



# VOTE NOVEMBER 7

Information on all statewide candidates inside



## 6 constitutional amendments to be decided Nov. 7

Here is some information to help you make your decisions

### 1 Budget and Planning Process

**Reference:** Article III, Section 19

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Summary:** Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to limit the amount of nonrecurring general revenue which may be appropriated for recurring purposes in any fiscal year to 3 percent of the total general revenue funds estimated to be available, unless otherwise approved by a three-fifths vote of the Legislature; to establish a Joint Legislative Budget Commission, which shall issue long-range financial outlooks; to provide for limited adjustments in the state budget without the concurrence of the full Legislature, as provided by general law; to reduce the number of times trust funds are automatically terminated; to require the preparation and biennial revision of a long-range state planning document; and to establish a Government Efficiency Task Force and specify its duties.

**Background:** This amendment was placed on the ballot by the Florida Legislature during the 2005 legislative session by a 60 percent vote of both the Senate and the House. This Joint Resolution proposes changes to Section 19 (State Budgeting, Planning and Appropriations Processes) of Article III (Legislature) of the State Constitution that was originally proposed in 1992 by the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. The Taxation and Budget Reform Commission is a constitutional revision body, established by Section 6 of Article XI of the Florida Constitution in 1988. Section 19 of Article III was approved by the voters on November 4, 1992. Also, this amendment creates a government efficiency task force no later than January 2007 and every four years thereafter. The task force is composed of appointees from the Legislature and the public and private sectors. These appointees make recommendations to improve government and reduce costs.

**PRO:**

- Requires joint legislative budget commission to issue long-range finan-

cial outlook annually.

- The government efficiency task force could help formalize a process of looking for ways to save money without reducing necessary services.

- The joint legislative budget commission provides for public input.

**CON:**

- The limited amount of non-recurring general revenue of 3 percent of total general revenue is too high (approximately \$800-million).

- Budget adjustments may be approved without the concurrence of the full Legislature.

- This issue should be addressed by statute. It is not appropriate for inclusion in the State Constitution.

### 3 Broader Public Support for Constitutional Amendments and Petitions

**Reference:** Article XI, Section 5(e)

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Summary:** Proposes an amendment to Section 5 of Article XI of the State Constitution to require that any proposed amendment to or revision of the State Constitution, whether proposed by the Legislature, by initiative, or by any other method, must be approved by at least 60 percent of the voters of the state voting on the measure, rather than a simple majority. This proposed amendment would not change the current requirement that a proposed constitutional amendment imposing a new state tax or fee be approved by at least two-thirds of the voters of the state voting in the election in which such an amendment is considered.

**Background:** The five methods by which proposed constitutional amendments may be presented to the voters for approval are through proposal by the Legislature, Constitutional Revision Commission, citizens' petition initiative, Constitutional Convention, and Taxation and Budget Reform Commission (the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission is a constitutional revision body, established by Section 6 of Article XI of the

Florida Constitution in 1988). Currently a proposed amendment or revision must pass by a simple majority (50 percent plus 1) of electors voting on the measure. However, an amendment that proposes a new tax or fee must be approved by no less than two-thirds of electors on the measure. The 2005 Legislature passed joint resolution CS/SJR 6, a proposed constitutional amendment, to be placed on the November 2006 ballot requiring passage by 60 percent electors voting on the measure. According to the Department of State election statistics, the following constitutional amendments adopted during the last two general elections would have failed if a 60 percent vote were required: voluntary universal pre-kindergarten education, reduction in class size, pregnant pigs, slot machines and amendments to Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter. If passed, this amendment will take effect on January 2, 2007.

**PRO:**

- Florida's Constitution is one of the easiest to amend.

- The Florida Constitution is cluttered with unnecessary amendments.

- A 60 percent vote broadens consensus and includes more citizens in the process.

- This will make it harder for "special interest groups" to get their issues through the legislature.

**CON:**

- In 2006, the citizen petition process required 611,000 verified signatures in 15 of the 25 Congressional Districts plus a review by the Florida Supreme Court.

- Since Florida does not have a statu-

tory initiative process, this amendment would make it harder for Floridians' voices to be heard.

- Since 1976, 53 legislature-sponsored amendments have been on the ballot, as opposed to 27 citizen petition initiatives.

- Less than 50 percent of voters could determine what does not go into the Constitution.

- It is an affront to the citizen's basic right to petition their government.

### 4 Protect People, Especially Youth, from Addiction, Disease and Other Health Hazards of Using Tobacco

**Reference:** Article X, Section 27

**Sponsor:** Floridians for Youth Tobacco Education, Inc.

**Summary:** To protect people, especially youth, from addiction, disease, and other health hazards of using tobacco, the Legislature shall use some Tobacco Settlement money annually for a comprehensive statewide tobacco education and prevention program using Centers for Disease Control best practices. Specifies some program components, emphasizing youth, requiring one-third of total annual funding for advertising. Annual funding is 15 percent of 2005 Tobacco Settlement payments to Florida, adjusted annually for inflation. Provides definitions. Effective immediately.

**Background:** Tobacco use is the single most preventable cause of death

See AMENDMENTS, page 2

FLORIDA VOTER  
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Non-profit orgn  
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**League's Purpose:** The League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund, a non-partisan organization providing election information through its voters service program, presents this guide to candidates and ballot issues to be voted upon at the November 7, 2006, general elections. The League believes the strength of the American system of government lies in the ability of the people to grasp the issues in an election and to judge fairly the records and qualifications of candidates.

#### Non-Partisanship

**Statement:** The League of Women Voters does not support or oppose individual candidates for political office, nor does the League of Women Voters favor, endorse or support any political party.

**Additional copies:** A limited number of additional copies of this Special Election supplement are available from a local League in your area or from League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund, 540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301-2506; (850) 224-2545, lwvfl@comcast.net

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#### Underwriting:

This Special Election Edition was published through contributions from FLAME — Florida Lawyers Association for the Maintenance of Excellence — and the LWV Education Fund.

### Florida Voter Assistance Hotline

Toll Free 1-866-308-6739

The toll free Voter Hotline number for people using TTY is 1-800-955-8771.

### Florida Voter Fraud Hotline

Toll Free 1-877-868-3737

## Amendments,

from page 1

and disease, causing approximately 440,000 deaths annually in the United States. Every day an estimated 4,400 young people try cigarettes for the first time. However, since 1997 there has been a reverse to the rapid rise in smoking among youth. Health disparities exist within specific segments of the population and may be associated with gender, race or ethnicity, education or income, age, geographic location or sexual orientation. Steps are being developed to identify which groups are experiencing a higher burden of disease, an increase in tobacco use or difficulty in accessing tobacco control programs. Direct medical expenditures attributed to smoking have risen since the early 1990s and now total more than \$75-billion per year. Medicaid costs have risen substantially over the last few years and about 14 percent of these expenditures are related to smoking. Florida receives more than \$360-million annually from the settlement and only 1 percent (\$1-Million) is used for education. This legislation would increase the amount to 15 percent (\$54-million) of the tobacco settlement payments to Florida to fund statewide tobacco education and prevention programs. Organizations backing this amendment are: American Cancer Society, Florida Division; American Heart Association, Florida/Puerto Rico Affiliate; American Lung Association of Florida; Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids.

