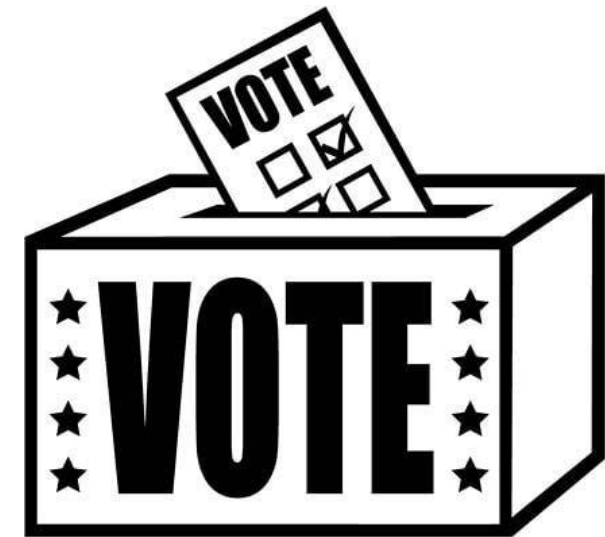


Choosing Candidates in Florida



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2024 Election Dates

- **August 20**
 - Primary partisan elections for federal, state and countywide offices
 - Nonpartisan elections for school board, circuit court judges and county court judges
- **November 5**
 - General election for federal, state and countywide offices
 - Run-off elections for school board and judges, if necessary
 - Florida Constitutional Amendments
 - Judicial Merit Retention Questions

The League of Women Voters (LWV) was founded over 100 years ago to educate voters and promote democracy. The League remains nonpartisan, never endorsing or opposing any candidate for public office.



Gather Materials about Candidates

Sources of information may include:

- Campaign literature
- Candidate websites and social media
- Ads (radio, television, mailings)
- Information about candidate's parties and platforms
- Candidate speeches
- Candidate debates and forums

Nonpartisan sources of information:

- **Vote411.org:** Personalized voting information sponsored by LWV Education Fund
- **Ballotpedia.org/Florida:** Ballotpedia is a 501(c)3 charitable nonprofit organization and is not affiliated with any campaigns or candidates for office.
- **GovTrack.us:** Publishes information about your representative and senators in Congress including voting records.

VOTE for the candidates who support **YOUR** values & goals.

Take a Look at Campaign Information

- **TV and Radio Ads:** What did you learn about the candidate from the ad? Find out what you can about the **facts** as well.
- **Pamphlets, Flyers, Websites:** Valid, substantive information or distortions and evasions.
- **Political Party and Party Platform:** A candidate's party may take a stand on issues that you care about, but has the candidate addressed the issues directly?

Spot Phony Issues

- **Passing the Blame:** When one candidate accuses another party or candidate of being the cause of a major problem, fact check the statements.
- **Promising the Sky:** These are unrealistic promises that no elected official could fulfill.
- **Evading Real Issues:** Watch out for candidates who talk about benefits and never mention costs or details of how the program will work.

Learn How Others View the Candidate

- **Seek the opinions of others in the community:** Find out who they support and why. What shaped their political opinions?
- **Learn about endorsements:** Endorsements provide clues to the issues a candidate supports.
- **Look into campaign contributions:** Where did the candidate get the funds to finance their campaign? How might these contributions affect the candidate's conduct in office?

Recognize Distortion Techniques

- **Name-Calling/Appeals to Prejudice:** These are attacks on an opponent based on characteristics that will not affect performance in office.
- **Loaded Statements:** "I oppose wasteful spending" doesn't say much - and it implies that the candidate's opponent favors it.
- **Catchwords:** Beware of empty phrases, such as "law and order" ... "the American way" that are designed to trigger knee-jerk, emotional reactions rather than to inform.

Be Smart About Political Polls

Before you believe everything you read in political poll results, ask these questions.

- **Who sponsored the poll?** When parties and candidates pay for polls, they might not publish unfavorable data.
- **What questions were asked?** Were they slanted? You can spot blatantly biased questions, but also look for ones that subtly steer a respondent to a certain answer or leave no room for a "Yes, if ..." or a "No, but ..."
- **Who and how many were interviewed?** How were respondents selected? The selection needs to be random or at least represent all segments of the population proportionately. The smaller the sample of respondents, the wider the margin of error in the findings.

Rate the Candidates on How They Campaign

- The way a candidate runs a campaign can provide important clues as to how that candidate will perform as a public official, once elected.
- A candidate who runs an open, issues-oriented campaign can be expected to become an accessible, forthright and thoughtful public official.
- Is the candidate willing to debate with opponents and meet regularly with the press?

FINALLY - Sorting It All Out

- Which candidate understands the current issues facing the country, state, county, city or school board?
- Which candidate's views on the issues did you agree with the most?
- Who ran the fairest campaign?
- Which candidate was most knowledgeable on the issues you care about the most?
- Which candidate has the leadership qualities you are looking for?

