



UNITED FACULTY OF FLORIDA

A Special Election Newsletter for members of UFF

2022 VOTERS' GUIDE

STATEWIDE OFFICES UP FOR ELECTION

Federal

- US Senate

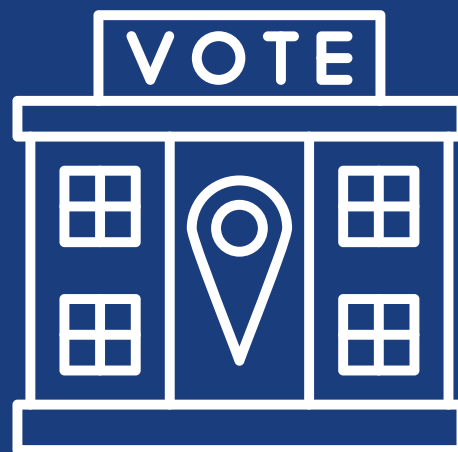
State

- Governor/Lt. Governor
- Attorney General
- Chief Financial Officer
- Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- Supreme Court Justices

Ballot Measures

- Constitutional Amendments

**ELECTION
DAY IS
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 8**



MAKE A PLAN TO VOTE

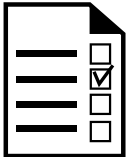
There are three ways to vote in Florida: by mail, during early voting, and in person on Election Day.



Vote-by-Mail

Vote-by-mail ballots will be sent out to those who have requested them on September 29. Voters can continue to request a vote-by-mail ballot until October 29.

Once you receive your ballot, be sure to return it as soon as possible. To ensure your ballot arrives in time, we recommend that after Tuesday, October 25, you drop your completed ballot off at your local supervisor of elections office or in a designated drop box.



Early Voting

This year the mandatory Early Voting days are October 29 to November 5. However, each Supervisor of Elections has the option to open Early Voting from October 24 to October 28 as well as November 6. To find out when Early Voting starts and where your early voting polling locations are, visit your Supervisor of Elections website.



On Election Day

Election Day is **November 8!** The polls are open on Election Day from 7 am until 7 pm. Any voters waiting in line at 7 pm will have the opportunity to cast a ballot. Check your Supervisor of Elections site for your polling location!

FIND YOUR SUPERVISOR OF ELECTION

To get more information about Elections in your County, visit your county's Supervisor of Elections. There you can register for a vote-by-mail (VBM) ballot, check your VBM status, find early voting sites and hours of operations, as well as finding your precinct.

Alachua, VoteAlachua.gov
Baker, BakerElections.com
Bay, BayVotes.org
Bradford, VoteBradfordFL.gov
Brevard, VoteBrevard.gov
Broward, BrowardVotes.gov
Calhoun, VoteCalhounFL.gov
Charlotte, SOECharlotteCountyFL.gov
Citrus, VoteCitrus.gov
Clay, ClayElections.gov
Collier, CollierVotes.gov
Columbia, VoteColumbiaFL.gov
DeSoto, VoteDeSoto.com
Dixie, DixieVotes.com
Duval, DuvalElections.com
Escambia, EscambiaVotes.gov
Flagler, FlaglerElections.com
Franklin, VoteFranklinFL.gov
Gadsden, GadsdenSOEFL.gov
Gilchrist, VoteGilchrist.com
Glades, VoteGlades.com
Gulf, VoteGulf.gov
Hamilton, HamiltonVotesFL.gov
Hardee, HardeeCountyElections.com
Hendry, HendryElections.gov
Hernando, HernandoVotes.gov
Highlands, VoteHighlands.com
Hillsborough, VoteHillsborough.gov
Holmes, HolmesElectionsFL.gov
Indian River, VoteIndianRiver.gov
Jackson, VoteJacksonFL.gov
Jefferson, JeffersonVotes.com
Lafayette, LafayetteVotes.net
Lake, LakeVotes.gov