### PRO:

- More money would be allocated and used to educate youth about the dangers of tobacco use.
- Lives could be saved by encouraging youth and others to avoid using tobacco.
- Secondhand smoke is not a mere annoyance, but a serious health hazard.
- Health costs should go down as more people refrain from smoking and there are fewer tobacco use related illnesses.

### CON:

- This issue should be addressed by statute. It is not appropriate for inclusion in the Florida Constitution.
- Millions will be coming out of our state's general revenue budget.
- There would be less money for schools and roads.
- Regulates individual behavior.

## 6 Increased Homestead Exemption

**Reference:** Article VII, Section 6; Article XII, Section 26

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Summary:** Proposing amendment of the State Constitution to increase the maximum additional homestead exemption for low-income seniors from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and to schedule the amendment to take effect January 1, 2007, if adopted.

**Background:** The legislature may, by general law, allow counties or municipalities, for the purpose of their respective tax levies and subject to the provisions of general law, to grant an additional homestead tax exemption not exceeding fifty-thousand dollars to any person who has the legal or equitable title to real estate and maintains thereon the permanent residence of the owner and who has attained age sixty-five and whose household income, as defined by general law, does not exceed twenty-thousand dollars. The general law must allow counties and municipalities to grant this additional exemption, within the limits prescribed in this subsection, by ordinance adopted in the manner prescribed by general law, and must provide for the periodic adjustment of the income limitation prescribed in this subsection for changes in the cost of living. Ad valorem taxes continue to be a major source of revenue for local governments in Florida; in 2002-2003, property taxes constituted 31 percent of county governmental revenue and 17 percent of municipal governmental revenue. School districts also rely upon property taxes for revenue. It is also the only taxing authority not preempted by the Florida Constitution to the state; however, it is not an unlimited source of revenue since the Constitution caps the millage rates used to assess property value.

### PRO:

- Increases the maximum discretionary homestead exemption for senior citizens from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- Gives tax relief to those senior citizens whose income does not exceed \$20,000.
- Can be implemented county by county.

### CON:

- If adopted by a county, there would be a negative impact upon local revenues.
- Further discriminates against renters and younger homeowners.

## 7 Permanently Disabled Veterans' Discount on Homestead Ad Valorem Tax

**Reference:** Article VII, Section 6

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to provide a discount from the amount of ad valorem tax on the homestead of a partially or totally permanently disabled veteran who is age 65 or older who was a Florida resident at the time of entering military service, whose disability was combat-related, and who was honorably discharged, to specify the percentage of the discount as equal to the percentage of the veteran's permanent service-connected disability; to specify qualification requirements for the discount, to authorize the Legislature to waive the annual application requirement in subsequent years by general law, and to specify that the provision takes effect December 7, 2006, is self-executing, and does not require implementing legislation.

**Background:** This joint resolution would allow certain partially or totally disabled veterans to receive a discount from the amount of the ad valorem tax otherwise owed on homestead property. In order to qualify for this discount, the veteran must demonstrate: He or she was a Florida resident at the time of entering the military service; the disability was combat-related; and the veteran was honorably discharged upon separation from military service.

### PRO:

- This joint resolution recognizes the contribution these veterans made to the country.

### CON:

- Some local governments may lose some income from the lowering of property tax.
- Places a higher tax burden on non-veterans.
- This should be a statute and not a constitutional amendment.

## 8 Eminent Domain

**Reference:** Article X, Section 6

**Sponsor:** The Florida Legislature

**Summary:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to prohibit the transfer of private property taken by eminent domain to a natural person or private entity; providing that the Legislature may by general law passed by a three-fifths vote of the membership of each house of the Legislature permit exceptions allowing the transfer of such private property; and providing that this prohibition on the transfer of private property taken by eminent domain is appli-

cable if the petition of taking, that initiated the condemnation proceeding, was filed on or after January 2, 2007.

**Background:** On June 23, 2005, the United States Supreme Court issued its decision on the case of *Kelo vs. City of New London*, concluding that the U.S. Constitution does not prohibit the city of New London from taking private property by eminent domain for the public purpose of economic development. On June 24, 2005, Florida House Speaker Allen Bense announced the creation of the Select Committee to Protect Private Property Rights chaired by Representative Marco Rubio. The committee was charged with the task of reviewing Florida law in an effort to identify areas of ambiguity, and recommend changes to ensure appropriate protections of property rights. The issue – Under Florida law, is economic development a valid public purpose for which private property may be taken and transferred to another private entity? Concerns of public rights advocates center around the application of the statutory definition of “blighted area” and what many perceive as vague and inappropriate criteria in the definition. On the other hand, representatives of local government assert that the statutory criteria for slum and blight are sufficiently narrow and that the power of eminent domain is rarely exercised in the community redevelopment context.

### PRO:

- Defines the circumstances under which a condemning authority may transfer taken private property to another private entity.
- Limits the circumstances under which government may exercise the power of eminent domain.
- Imposes “public use” requirements that are stricter than the federal baseline.
- A private property owner could prevent development that is in the public interest.
- Applies a vague definition of “blighted areas.”
- Reduces ability of the local government to increase its tax base.

**NOTE:** There are only six ballot questions for the November 7, 2006 election. There is no #2 nor #5 ballot question.

For complete texts, go to [http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/pdf/2006\\_prop\\_consti\\_amend.pdf](http://election.dos.state.fl.us/initiatives/pdf/2006_prop_consti_amend.pdf)

## The Voter's Bill of Rights

- Every voter has the right to a simple and straightforward system of voter registration and elections that accommodates citizens' needs rather than bureaucratic convenience.
- Every voter has the right to political campaigns that are vigorously contested but fairly conducted, free of character assassination, innuendo and half truths.
- Every voter has the right to know political candidates' views, opinions and records on substantive issues.
- Every voter has the right to hear candidates debate the important issues in open forums, free from campaign manipulation and partisan control.
- Every voter has the right to elections conducted under a system of campaign financing that enables challengers to compete effectively with incumbents and reduces the undue influence that special interest group money can exert on those elected.
- Every voter has the right to know that his or her vote has the same weight as every other person's vote and is not diluted by the partisan gerrymandering of election district boundaries.
- Every voter has the right to know that the principles of democratic government enumerated in the Voter's Bill of Rights will be upheld by every individual elected to serve in that government.

