

## General Voting Recommendations and Considerations

---

- 1) It is our duty as citizens to understand the issues and know who the candidates are and what they really stand for. If you don't have enough information to make a fully informed decision, consider deferring on that initiative or candidate
- 2) Remember that elected officials represent and work for YOU!
- 3) You have the right to interview them for the job they are seeking to fill.
- 4) You are the boss and they are the (prospective) employee.
- 5) Demand specifics.
- 6) Don't just rely on talking points and glossy flyers provided by a candidate.
- 7) If a candidate, their campaign manager, another elected official, or a Political Action Committee puts out anything negative about an opponent, ALWAYS check with the opponent firsthand and do your own research.
- 8) Remember that an "arrest" without a conviction means they were NOT proven guilty.
- 9) We are a nation of laws and are innocent until proven guilty – there is no requirement for anyone to prove their innocence.
- 10) Won't debate? In local races this should be a red flag.
- 11) Rule of thumb – if they won't talk with you before elected, they won't talk with you afterwards.
- 12) Who is their campaign manager?
- 13) Where is their money coming from? – go to the Supervisor of Elections website (Lee.vote)
  - a) Political Action Committees (PAC).
    - i) Who is the treasurer and what is their stated focus/agenda
    - ii) Who and what organizations are supporting the PACs?
  - b) Friends/neighbors/family/local businesses?
  - c) Developers and realtors?
  - d) Other elected officials
  - e) Special interest groups/professions
  - f) Self funded?
  - g) Ratio of amount collected/spent versus expected income

## General Voting Recommendations and Considerations

---

- h) Check their financial statement – if they can't manage their personal finances do you want them managing your tax dollars?
- 14) How many meetings for the office they are seeking have they attended as a member of the public?
- 15) Have they ever spoken in meetings?
- 16) Have they ever written letters or emails to the board?
- 17) Have they sat on a committee and who appointed them?
- 18) How often did the committee meet?
- 19) What were their personal three greatest accomplishments in that position?
- 20) What do they see as the biggest need/challenge and give specifics on how they propose executing a solution
- 21) Have them include a timeline for completion, as well as manpower and cost estimates
- 22) Name the 5 rights enumerated in the First Amendment of the Constitution?  
(Freedom of Speech, Religious Freedom, Freedom of the Press, Right to Peaceably Assemble and Right to Redress the Government for Grievances)
  - a) Extra bonus points if they can explain that Religious freedom means the right to practice or not practice their faith, and also the prohibition of a state mandated religion)
  - b) Extra points if they know that in Florida under our Constitution we also have an enumerated right to "Instruct our government" which is proactive, which redressing grievances is reactive to something they may have already done.
- 23) Extra points if they can explain that assembly that is not peaceable is not protected and that free speech protects unpopular speech, but that free speech does not extend to threats that would rise to the level of causing the person to have a reasonable fear of imminent harm.
- 24) What is the Supreme Law of the land? (The U.S. Constitution. If they say Supreme Court "rulings" or decisions ask them why they think the court can make rules/laws and how they square that with decisions that have been overturned later on.)
- 25) What are the term limits of a Supreme Court Justice? (Most will say life but that is not true. It is as long as they are on "good behavior" and good behavior means they must be acting within the delegated limits of Article III of the Constitution. If they start legislating from the bench they are acting within the legislative branch authorities asset out in Article I of the Constitution)

## General Voting Recommendations and Considerations

---

- 26) What does impeachment mean? (The way elected officials are indicted. This is only done by the House of Representative by issuing Articles of Impeachment. The “trial after impeachment is done in the Senate. Without a finding of guilt by the Senate the impeachment has no more weight than an arrest or indictment with a finding of not guilty)
- 27) If they mention Supreme Court precedence as the law of the land, ask them how they reconcile Plessy vs. Ferguson and Brown vs. Board of Education and Roe vs. Wade and Dobbs vs. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. Also ask them how the right to due process can occur when the fact pattern of another case is used to determine the decision in another situation.)
- 28) Ask if they have ever represented a party or sat on the bench for cases involving issues of Republican concern (abortion, parental rights, immigration, Election Integrity, etc.) and, if so, how to obtain a copy of the pleadings and findings.
- 29) If elected officials running for the same or other office ask them if they have ever sponsored a bill or drafted a bill (whether it ultimately became law or not) that addressed any of the issues that concern you (gender issues, immigration, abortion etc) and ask them to provide you with the language of the bill. Sometimes these positions will be what you agree with and other times they show the candidate has a very different position from you. If they claim to have changed their position, ask them when their position changed and what caused the change)
- 30) If their stance has changed ask why.
- 31) Is the Constitution a “living document” and if so why is there an Article V?
- 32) What kind of document is it and who has the authority to modify it? (An enduring documents/contract between the States)
- 33) What does “bad behavior” mean in Article III? (Justices legislating from the bench)
- 34) How many amendments are there to the Constitution? (27)
- 35) What are the first 10 Amendments called? (The Bill of Rights)
- 36) Describe what is meant by “sovereign independent states” and what this means to you?
- 37) Who is your favorite founding father and why?
- 38) Can you name the first man to be martyred in the War for Independence? (Crispus Attucks a freed black slave)
- 39) Judges often deflect and refuse to answer questions claiming “Judicial Canons” Preclude them from responding to any fact pattern which may present it to them on the bench in the future. They may provide answers to other questions we have carefully drafted to avoid this concern and limitation.

## General Voting Recommendations and Considerations

---

- 40) Constitutions are designed to limit government not limit the rights of people. When evaluating amendments to the Florida Constitution keep this in mind. Most amendments can, and should, be addressed through legislation and do not belong in the Constitution.