Lee, Lee.Vote
Leon, LeonVotes.gov
Levy, VoteLevy.com
Liberty, LibertyElections.com
Madison, VoteMadison.com
Manatee, VoteManatee.gov
Marion, VoteMarion.gov
Martin, MartinVotes.gov
Miami-Dade, MiamiDade.gov/elections
Monroe, KeysElections.org
Nassau, VoteNassauFL.gov
Okaloosa, VoteOkaloosa.gov
Okeechobee, VoteOkeechobee.gov
Orange, OFCElections.gov
Osceola, VoteOsceola.gov
Palm Beach, VotePalmBeach.gov
Pasco, PascoVotes.gov
Pinellas, VotePinellas.gov
Polk, PolkElections.gov
Putnam, SOE.Putnam-FL.gov
Santa Rosa, VoteSantaRosa.gov
Sarasota, SarasotaVotes.gov
Seminole, VoteSeminole.org
St. Johns, VoteSJC.gov
St. Lucie, SLCElections.com
Sumter, Elections.SumterCountyFL.gov
Suwannee, SuwaneeVotes.com
Taylor, TaylorElections.com
Union, UnionFLVotes.com
Volusia, VolusiaElections.gov
Wakulla, WakullaElectionFL.gov
Walton, VoteWalton.gov
Washington, WCSOE.gov

UNITED STATES SENATE

The United States Senate is a legislative chamber in the bicameral (two houses) legislature of the United States, and together with the House of Representatives makes up the United States Congress. Each state, regardless of population, is represented by two senators, who serve staggered six-year terms. A senator must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and a resident of the state he or she represents. The Senate has several “advice and consent powers” not granted to the House, including consenting to treaties as a precondition to ratification; consenting to or confirming appointments of Cabinet secretaries, federal judges, military officers, regulatory officials, ambassadors, and other federal uniformed officers; and conducting trials of federal officials impeached by the House.



Marco Rubio (R)

Incumbent

MarcoRubio.com

Facebook:
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TeamMarco



Val Demings (D)

Con. Dist 10

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ValDemings.com

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**Dennis Misigoy
(LPF)**

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**Stephen B Grant
(NPA)**

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**Tuan Tq Nguyen
(NPA)**

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TQLetsBeAmerican
Instagram:
LetsBeAmerican/

GOVERNOR

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



Ron DeSantis (R)

Incumbent

RonDeSantis.com

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Charlie Crist (D)

Former

Congressman

FEA Endorsed

CharlieCrist.com

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Hector Roos (LPF)

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**Carmen Jackie
Gimenez (NPA)**

[CarmenJackieFor
Florida.com](http://CarmenJackieForFlorida.com)

Facebook:

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Official

Twitter:

[CarmenJackieFL](https://twitter.com/CarmenJackieFL)

Instagram:

[CarmenJackieFL](https://www.instagram.com/CarmenJackieFL)

ATTORNEY GENERAL

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



Ashley Moody (R)

Incumbent

AshleyMoody.com

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Aramis Ayala (D)

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CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

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



**Jimmy Patronis
(R)**

Incumbent

JoinJimmy.com

Facebook:
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[JimmyPatronis](#)



Adam Hattersly (D)

AdamForFlorida.com

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COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES

The Commissioner is a constitutional officer and one of three elected members of the Florida Cabinet. The Commissioner safeguards the public through testing and inspection of food products, regulating deceptive and unfair business practices, reducing wildfires, promoting environmentally safe agricultural practices, and managing public lands. The Commissioner also supervises the issuance of various state vocational licenses and firearms permits. The Commissioner is fourth in the line of succession, after the Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, and CFO, to the office of the Governor. The Commissioner is limited to two consecutive four-year terms but is eligible to run again after one election cycle out of office.



**Naomi Esther
Blemur (D)**

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[NaomiForFL](#)
Instagram:
[NaomiForFL](#)



Wilton Simpson (R)

WiltonSimpson.com

Twitter:
[WiltonSimpson](#)

FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court of Florida is the highest court in the state. It consists of seven members — the Chief Justice and six justices. Five members are chosen from five districts around the state to foster geographic diversity, and two are elected at large.

The justices are appointed by the governor to terms that do not exceed six years. Immediately after appointment, the initial term is three years or fewer because the justices must appear on the ballot in the next General Election that occurs more than one year after their appointment. Afterward, they serve six-year terms and remain in office if retained in the General Election near the end of each term. Citizens throughout the state vote to retain or not retain each justice in office. The governor appoints a replacement through the Judicial Nominating Commission if justice is not retained. Judges must retire at age 75.