## THE FLORIDA VOTER

FALL (October) 2006  
Volume 55 Number 1

The League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund Inc. is a non-profit public foundation dedicated to strengthening knowledge of and involvement in representative government. It is organized as described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Established in 1939, the League of Women Voters of Florida is a non-partisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member. All members receive the *National Voter*, the *Florida Voter* and the *Voter* of their local League.

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Published quarterly by:

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# Supreme Court Justices

## Justice Fred R. Lewis

• <http://floridasupremecourt.org/>



Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis was appointed to the Supreme Court of Florida in December 1998 by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles. He began his term as chief justice on June 30, 2006.

Chief Justice Lewis was born and raised in West Virginia, where he won recognition for achievement in both academics and athletics. He earned his bachelor's degree from Florida Southern College in Lakeland in 1969 and his law degree from the University of Miami School of Law in 1972.

After law school, Chief Justice Lewis attended and graduated from the United States Army A.G. School. Upon discharge from the military, Lewis entered private practice in Miami, specializing in civil trial and appellate litigation.

While in private practice, he was heavily involved in providing counseling to families with children having impairments and provided pro bono legal services and counseling for cancer patients seeking proper treatment for multiple conditions.

Known as the "education justice," Chief Justice Lewis volunteers in the Florida Law Related Education program and visits classrooms every month to promote understanding of government institutions and providing open access to judicial officers.

Chief Justice Lewis and his wife, Judith, married in 1969 and have two children, Elle and Lindsay.

**Q. Describe what you believe to be the most challenging or demanding functions of a justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Are there functions you would like to see added or removed?**

No response received.

## Justice Barbara Joan Pariente

• <http://floridasupremecourt.org/>



Justice Barbara J. Pariente was appointed to the Supreme Court in December 1997 by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles. She served as chief justice from July 2004 through June 2006.

Justice Pariente was born in New York City and attended public schools in New York and New Jersey. She earned her bachelor's degree from Boston University and her law degree from George Washington University Law School in 1973.

After law school, Justice Pariente moved to Fort Lauderdale, where she clerked for a federal judge for two years before entering private practice in West Palm Beach.

She specialized in civil trial litigation and was active in community and legal programs, such as legal aid and student monitoring. She was appointed to the Fourth District Court of Appeal in September 1993.

On the Supreme Court, Justice Pariente has worked to improve methods for handling cases involving families and children. In 2003 she shared with the public her successful treatment for breast cancer, promoting greater awareness of a disease that strikes one in eight American women.

Justice Pariente is married to Judge Frederick A. Hazouri of the Fourth District Court of Appeal. Together, they have three grown children and seven grandchildren.

**Q. Describe what you believe to be the most challenging or demanding functions of a justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Are there functions you would like to see added or removed?**

No response received.

## Justice Peggy A. Quince

• <http://floridasupremecourt.org/>



Justice Peggy A. Quince was appointed to the Florida Supreme Court in December 1998 by the late Gov. Lawton Chiles and Gov.-elect Jeb Bush.

Justice Quince was born in Norfolk, Virginia. She earned her bachelor's degree from Howard University in 1970 and her law degree from the Catholic University of America in 1975.

Justice Quince began her legal career as a hearing officer in Washington, D.C. She was in private practice from 1977 until early 1980, when she became an assistant attorney general in Florida. In that position, Justice Quince handled numerous criminal appeals, including death penalty cases.

In January 1994, Justice Quince joined the Second District Court of Appeal, becoming the first African-American woman to be appointed to one of Florida's district courts of appeal. She is also the first African-American woman to serve on the Florida Supreme Court.

Justice Quince is active in several legal organizations, such as the Government Lawyers Section, the Criminal Law Section and the Equal Opportunity Section of The Florida Bar. She also belongs to civic groups and is a member of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church.

Justice Quince is married to Fred L. Buckine. They have two daughters, Peggy LaVerne and Laura LaVerne.

**Q. Describe what you believe to be the most challenging or demanding functions of a justice of the Florida Supreme Court. Are there functions you would like to see added or removed?**

No response received.

## Merit retention of judges: An explanation

**M**erit retention is a unique voting process that offers regular citizen review of Florida's higher level judges, intended to ensure having quality individuals on Florida's Supreme Court and five district Courts of Appeal. Since 1976 our state Constitution has required that these appellate court judges appear on the non-partisan portion of the general election ballot for periodic voter approval of their continuation in office.

As part of that process, the November 7 elections will include — for consideration by every voter regardless of political party affiliation — the name of three justices of the Florida Supreme Court.

These appellate-level judges attain their offices through a merit selection system: a thorough public examination of their qualifications by a distinguished citizen commission that recommends them and other nominees for gubernatorial appointment. Merit retention complements that process, allowing voters a subsequent qualitative review of judicial performance — and the reconfirmation of each individual deemed worthy for further service on the bench.

In a merit retention campaign, appellate judges face no opposing candidates; individual judges from the same court are not running against one another. Ballot language merely asks citizens to vote yes or no on the question of whether each incumbent should be retained on a particular multimember appellate court. Judges receiving a majority of yes votes may continue in office for another six-year term. If the no votes prevail for any individual, the position is declared vacant and is again filled through the merit selection process.

The appearance of these judges' names on the ballot implies nothing negative in their record — it is significant only because of Florida's special constitutional assurance of regular citizen approval of their continued judicial service. In fact, without some formalized opposition to their retention, appellate judges are forbidden by ethical rules to conduct any traditional campaign activity (unlike trial-level judges who may face opposition yet still run as non-partisan candidates).

A truly responsible merit retention vote includes consideration of an appellate judge's legal ability, his or her knowledge of the law, integrity, temperament, reputation within the legal community, impartiality, freedom from bias or prejudice, demeanor and courtesy. Ideally, citizens need only verify that a judge is soundly interpreting the law, that he or she is of high character, and that his or her dispensation of justice is fair. Bar association polls, media endorsements and the recommendations of respected opinion leaders are additional indicators of a judge's true merit for retention in office.

Our courts consider a broad range of issues, and are obligated to decide matters as presented to them. Every judge has an ethical responsibility to base decisions on the law and the facts of each particular case, without consideration of political or other consequences. Citizens should remember that an independent, impartial and courageous judiciary is fundamental to our American form of government. It is up to each voter to cast his or her ballot responsibly and consistent with that tradition.

— From information provided by The Florida Bar.

## LWVF Education Fund needs your help

Established in 1972 by the League of Women Voters of Florida, the LWVF Education Fund is operated solely for educational purposes, particularly to help people understand and participate in their government.

The Education Fund is supported by those who believe in its non-partisan voters service and citizen education activities. The Education Fund, a 501 (c) (3) organization, is a non-profit, incorporated, public foundation. Its officers and directors are identical with those of the League of Women Voters of Florida.

The Education Fund can accept gifts, grants, bequests, and other contributions, which are deductible by the donor for income and estate tax purposes.

Your contribution to the LWVF Education Fund will be greatly appreciated and will help make democracy work.

