



**Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida
Liberty Compact & Legislative Candidate Questionnaire**

The Republican Liberty Caucus is a national grassroots organization working to advance the principles of individual rights, limited government, free markets, and personal freedom and responsibility.

For more than twenty years the Republican Liberty Caucus has been the strongest, most consistent voice for these principles within the Republican Party. Many Republicans talk about these principles but the RLC has taken the lead in promoting Liberty candidates and advocating for Liberty legislation. We believe that less government means more liberty and we work through state and local chapters, and with our member activists all over the country to oppose government excess and demand accountability to the American people and the Constitution.

These principles have been the determining factor in the preparation of this questionnaire. We call upon the members of the Florida Legislature to abide by these same principles as they decide the future of the great State of Florida and impact the lives of millions of Floridians.

The Liberty Compact

I, _____, pledge to the citizens of the _____

(Jurisdiction of office you are seeking (i.e. 9th County Commission district, 14th Congressional District, etc.)) State of _____ that as their elected representative I will work to: Restore liberty, not restrict it; shrink government, not expand it; reduce taxes, not raise them; abolish programs, not create them; promote the freedom and independence of citizens, not the interference of government in their lives; and observe the limited, enumerated powers of our Constitution, not ignore them.

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____



Campaign Finance Reform

Election law in Florida provides for the establishment of “Political Committees” which can be operated by industry and trade groups, unions and other special interest organizations, and elected officials and candidates. In the case of elected officials and candidates these political committees operate independently of candidate campaign accounts. Political committees can accept unlimited contributions and spend unlimited amounts of money advocating for the election or reelection of said candidates thus making campaign contribution limits meaningless. Political committees can also make contributions to other political committees which can then make unlimited contributions to political committees operated by candidates making it exceedingly difficult for voters to understand where the money financing campaigns for public office really comes from.

Would you support legislation to bring more transparency to this process and prohibit contributions between “political committees”?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Economic Development

Corporate Welfare is defined as any government program or spending that provides unique benefits or advantages to specific companies or industries, such as direct grants, loan guarantees, and tax breaks.

Would you support or oppose defunding or eliminating certain economic development programs that would meet the definition of corporate welfare?

Support Oppose

Comments:



Taxes/Budget

According to the National Association of State Budget Offices, between 2012 and 2017, state government spending in Florida increased by 31%, making it the 8th fastest growing yearly budget. The median state spending increase was 18%. State budgets continue to grow faster than population growth and inflation. Amy Baker, the states chief economist continues to warn that Florida’s budget has a structural imbalance and that any downturn in the economy would put the budget into deficit. In fact, the latest report predicts the state will take in about \$867 million less in revenue over two years.

Do you support a thorough budget review to find ways to reduce spending?

- Support Oppose

Comments:

If state economists are correct and the state faces deficits, would you support or oppose raising taxes or fees to balance the budget?

- Support Oppose

Comments:



Florida is one of only two states that impose a sales tax on commercial leases (Arizona, which allows local governments to impose a similar tax, being the second) This sales tax has been reduced from 6% in 2017 to 5.5%, effective in January 2020.

Would you support legislation to eliminate the sales tax entirely on commercial leases?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Transportation

Would you support or oppose legislation that would repeal the use of red-light cameras?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Government Regulation

Would you support or oppose legislation to reduce state occupational licensing requirements?

Support Oppose

Comments:



Environment

In Florida, the state purchases land for “conservation” through the Florida Forever Trust Fund. 30% of Florida is currently held in conservation by the Federal, state and local government.

Would you support or oppose putting a limit on how much land can be owned by state and local government for conservation purposes?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Would you support or oppose the state selling land that is no longer needed for conservation?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Protection of Florida’s lakes, rivers, springs and estuaries has become a major issue.

One solution being advocated by many is to replace traditional septic systems with nitrogen reducing septic systems (sometimes called “advanced” septic tanks). However, there is no requirement for these systems to be tested for their nitrogen reducing capabilities after installation.

