes?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p> <p>Election to Continue Ad Valorem Tax Millage for School Operational Purposes of School District</p> <p>Shall the School District of Hamilton County have continuing authority to levy 0.25 mills of ad valorem millage for school operational purposes, beginning July 1, 2025 and ending on June 30, 2029?</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No</p>
	<p>No. 5 Constitutional Amendment Article VII, Section 6 and Article XII</p> <p>Annual Adjustments to the Value of Certain Homestead Exemptions</p> <p>Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to require an annual adjustment for inflation to the value of current or future homestead exemptions that apply solely to levies other than school district levies and for which every person who has legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner, or another person legally or naturally dependent upon the owner is eligible. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2025.</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No</p>	
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MERIT RETENTION OF APPELLATE COURT JUDGES

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

BALLOT QUESTION FOR SUPREME COURT:

"Shall Justice _____ of the Supreme Court be retained in office?"



Renatha Francis



Meredith Sasso

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS (DCA)

BALLOT QUESTION FOR ALL DCA RETENTION VOTES:

"Shall Judge _____ of the _____ District Court of Appeal be retained in office?"

1st DCA	3rd DCA	5th DCA	6th DCA
 <p>Stephanie Ray</p>	 <p>Kevin M. Emas</p>	 <p>Joe Boatright</p>	 <p>Paetra Brownlee</p>
 <p>Bradford L. Thomas</p>	 <p>Ivan F. Fernandez</p>	 <p>Eric Eisnaugle</p>	 <p>Roger Gannam</p>
 <p>M. Kemmerly Thomas</p>	 <p>Norma Shepard Lindsey</p>	 <p>Harvey Jay</p>	 <p>Joshua Mize</p>
2nd DCA	4th DCA	 <p>Paige Kilbane</p>	 <p>Jared Smith</p>
 <p>Anthony K. Black</p>	 <p>Burton C. Connor</p>	 <p>John MacIver</p>	 <p>Keith White</p>
 <p>Edward C. LaRose</p>	 <p>Jeffrey T. Kuntz</p>	 <p>Jordan Pratt</p>	
 <p>Susan H. Rothstein-Youakim</p>		 <p>Adrian G. Soud</p>	

CIRCUIT COURT			ELECTED TRIAL COURT JUDGES		
COUNTIES	CIRCUIT GROUP	NAME	COUNTIES	CIRCUIT GROUP	NAME
Pasco, Pinellas	6 14	Jenn Dubbeld A	Orange, Osceola	9 15	Alicia Peyton A

COUNTY COURT			ELECTED TRIAL COURT JUDGES		
COUNTY	GROUP	NAME	COUNTY	GROUP	NAME
BREVARD	6	Clarissa Harrell A Margaret Wagner A	LEON	4	Robert Churchill A
BROWARD	10	Samuel Ford Stark A	MIAMI-DADE	29	Alina Salcines Restrepo A
CHARLOTTE	1	Kathryn Wallace A	PALM BEACH	2	Jean Marie Middleton A
DUVAL	9	Matt Lufrano A	PUTNAM	1	Anne Marie Gennusa A



SELECTING JUDGE CANDIDATES

OUR RATING METHODOLOGY FOR PICKING TRIAL COURT JUDGES

Finding the best judicial candidate is more complicated and dynamic than picking elected officials for legislative races. In most elections, the main issue is, "Will the candidate vote for conservative policies?" However, the same cannot be asked when electing good Trial Court judges. *Ideally, a good trial judge will also have qualifications like an even-handed temperament, a strong intellect, jury trial experience, a sense of fairness, and a good reputation in the legal community.*

For instance, consider two judicial candidates: one claims to be a Christian and appears to have a conservative judicial philosophy, while the other does not attend church and appears to lean liberal. If the first candidate has been disciplined by the bar, lacks legal experience, has never tried cases, has a poor reputation, or is angered easily, then that candidate is probably not the best person to serve as a judge, especially if another otherwise highly qualified, though left-leaning, alternative exists.

While having a conservative judicial philosophy is always important, it is far more critical that Appellate and Supreme Court judges possess it than do lower Trial Court judges. This is true because if lower court judges behave as activists and insert their views in place of the law, they can usually have their rulings overturned by appellate courts.

These are just some of the considerations we have used in evaluating which Circuit Court and County Court judicial candidates that we have endorsed or rate as "acceptable."

In evaluating judicial candidates, our team researched campaign websites, news articles, disciplinary records, church/synagogue affiliations, Florida Bar Judicial Candidate Statements and social media. We also interviewed local lawyers who know and work with these candidates to determine their reputation in the community. Often, we discover the differences between judicial candidates are too hard to compare and distinguish because they are either both very mediocre, or both equally qualified.

- E Our **ENDORSEMENT rating (E)** indicates we have a high confidence level that the candidate is the *best* judicial candidate among the other choices listed on the ballot.
- A Our **ACCEPTABLE rating (A)** indicates one or more judicial candidate(s) who we prefer as better overall than the other candidate(s) running in the same race but who, for some reason, we cannot endorse. An Acceptable status may also indicate that two judicial candidates are too close in qualifications, experience, and philosophy to recommend one over the other.