**Please send your most generous possible check to:**

**LWVF Education Fund  
540 Beverly Court, Tallahassee, FL 32301**

## Supreme Court Justice: About the Office

The highest court in the state, the Supreme Court is composed of seven justices who choose their own chief justice. Justices do not compete in elections, instead the question on the ballot is "Shall Justice \_\_\_ be retained in office? If a majority of votes are not cast in favor of retaining the incumbent, the governor appoints another person to fill the vacancy. This person is chosen from a list of individuals whose applications have been reviewed and who have been found qualified by

the Judicial Nominating Commission. This is called merit retention.

At least five Justices must participate in every case and at least four must agree for a decision to be reached.

The Supreme Court decides the most important legal issues in the state but has constitutionally limited jurisdiction. The Florida Constitution, Art. V, Sec. 3(b), distinguishes between the high court's mandatory and discretionary jurisdiction.

The issues that form the court's mandatory jurisdiction are:

1. Judgments of the circuit court imposing the death penalty.
  2. Decisions of the district courts of appeal declaring invalid a provision of the state Constitution or a statute.
  3. Final judgments on bond validation or certificates of indebtedness.
  4. State agency actions relative to utility rates for electricity, gas or telephone service.
- Salary: \$150,000.**

# Florida Governor

## Karl C.C. Behm

- No party affiliation
- Occupation: Self-employed tree surgeon
- Education & Experience: High School Diploma. I was raised on a farm, receiving an educational background in farming. This includes knowledge of farm animals, equipment and crops. Also construction of buildings.
- No Web site listed.

**1. Growth management, homeowners insurance, and affordable housing are important issues in the state. If you had to concentrate on only one as governor, which would you choose and how would you address that issue?**

No photo available

The homeowners insurance is out of control, placing the risk on the homeowners. These companies knew all the risk they would be faced with upon establishing a business in Florida and it is not the responsibility of the homeowner to pay for their risk. We must start our own co-ops of people ownership. We have a number of communities in Florida where the people own their electric and water. We must return to people owning their water, electric and insurance.

**2. What is your position on a moratorium for the death penalty in the state of Florida?**

When a person is given a fair and just trial and found guilty, we must follow the law of our state's Constitution, which supports the death penalty. When people act in a criminal way there will be a price to pay.

**3. Do you favor a regular review of sales tax exemptions. Please explain your position.**

Yes. Taxes are imposed upon people for various causes but once the taxes satisfy the cause the tax must be removed. Example to build a 4-lane highway. The review will allow the opportunity to remove the tax or how much longer it is needed to complete the project.

## About the questions

Each statewide candidate for office whose name will appear on the Nov. 7, 2006, ballot received a questionnaire from the League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund asking the questions printed in this guide. When the reply exceeded the designated number of words, the reply was edited for length. Otherwise, replies from candidates were not edited. The League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund is not responsible for the candidates' answers.

## Charlie Crist

- Republican Party
- Occupation: Florida Attorney General
- Education & Experience: 1978, Florida State University, Bachelor of Arts in Government; 1981, Cumberland School of Law, Juris Doctor. 1992-1998, Florida State Senator 2000-2002, Commissioner of Education 2002-Present, Florida Attorney General
- <http://www.charliecrist.com/>

**1. Growth management, homeowners insurance, and affordable housing are important issues in the state. If you had to concentrate on only one as governor, which would you choose and how would you address that issue?**



These issues are inextricably linked, and I will ensure that Florida's quality of life is second to none. I will work to ensure that roads, schools and water are available to sustain Florida's growth. I will support affordable housing programs so that seniors, teachers, nurses, and law enforcement can afford to own a home. Finally, I will address the insurance crisis by controlling costs through a Florida and a national catastrophic fund; requiring insurance companies to provide discounts for homes that are adequately prepared for storms; demanding transparency and accountability for insurance companies; and bringing more competing insurers to Florida.

**2. What is your position on a moratorium for the death penalty in the state of Florida?**

I believe that the death penalty is an appropriate form of punishment. As Attorney General, I defended Florida's death penalty, and as Governor, I will oppose any measure that allows murderers to avoid Death Row. I will faithfully execute my responsibility to sign death warrants and impose justice.

**3. Do you favor a regular review of sales tax exemptions. Please explain your position.**

Florida's economy is among the best in the nation due largely to the fact that Gov. Bush and the Legislature have returned \$19-billion to hard-working Floridians over the last eight years. I support tax reform, but not by increasing taxes. I believe that public servants should limit the size of government and return tax dollars to the people who earned it. Therefore, the Crist Administration

- Will return as much money as possible to the Floridians who earned it;
- Will not support any new taxes or tax increases; and
- Will live within its means.

## Jim Davis

- Democratic Party
- Occupation: United States Congressman
- Education & Experience: 1997 – present: United States Congressman from Tampa. 1989 – 1997: Florida State Representative from Tampa
- <http://www.jimdavis2006.com/>

**1. Growth management, homeowners insurance, and affordable housing are important issues in the state. If you had to concentrate on only one as governor, which would you choose and how would you address that issue?**



The politicians in Tallahassee have taken our state in the wrong direction, and our families should not have to sacrifice any of these priorities. We need a new governor who will make some changes to: manage our growth to protect our quality of life; stand up to the insurance industry to protect the interests of Florida's homeowners and business owners; and use all of the available funds in the affordable housing trust fund to help families find a home. As governor, I will bring the kind of new leadership our families need to build a stronger Florida.

**2. What is your position on a moratorium for the death penalty in the state of Florida?**

Administering the death penalty is one of the governor's most solemn and difficult responsibilities, and I support the death penalty for those crimes for which it is clearly justified. However, I believe the governor is responsible for ensuring fair and equitable administration of the death penalty. That's why I believe we need to aggressively use DNA testing and provide proper funding for public defenders and capital collateral representatives to ensure fairness and justice in the system. As governor, I'll look for opportunities to change our process for carrying out the death penalty to ensure it's just and error-free.

**3. Do you favor a regular review of sales tax exemptions. Please explain your position.**

The politicians in Tallahassee have given away too many special interest tax breaks in recent years. As governor, I'll change the business-as-usual culture in Tallahassee, thoroughly review each and every tax break and end the ones that don't benefit Florida's working families. We can't rely on tax breaks alone to stimulate our economy. We need to invest in education so Florida has a workforce that's prepared to compete and win in the 21st century economy.

## Governor: About the Office

Term: Four years  
Salary: \$120,171\*

The governor may approve or veto acts passed by the Legislature and may veto specific items in the appropriations act; prepares the budget for submission to the Legislature; informs the Legislature on the condition of the state; recommends measures in the public interest; calls the Legislature into special session for a specific purpose; operates the executive office supervising 13 departments and appoints the heads of these agencies, which collectively have become known as the Little Cabinet. The governor and the Cabinet act as trustees for state lands, sit as the Florida State Board of Education and jointly supervise five departments. They sit together on several boards and commissions.