Would you support or oppose legislation requiring “advanced” septic systems to be tested for their nutrient reducing capabilities before requiring homeowners to replace their current septic tank system with an “advanced” septic system?

Support Oppose

Comments:



In many cases municipal and county wastewater treatment systems have become major contributors to surface water pollution due to inadequate capacity and aging infrastructure that hasn't been properly maintained and upgraded over time.

What solutions would you propose to compel local governments to upgrade and properly maintain their wastewater treatment systems?

Comments:



Gun Rights

SB 7026, the Marjorie Stoneman Douglas bill, resulted in significant changes in Florida statutes regulating the purchase and possession of firearms in Florida.

Would you support or oppose legislation to repeal the 3-day waiting period and restore the rights of 18, 19 and 20-year olds to purchase long guns in Florida?

Support Oppose

Comments:

SB 7026 includes language providing for the issuance of Risk Protection Orders allowing for the seizure of an individual's legally owned firearms under certain circumstances. Statutes like this are commonly referred to as Red Flag laws. In your opinion, were individual rights of due process protected under this law as currently written?

Support Oppose

Comments:

If you support Risk Protection Orders, would you support adding stricter criteria or well-defined guidelines for establishing whether someone is dangerous to themselves or others?

Support Oppose

Comments:



Would you support or oppose allowing family members to file directly with the court for a risk protection order, bypassing local law enforcement?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Would you support or oppose legislation to end all private party firearms transfers in Florida unless the parties submit to a federal NCIC check, also known as "Universal Background Checks"?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Would you support or oppose legislation banning the manufacture, sale or possession of semi-automatic firearms and/or large-capacity magazines.

Support Oppose

Comments:



Would you support or oppose legislation to eliminate restrictions on law-abiding gun owners from carrying a firearm in certain so-called "Gun-Free Zones"

Support Oppose

Comments:

Term Limits

Do you support or oppose keeping Florida's 8-year term limits for the Governor, Cabinet Members and Legislators?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Do you support or oppose lengthening term limits to more than eight years?

Support Oppose

Comments:



Do you support or oppose extending 8-year term limits to any other elected offices at the local or county level?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Property Rights

All counties and municipalities in Florida must adopt local government comprehensive plans that guide future growth and development. Comprehensive plans contain chapters or “elements” that address topics to be coordinated. Absent from the list of mandated elements is an element protecting property rights.

Would you support or oppose legislation to require local government comprehensive plans to include an element protecting private property rights?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Due Process

Advancing technology has presented law enforcement with new means of investigation and surveillance; and the courts with new questions about the Fourth Amendment implications of this technology. These technologies such as “Stingray” devices, also known as “cell site simulators” or “IMSI catchers”, are invasive cell phone surveillance devices that mimic cell phone towers. Current law only requires a court order and not a warrant for law enforcement to use these types of surveillance.



Would you support or oppose legislation that collection by law enforcement of an individual's location, a cell phone, or a home enabled device, without the consent of the person or owner of the devices, should be allowed only when authorized by a warrant, which carries a higher standard of having probable cause than a court order?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Health Care

Do you support or oppose expanding Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Education

Do you support charter schools, voucher programs or any other school choice initiatives?

Support Oppose

Comments:



Do you support allowing properly trained and certified teachers and administrators to carry concealed weapons on school grounds?

Support Oppose

Comments:

“Common Core” and the over reliance on high stakes standardized testing have been hotly debated issues for years in Florida. Please provide your thoughts on how the Florida legislature should address these issues.

Comments:

Criminal Justice Reform

Would you support or oppose legislation to reform mandatory minimum drug laws to give judges, under compelling circumstances, a degree of flexibility in sentencing drug offenders?

Support Oppose

Comments:



Would you support legislation to decriminalize marijuana possession so that a person caught with 20 grams or less of marijuana would be charged with a noncriminal violation rather than a criminal misdemeanor?

Support Oppose

Comments:

Candidate Signature: _____ Date: _____