JUSTICE CHARLES T. CANADY was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in 2008 by Gov. Charlie Crist. He served as Chief Justice from 2010 to 2012 and again from 2018 to the present. In 2002, Gov. Jeb Bush appointed him to the Second District Court of Appeal. Previously, he practiced law and served in the state and U.S. House of Representatives. Canady, born in Lakeland, earned his law degree at Yale University and his bachelor's degree at Haverford College.



JUSTICE JOHN D. COURIEL was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court by Gov. Ron DeSantis in 2020. He practiced law and was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Florida. He earned his bachelor's degree and a law degree at Harvard University. Curiel, a native Spanish speaker, was born in Miami. His parents emigrated from Cuba in the 1960s. His father was part of Operation Pedro Pan.



JUSTICE JAMIE R. GROSSHANS was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in 2020 by Gov. Ron DeSantis. Previously, as an Orange County Court judge, she was appointed to the Fifth District Court of Appeal in 2018 by Gov. Rick Scott. Before that, she was an assistant state attorney for the Ninth Circuit of Florida. She founded a law firm and served as an adjunct professor at Valencia College. Raised in Brookhaven, Miss., she earned her law degree at University of Mississippi School of Law.



JUSTICE JORGE LABARGA joined the Florida Supreme Court, appointed by Gov. Charlie Crist in 2009 almost immediately after he joined the 4th District Court of Appeal. He served as chief justice from 2014 to 2018. Appointed to the 15th Judicial Circuit in 1996 by Gov. Lawton Chiles, he served as a judge in the family, civil and criminal divisions. From 1987 until he became a judge, he worked in private practice, specializing in personal injury and criminal defense. Prior to that, he served as an assistant state attorney and assistant public defender. Born in Cuba, he earned his law degree and bachelor's degree at the University of Florida.



JUSTICE RICKY POLSTON was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in 2008 by Gov. Charlie Crist, and served as chief justice from 2012 to 2014. He had worked in private practice in Tallahassee for 14 years, specializing in commercial litigation and as a certified mediator, before he was appointed to the First District Court of Appeal by Gov. Jeb Bush in 2001. He had been a CPA for seven years before returning to Florida State University and earning his law degree. He also has been an adjunct professor at the FSU school of law since 2003.



FEA RECOMMENDS only retaining Justice LaBarga.



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION

Amendment 1

Limits on increased property assessment for flood improvements

Amendment Summary

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

A YES vote would...

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

A NO vote would...

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

Amendment Summary

There are several ways to revise the Florida Constitution. Ways to get on the ballot include through a vote by the state Legislature, through a citizen-led petition drive, or through the Florida Constitution Revision Commission, which convenes every 20 years and whose 37 members are appointed by the governor, legislative leaders, and the chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court. This amendment would abolish the Constitution Revision Commission, which last met in 2018 and placed eight amendments on the 2018 ballot. Several of the amendments bundled different proposals into one ballot question.

A YES vote would...

- Eliminate the Constitution Revision Commission, which was created in 1968 and meets every 20 years to consider changes to the state Constitution.
- Leave just two ways for a constitutional amendment to get on the ballot: through the Legislature or a citizen-led initiative, a process that has been restricted.

A NO vote would...

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

FEA RECOMMENDS voting YES on Amendment 2.

Amendment 2

Abolish the state Constitution Revision Commission (CRC)



PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO FLORIDA'S CONSTITUTION CONT.

Amendment 3

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

Amendment Summary

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

A YES vote would...

- Allow the Legislature to create a new \$50,000 homestead exemption for people in certain public service professions.
- Exclude the exemption from assessments for school property taxes.
- Cost local governments \$85.9 million in lost revenue for the fiscal year 2023-24, growing to \$96 million in the fiscal year 2026-27. The state would make up for the losses in Florida's 29 "fiscally constrained" counties, primarily rural counties in the Panhandle and South Florida's interior.
- Trigger a companion bill that puts the new exemption into effect as of Jan. 1, 2023.
 - Please note this bill companion bill would define "classroom teacher," so this may not include ESPs, Collegiate Professors, and other education professionals.

A NO vote would...

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