The governor may appoint replacements to fill vacancies in many state and county offices and appoints members to a vast number of state boards and commissions; can initiate judicial proceedings against any state, county or local executive or administrative officer and can suspend state and county officers not subject to impeachment.

\*Information from Florida Department of Financial Services 09/06

## 5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ON ELECTION DAY

### 1. GO TO THE RIGHT PLACE.

Poll locations can change. Be sure to locate your polling place before you go to vote. Check [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) or contact the supervisor of elections office.

**2. BRING ID.** You may need to show I.D. at the polling place. To be safe, bring your driver's license or another photo I.D. In some places, a current utility bill, paycheck or other document that includes your name and street address may also work.

**3. GET A BALLOT.** Don't panic if you registered to vote but your name is not on the list. Get help from a poll worker to make sure your vote is counted. You should be given a provisional ballot or given directions to another polling place.

**4. GET HELP.** Poll workers are there to help you. They'll show you how to use the voting machine or give you a provisional ballot if you need one. Ask, or read the signs at your polling place, which have instructions, list your voting rights and say how to file a complaint.

**5. STAY AND VOTE.** You probably won't have to wait too long. But even if the line is long, don't leave without voting. The outcome of this election will be important!

## Richard Paul Dembinski

- No party affiliation
- Occupation: Civil engineer
- Education & Experience: See onballot.com
- <http://www.onballot.com/>

**1. Growth management, homeowners insurance, and affordable housing are important issues in the state. If you had to concentrate on only one as governor, which would you choose and how would you address that issue?**



Insurance and highway safety. Please see onballot.com for complete answer.

**2. What is your position on a moratorium for the death penalty in the state of Florida?**

Support criminal justice system. Upgrade to make death penalty effectual.

**3. Do you favor a regular review of sales tax exemptions. Please explain your position.**

Yes, need a complete review of accounting of same.

## Max Linn

- Reform Party
- Occupation: Retired financial planner and CFP
- Education & Experience: CFP, College of Financial Planning, 1987. BS, Louisiana Technical Institute, 1983. Owner, Financial Management and Planning firm, 1983-2003; President of Florida Citizens for Term Limits; Founder of the Military Families Foundation, 2004; Director of Planned Giving, Florida Holocaust Museum, 1990's; Director of Operations, Ukrainian Christian Ministry, 2005
- <http://www.maxlinn.com/>



**1. Growth management, homeowners insurance, and affordable housing are important issues in the state. If you had to concentrate on only one as governor, which would you choose and how would you address that issue?**

I would choose homeowners' insurance, although they are all important issues. Homeowners' insurance has an impact, not only on homeowners all around the state, but it is crushing all property owners whether for rental property or businesses. It is difficult to create truly affordable housing without getting the insurance situation under control. Currently private insurance companies are allowed to cherry pick the low risk properties, leaving the high risk to Citizens. We must put a cap on insuring expensive, coastal property — \$500,000 not including the value of the land. I favor a three year moratorium on condo development.

**2. What is your position on a moratorium for the death penalty in the state of Florida?**

I am opposed to the death penalty. It is not the government's prerogative to take human lives. However, I also believe in being tougher on criminals. I am proposing a separate prison system for violent offenders. It is important that a life sentence should mean what it says — a life sentence without benefit of parole.

**3. Do you favor a regular review of sales tax exemptions. Please explain your position.**

I do not oppose a regular review of sales tax exemptions in principle, but I strongly object to the idea that all goods and services should be taxed automatically unless the state moves specifically to exempt them. In particular, I believe it would be harmful to Florida's economy if all services were suddenly subject to tax. It runs counter to my goal of promoting healthy economic growth.

## John Wayne Smith

- No party affiliation
- Occupation: CEO, 1000 Planets Inc.
- Education & Experience: I finished high school and served in the U. S. Army from 1965 to 1967 and was honorably discharged.
- <http://www.johnwayneforgovernor.com>

**1. Growth management, homeowners insurance, and affordable housing are important issues in the state. If you had to concentrate on only one as governor, which would you choose and how would you address that issue?**



Insurance: The state of Florida should get out of all insurance business. The only function the state should have in this

matter is to assure that the terms of an issued policy are adhered to. Homeowners, Life and Health and all other insurance should be provided for by mutual associations and not for profit companies.

**2. What is your position on a moratorium for the death penalty in the state of Florida?**

I favor the death penalty and would like to see it exercised more often and in a more timely manor than it is now. There should never be a moratorium.

**3. Do you favor a regular review of sales tax exemptions. Please explain your position.**

There should be no sales tax exemptions except for unprepared foods and medicine. Sales taxes should be even handed and property taxes should be eliminated. This could come about by the using a FairTax approach to all state taxes.

## One vote can make a difference

**W**hy don't more Americans register and vote? The most likely reason is they don't think their one vote will make a difference. We just don't realize that the course of history would have changed if more people thought that way.

### Did you know...?

- California, Idaho, Oregon, Texas and Washington, became states by just ONE vote!

- In 1948, Lyndon B. Johnson, our 36th president, became a U.S. senator by a ONE vote margin!

- In the same year, if Thomas E. Dewey had gotten ONE vote more per precinct in Ohio and California, the presidential election would have been thrown to the U.S. House of Representatives, where Dewey enjoyed more support than his rival, incumbent Harry S. Truman? In fact, Dewey was expected to win the general election by a landslide, so most Republicans stayed home. Only 51.5 percent of the electorate voted in 1948, and Truman defeated Dewey.

- In the 1960 presidential election, ONE additional vote per precinct in Illinois, Missouri, New Jersey and Texas would have denied John F. Kennedy the presidency and put Richard M. Nixon in office eight years earlier.

- In recent years, the outcomes of many state and congressional races have been reversed as recounts have shifted a handful of votes from one candidate to another.

### Are you now convinced that just ONE vote can change the course of history?

For more than 80 years, the League of Women Voters has encouraged the active and informed participation of citizens in government-but there is still much work to be done. Far too many citizens are not exercising their right to vote. Whether this will be your first time voting or you are a long-time voter, please reach out to friends, family members, neighbors and co-workers with the message that voting is important to our families and communities, and it's something that everyone can do.

### Vote in the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.

Source: <http://www.insuredemocracy.com/vote.htm>

### How is the Constitution amended?

There are four ways to amend the Florida Constitution - the two main ways are by the Legislature and by Citizen Petition Initiative.

For proposed amendments from the Legislature, both the Senate and the House must pass the bill by three-fifths, and send it to the secretary of state.

For Citizen Initiatives, people who want to change the Constitution must gather a certain number of signatures — from a formula based on the count from the last general election and with a certain required distribution throughout the state. A lot are needed — more than 611,000 must be verified by the supervisor of elections. The wording must also pass the Supreme Court's review saying that there is only a single issue and the short description meets the requirements.

*Make Democracy Work!*  
\* Be informed! \* Participate! \* VOTE Nov. 7

# United States Senate

## Floyd Ray Frazier

- No party affiliation
- Occupation
- Education & Experience
- <http://www.frazierforussenate06.com/>

**1. Do you support any additional restrictions on lobbyists and other powerful interests paying for travel by Members of Congress? Explain.**

No response received.

**2. What measures would you support, if any, to enfranchise American citizens living in the District of Columbia who currently do not have voting representation in the U.S. Congress?**

No response received.



**3. What would you do to help assure that civil liberties are preserved while giving our government the necessary tools to fight terrorism?**

No response received.

No response received.

### U.S. Senate: About the Office

**Term:** Six years

**Salary:** \$141,300

The U.S. Senate is composed of 100 members, two from each state. Senators make laws, ratify treaties and confirm U.S. Supreme Court nominees, federal judges, ambassadors and Cabinet secretaries.

The daily schedule of a senator can include participation in floor proceedings, answering correspondence, briefing the media, and consulting with fellow senators, administration officials, staff, constituents and other visitors. Generally, the largest share of a senator's time is devoted to committee work where most legislation is shaped.

## Katherine Harris

- Republican Party
- Occupation: Congresswoman, U.S. House of Representatives
- Education & Experience: MPA, Harvard University; BA, Agnes Scott College. Representative, U.S. Congress (2002-present); Florida Secretary of State (1998-2002); Florida State Senator (1994-1998)
- <http://www.electharris.org/>

**1. Do you support any additional restrictions on lobbyists and other powerful interests paying for travel by Members of Congress? Explain.**

I support additional restrictions on lobbyists and special interest groups paying for travel by Members of Congress. In fact, I voted in favor of HR 4975, the Lobbying Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006. This bill



would prohibit Members of Congress from accepting any travel-related gift, such as transportation, lodging or meals, from any non-government source unless the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct first certifies, in writing, that the travel in question fully complies with House rules.

**2. What measures would you support, if any, to enfranchise American citizens living in the District of Columbia who currently do not have voting representation in the U.S. Congress?**

Currently, a number of bills are under consideration at the committee level. I will thoughtfully consider legislation that addresses the issue of voting representation for the District of Columbia in the U.S. Congress when it reaches the floor.

**3. What would you do to help assure that civil liberties are preserved while giving our government the necessary tools to fight terrorism?**

Limited government surveillance of highly suspicious individuals is warranted in some circumstances. At times, the smallest delay in obtaining information could lead to tragic loss of life. There is little doubt that clandestine wiretaps play an important role in disrupting terrorists' plots, and our nation is safer as a result. However, just as the federal government has a duty to protect its citizens, it likewise bears the responsibility to guard our individual liberties. Congressional oversight is crucial to guard against unnecessary infringement on our privacy rights, and congressional intelligence committees should be informed of significant intelligence-gathering programs.

## Brian Moore

- No party affiliation
- Occupation
- Education & Experience: Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Arizona State University. He served in the U.S. Peace Corps for an additional three years in Latin America and speaks Spanish. He obtained a bachelor's degree in philosophy while studying to be a Franciscan priest for five years in the Missions of California. Brian worked 20 years in the HMO/ Managed Care industry as a Marketing and Executive Director, Project Administrator and Consultant.
- <http://www.votebrianmoore.com/>



**1. Do you support any additional restrictions on lobbyists and other powerful interests paying for travel by Members of Congress?**

**Explain.**

Yes, I favor public financing of all elections, and the prohibition of any non-governmental interest in paying for travel for members of congress. Lobbyists should be restricted from any and all social functions with elected officials, other than in staff meetings, conferences or issue presentations in the halls of congress. Prohibit all corporate and Political Action committees, and special interests, from being able to contribute financial contributions to political candidates, for obvious conflict of interest reasons.

**2. What measures would you support, if any, to enfranchise American citizens living in the District of Columbia who currently do not have voting representation in the U.S. Congress?**

I would enable the District of Columbia to become a state, and have members of Congress and two US Senators represent their interests. I would also be open to consider making the District of Columbia as part of the states of either Virginia or Maryland, thereby automatically providing them with congressional representation in both legislative houses.

**3. What would you do to help assure that civil liberties are preserved while giving our government the necessary tools to fight terrorism?**

Repeal the Patriot Act and enforce the FISA laws of the land. Prohibit the President of the United States from circumventing the law and hold him accountable to uphold the laws of the land. Immediately stop NSA and intelligence eavesdropping, without warrants, on each and every American in this country. Impeach the President of the United States for his high crimes and misdemeanors in acting above the laws of the land, the constitution, and the Geneva Convention for prisoners. Withdraw all American military from Iraq immediately since we have become the lightning rod and direct cause for increased violence in Iraq and a serious threat to our security at home.

## Bill Nelson

- Democratic Party
- Occupation: U. S. Senator
- Education & Experience: Yale University, B.A., 1965; University of Virginia Law School, J.D., 1968
- Florida House of Representatives 1972-1978; U.S. House of Representatives 1979-1991; Florida Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner & State Fire Marshal 1995-2001; United States Senator 2001-present
- <http://www.nelsonforsenate.com/>

**1. Do you support any additional restrictions on lobbyists and other powerful interests paying for travel by Members of Congress? Explain.**



I believe that those of us who hold public office have a duty to put people ahead of any lobbyist, special interest, powerful corporation and political party. Our Florida Constitution

says it best: "a public office is a public trust." That's why I always try to avoid conflict of interest situations even when there is the appearance of a conflict. And it's also why I've cosponsored two pieces of legislation to increase public disclosure—Senator McCain's Lobbying Transparency and Accountability Act and Senator Reid's Honest Leadership and Open Government Act. The bills strengthen lobbying reporting requirements, place greater restrictions on travel expenses and gifts from lobbyists, and prohibit members and staff from lobbying their former offices for two years, instead of the current one-year ban.

**2. What measures would you support, if any, to enfranchise American citizens living in the District of Columbia who currently do not have voting representation in the U.S. Congress?**

The Senate has not considered this measure while I have been in the Senate. I look forward to receiving information from the League of Women Voters on the merits of the bill.

**3. What would you do to help assure that civil liberties are preserved while giving our government the necessary tools to fight terrorism?**

I am very concerned about reports of military and other spying on Americans. I support giving law enforcement and the intelligence community the tools they need to thwart terrorist attacks, but I also believe the government must follow the law and the Constitution. I called for a congressional investigation into revelations that the NSA is compiling the phone records of millions of average Americans. I strongly believe that while we must make sure our country is secure, we also must protect Americans' privacy.

## Belinda Noah

- No party affiliation
- Occupation: Lawyer/Adjunct Law Professor
- Education & Experience: Doctor of Juridical Science, Master of Laws, and Juris Doctor Degrees; Bachelor of Arts degree in Mass Communications. International lawyer and adjunct law professor with expertise in the following areas: international contracts, pharmaceutical and biotechnology law, immigration law, bankruptcy, estate planning, and health law.
- <http://www.noah2006.com/>

### 1. Do you support any additional restrictions on lobbyists and other powerful interests paying for travel by Members of Congress? Explain.

Yes. Any travel by members of Congress on official business should be paid for by the U.S. government. Lobbyists and other powerful interests must be restricted from paying for such travel. Such payments, if allowed, cause corruption of the political process in that it is human nature to look favorably upon interests of the person or group that pays you, even if they do not represent the best interest of your constituents.

### 2. What measures would you support, if any, to enfranchise American citizens living in the District of Columbia who currently do not have voting representation in the U.S. Congress?

I would support an amendment to the Constitution to give the District of Columbia voting seats in Congress.

### 3. What would you do to help assure that civil liberties are preserved while giving our government the necessary tools to fight terrorism?

I would make sure that everything done to fight terrorism is done within the limits of our Constitution.

## Roy Tanner

- No party affiliation
- Occupation: Senior executive management
- Education & Experience:
  - 2 years leading a conservative interest group
  - 25 years leading at professional services firms
  - 5 years service to Dept. of Defense contractors
- Bachelor of Science degree, University of Central Florida
- <http://tannerforsenate.com/about.htm>

### 1. Do you support any additional restrictions on lobbyists and other powerful interests paying for travel by Members of Congress? Explain.

Strict adherence to campaign finance laws and the lobbying disclosure act are imperative. Furthermore, Congress should disclose who stands to gain from all expenditures. In closing, I have accepted no special interest funding.

### 2. What measures would you support, if any, to enfranchise American citizens living in the District of Columbia who currently do not have voting representation in the U.S. Congress?

Both D.C. and Puerto Rico should consider filing for statehood.

### 3. What would you do to help assure that civil liberties are preserved while giving our government the necessary tools to fight terrorism?

All legislative bills that impact civil liberties should be subject to periodic review and "sunset" if no longer considered relevant to national security.



# Florida Cabinet

## Chief Financial Officer

### Tom Lee

- Republican Party
- Occupation: Vice President of Finance, Sabal Homes, Inc.
- Education & Experience: 2004-2006, Elected Senate President; 1996-present, member, Fla. Senate; 1984-present, Vice President of Finance, Sabal Homes, Inc.; 1984, University of Tampa, B.S., Business; 1982, Hillsborough Community College, A.A.
- <http://www.tomleeforco.com/>



### 1. How would you regulate insurance companies in Florida to ensure that insurance is available, affordable and enforceable?

The position of CFO does not directly regulate insurance companies, yet the CFO can use the influence of the office to improve the market for consumers. As CFO I will aggressively work to attract private sector capital back into the marketplace to write more policies in order to drive down the cost of premiums and reduce the exposure our state-run insurance entity places on Floridians. The state should support the private market — not be the private market. We should depopulate Citizens; expand reinsurance coverage to private carriers; institute a commercial JUA; and expand use of the affordable housing trust fund.

### 2. How can you make information on the investment of state funds more available to the public?

I have a measurable track record as a strong proponent of open public records and transparency in government. I have successfully advocated for public disclosure of campaign finances, shined a light on lobbyist compensation, and given the public a look into the previously hidden soft-money contributions in our state. Knowledge is power, and I believe the power of our government belongs to Floridians. As the next Chief Financial Officer, I will continue my effort to ensure that Floridians have greater access to information on state investments, contracts, and accounting information in order to provide more accountability to the people.

### 3. What would you recommend be done to further control Medicaid costs?

Medicaid is critically important to the quality of life for millions of medically needy citizens in Florida. However, unsustainable growth is outstripping our state resources. Without changes we won't be able to adequately fund vital state priorities such as education, the environment, and infrastructure. Last session, the Legislature crafted a pilot program in two Florida counties that focused on more funding for preventative care, greater accountability for services to reduce millions of dollars in fraud, and a greater emphasis on managed care. We'll closely monitor the effectiveness of these pilots in order to adopt a best of practice standard.

### Alex Sink

- Democratic Party
- Occupation
- Education & Experience: 25 years financial leadership experience including president of Florida's largest bank for seven years.
- <http://www.alexforco.com/>

### 1. How would you regulate insurance companies in Florida to ensure that insurance is available, affordable and enforceable?

I will use my 25 years of financial leadership experience to be a tough fiscal and consumer watchdog. While the Chief Financial Officer does not directly regulate insurance, I will help to oversee the insurance regulator as a member of Florida's Cabinet. As Chief Financial Officer, I will be an aggressive advocate for families and businesses who buy insurance in Florida. I'll stand up to companies who don't pay their claims, fight fraud that increases rates, work with neighboring states to spread the financial risk of hurricanes, and strengthen the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund to help control insurance costs.

### 2. How can you make information on the investment of state funds more available to the public?

I have more than 25 years of financial leadership experience, including 7 years as president of Florida's largest bank, where I supervised 9,000 employees in 800 branches statewide and managed more than \$40-billion in customer deposits. As Chief Financial Officer, I will be a tough fiscal watchdog who safeguards taxpayers' hard-earned tax dollars and ensures the security of the \$120-billion Florida Retirement System. I will work to improve the efficiency of money management to save costs, maximize the return on investments, and make sure that Floridians have information on how and where their money is being invested.

### 3. What would you recommend be done to further control Medicaid costs?

Florida's Medicaid expenses are growing as a result of increases in health care costs and our growing elderly population. In fact, Medicaid pays for 2/3 of all nursing home days in Florida. As Chief Financial Officer, I will have the power to prosecute insurance fraud, and I will work with the Attorney General to crack down on Medicaid fraud, which costs as much as 10 percent annually. I will also closely scrutinize the so-called Senior Care program to make sure that it is not harming our most vulnerable seniors.

See page 8 for Chief Financial Officer: About the Office.

## Should I Vote?

That's a very good question. As you know, lots of folks don't even bother to vote. I'm too busy, it's a hassle, all politicians are the same, and I don't know anything about the candidates. Does this sound familiar? Can you find your excuse for not voting?

The truth is that you are missing out on the greatest privilege of U.S. citizenship if you don't vote. Government at all levels has a big effect on our lives. Voting is a way of saying what's important to you and connects you to the community. When you vote, you are talking directly to the politicians.

Government does make a difference in our lives. The federal government steers the economy and that affects jobs. The result is good times or hard times. If you're a college student, government loan programs can make a dif-

ference in whether you're able to afford school. If you have children in public school, the local government and school district determine their quality of education. If you are concerned with clean air and water or global warming, government at all levels makes the rules that control pollution.

If you need help knowing the basics on how to vote, contact your local League of Women Voters. The League has an easy to read publication that will answer your questions, "Why Should I Vote?"

With so much of our lives depending on government, doesn't it make sense to let our elected officials know what you want them to do? Election Day is the best time to do that because all the politicians are paying attention to you.

**Vote in the general election on Tuesday, November 7, 2006.**

Continued on page 8

Continued  
from page 7

## Florida Cabinet

## Attorney General

## Walter "Skip" Campbell

- Democratic Party
- Occupation: Attorney, State Senator
- Education & Experience: University of Florida: J.D., 1973; B.A., 1970. Attorney Krupnick Campbell Malone Buser Slama Hancock Liberman & McKee, 1975-Present; State Senator, Dist. 32, 1997-2006; Minority Leader Pro-Tempore, Present; Minority Whip, 1998
- <http://www.campbellforattorneygeneral.com/>



**1. How should Florida government reconcile the need to be safe with a citizen's right to privacy?**

Protecting our right to privacy is essential to all Floridians. Currently our state is not protecting the many of our state worker's right to privacy by outsourcing their personnel files to India. I have always believed that we can adequately protect our citizens and our most vulnerable including older Floridians and our children while respecting and protecting their privacy.

**2. What is your position on the restoration of rights for ex-felons?**

I support automatic restoration of civil rights for all persons with felony convictions who have served their sentence and proven they can be productive members of society, except for those who commit capital crimes or convicted sexual predators.

**3. What would you do to make it more difficult to amend the Florida Constitution through the citizen initiative process?**

I am generally not in favor of amending the state Constitution in an effort to change the statutory laws of the state or to simply implement new public policy. Many of the policy proposals are of great merit to the state, such as the Smaller Class Size initiative. We should institute a simultaneous change in the practice: 1) require a 60% approval threshold for constitutional amendments 2) Create a Statutory Initiative Process that allows to place items on the ballot, if approved by a simple majority the items must be taken up for a vote in the Legislature.

**Chief Financial Officer:  
About the Office**

The chief financial officer oversees the Department of Financial Services, which is responsible for assisting consumers who need information and help related to financial services, including banking, securities and especially insurance. In addition, the department keeps track of all money coming into and going out of state government. The salary is \$123,330.96\*.

\* Information from Florida Department of Financial Services 09/06

## Bill McCollum

- Republican Party
- Occupation
- Education & Experience: BA and JD from University of Florida. U.S Congressman 1981-1993 and 1993-2001.
- <http://www.mccollumforattorneygeneral.com>

**1. How should Florida government reconcile the need to be safe with a citizen's right to privacy?**

No response received.

**2. What is your position on the restoration of rights for ex-felons?**

No response received.

**3. What would you do to make it more difficult to amend the Florida**

**Constitution through the citizen initiative process?**

No response received.



**Attorney General:  
About the Office**

The attorney general is Florida's chief legal officer and serves on the state Cabinet. The attorney general represents the state in most appeals arising from criminal convictions in state courts, opposes major challenges to Florida laws, and issues formal legal opinions on state law. The office also enforces antitrust and consumer protection laws. The attorney general serves a four-year term and is paid a salary of \$127,771\*.

\* Information from Florida Department of Financial Services 09/06

**Commissioner of Agriculture:  
About the Office**

The commissioner of agriculture heads the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which has 11 divisions providing for services such as food product inspections, standards and correct listing of ingredients on food labels. The department also tests gasoline and other fuels to maintain state standards; inspects seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and provides disease and pest control; protects and maintains forests; and is a clearinghouse for consumer information and complaints. The salary is \$118,957.28\*.

\* Information from Florida Department of Financial Services 09/06

## Commissioner of Agriculture

## Charles H. Bronson

- Republican Party
- Occupation: Florida Commissioner of Agriculture
- Education & Experience
- <http://charlesbronson.org/>

**1. What changes, if any, would you recommend in what the state is doing now to support its agricultural industry?**

No response received.

**2. Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has a vast array of services it provides for the citizens of the state. How would you make information on these services more available throughout the state?**

No response received.

**3. The Florida Consumer Advisory Council and the Motor Vehicle Repair Advisory Council have been created to advise and assist the department in promoting better consumer protection. How will you work with these councils to assure that the goals are met?**

No response received.



**The Florida Cabinet**

Florida is historically unique among the 50 states in America. Until January 7, 2003, it was the only state to have a governor plus a Cabinet consisting of six independently and constitutionally elected state executives. Florida now has a Cabinet consisting of three constitutionally elected state executives. The governor is the popularly elected "chief executive" of Florida but the three members of the Cabinet are also elected by the people and serve as a collective decision and rule-making body for the state. Each Cabinet member serves a four-year term with a two-term limit and is wholly responsible for the administration of at least one state department. The governor is responsible for the administration of most other state departments.

Reflecting the concern that a single person might exercise too much power, Floridians ratified the Florida Constitution of 1968, affirming the independence of Cabinet members by deleting the phrase, "the governor shall be assisted by" the Cabinet. This gave each member equal footing with the governor on matters that come before the governor and Cabinet so that Cabinet members were no longer expected, constitutionally, to capitulate to the governor's wishes.

## Eric Copeland

- Democratic Party
- Occupation: Attorney, Tax Consultant, Owner-Dade Property Tax Advisor
- Education & Experience: BA, University of Miami, Coral Gables, 1987; JD, University of Miami, Coral Gables 1989
- <http://www.copeland2006.com/>

**1. What changes, if any, would you recommend in what the state is doing now to support its agricultural industry?**

I will fight to defend existing programs for Agriculture including the green-belt classification and exemption; sales tax exemptions for agriculture; long duration water use permits; and water protection and sustainability for development of alternative water supplies. I will unwaveringly support a comprehensive Florida Bio-energy program to encourage research and development relating to the place for Florida agriculture in the development of renewable sources of energy.

**2. Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has a vast array of services it provides for the citizens of the state. How would you make information on these services more available throughout the state?**

As Commissioner, I would greatly increase the activity and visibility of the Office of Consumer Services. It would be a priority to have local meetings, issue consumer protection alerts and do whatever I could do to increase staffing and resources in consumer service issues—especially through local or regional offices. I would also request a dedicated liaison office with federal consumer related offices such as the Federal Trade Commission and some under-funded but successful local and non-profit consumer organizations.

**3. The Florida Consumer Advisory Council and the Motor Vehicle Repair Advisory Council have been created to advise and assist the department in promoting better consumer protection. How will you work with these councils to assure that the goals are met?**

I will request the Legislature consolidate as many consumer protection functions in my office as possible. And, of course, as issues of consumer protection come before the Legislature, I will make my opinions known and use the resources of the Division of Consumer Services to provide research and information on the impact of some proposals on consumers. It is important, of course, to maintain positive relations with the Legislature but I think it is irresponsible for the state's highest elected consumer service advocate to be silent when the Legislature is debating homeowner insurance reform, as just one example.

