PASCO TIMES



Published weekly by the Tampa Bay Times

Friday, October 12, 2018



Ballot has four capital projects

Pasco County voters face referendums totalling \$241 million.

BY C.T. BOWEN Times Staff Writer

Long-time Pasco County voters might get a sense of déjà vu this election season.

In 2004, voters approved a sales tax increase dubbed Penny for Pasco to finance school and road construction, preserve environmentally sensitive land and enhance public safety. The planned fire/rescue spending included \$2.9 million to build two new fire stations, one at State Road 52 near Majestic Boulevard in Hudson and one at SR 52 near Hays Road in central Pasco.

This year, Pasco voters are being asked to consider four separate bond issues, totaling \$241 million to be financed by property tax increases, to expand the jail, boost fire/rescue services, maintain parks and remodel libraries.

But the proposed project list looks a little familiar. The planned public safety spending includes building those same two fire stations on SR 52 that were supposed to be constructed with Penny for Pasco.

So what happened? And should voters feel they're being double-billed?

"That's a good question," said Pasco County Commissioner Jack Mariano.

Here's the answer: A bursting real estate bubble, voterapproved property tax exemptions and the Great Recession whacked local government budgets beginning a decade ago.

Amid that shrinking tax base and dwindling revenue, county leaders decided in 2010 to shelve the fire stations, saying they couldn't afford to hire the personnel to staff the ambulances and fire trucks. Instead, the county reallocated the money to rebuild an existing station, upgrade three engines and add data terminals in emergency vehicles.

Mariano is the only commissioner remaining in office from that 2010 decision.

"Sometimes you've got to take care of public safety," said Mariano. "Even though it changed the purpose, I'll stick by the staff recommendation and what we did."

Coincidentally, this year's ballot also includes a proposed state constitutional amendment to add another \$25,000 homestead property exemption. Voter approval of the amendment is expected to remove a combined \$10 million from the county's general and fire department budgets in 2019.

It leads to a familiar issue tied to this year's public safety referendums.

"We still have to figure out how to operate these after we build them," County Administrator Dan Biles volunteered previ-

Indeed. Two of the referen-» See PROJECTS, 6

Know Your Candidates

Before you vote,

ampa Bay has nearly 2 million registered voters who have much to consider this election. Voting has already begun by mail. Starting in 10 days, early voting begins for some. By the time "Election Day" arrives Nov. 6, probably more than half of the electorate will have already voted.

To help make sense of the upcoming general election, today's Pasco Times includes information about all the races and issues on this year's ballot. Pages 10-18

If you want to read more, visit the Tampa Bay Times' online searchable database at http://bit.ly/TBTvote18.

Vote by mail

Vote-by-mail ballots have already been sent out for those who have requested them. To request a mail ballot contact your Elections Supervisor at the top of this webpage: bit.ly/pascomailvote.

Early Voting

Wednesday, Oct. 24 to Saturday, Nov. 3, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Constitutional amendments

Voters to consider 12 revisions

RON BORRESEN | Times

BY ELIZABETH KOH

TALLAHASSEE - The 12 constitutional amendments on this year's ballot are the most since 1998, when the state's Constitution Revision Commission which meets once every 20 years — put nine of 13 amendments on the ballot. The Constitution Revision Commission convened this year and placed eight amendments on the ballot.

In some cases, measures have been grouped together, meaning voters will ture voted to refer the exemption to the » See CHANGES, 7

parate proposals that have been linked in one amendment. To be approved, any constitutional amendment requires and \$125,000, raising the maximum 60 percent of the vote. Here's what this exemption to \$75,000. year's amendments do:

Amendment 1

Exemption would raise the portion of a home's value that can be exempted from million in the first year if the exemption, non-school property taxes. The Legisla- effective Jan. 1, is approved.

have to choose to approve or reject dis- ballot in 2017, and the proposed changes would apply to the assessed value of a homestead property between \$100,000

The shift could save homeowners a couple hundred dollars, but a legislative staff analysis estimated local govern-Increased Homestead Property Tax ments — which rely on property taxes for revenue — would lose about \$645

Teacher, parent vie for board

Two new candidates want to replace school board member.

BY JEFFREY S. SOLOCHEK

In the race for Pasco County School Board District 5, candidate Megan Harding wants voters to know she's a teacher.

Harding contends that, in and of itself, that

makes her the better qualified candidate. "I know what goes on every single day in our classrooms,

because T am in the trenches," she said at a recent forum and repeated in an interview.

To which candidate Tara O'Connor scoffed. She is a lawyer whose interactions with



Megan

Harding

O'Connor

schools have come as a parent and volunteer. The board that oversees public education in Pasco needs other perspectives, she argued.

"I am running on a platform. I'm not running on my profes-» See BOARD, 19

Simpson runs real campaign

Goliath candidate takes first-time opponent seriously.

BY JEFFREY S. SOLOCHEK

The contest for Florida Senate District 10 almost didn't happen. Until the final hours of qualifying in June, incumbent Sen. Wilton Simpson, R-Trilby, appeared on track to his fourth and final unchallenged election, no Democrats having stepped forward in the heavily Republican region he

Then came Michael Cottrell, a Defense Department history teacher on medical leave for chemotherapy treatment. His wife, Dana, already had announced her bid for a congressional seat, and she convinced him to seek the legislative post.

"We did not like that people were running unopposed," Michael Cottrell explained. "All citizens should have the right to choose."

Since then, his campaign has consisted of a nearly blank Face-» See SENATE, 19



SPORTS

Sunlake relay teams have great chance to defend title

BY SCOTT PURKS Times Correspondent

LAND O' LAKES - With the crowd cheering and the announcer bellowing, four girls from Sunlake High stood behind Lane 3 last year at the state swimming and diving meet, trying not to think about the ultimate possibility.

Could they actually win a state

Such a notion wasn't firmly in the conversation before the season, or really just a few weeks earlier, or for that matter that morning when they woke up.

Yet there they were — Audrey Ballash, Hannah Barton, Tori Eurell and Chloe Grimme wondering what was possible because in the prelim that afternoon their time was near the top.

"We thought it might be close but we really had no idea," said Grimme, who won a state individual title a few minutes earlier in the 50 free in 23.11 seconds.



Relay contributors include, from left, Tori Eurell, Alex Sprague, Hanna Barton, Chloe Grimme and Elise Ballash. Audrey Ballash, sister to Elise, is not pictured, but is a mainstay in the relay mix.

"We told ourselves to just give it ing Grimme with the anchor leg. everything we had and then see where that put us."

One by one, the first three girls swam their 50 yards, leav-

When Grimme's feet pushed off the starting block, she was a couple of feet behind the leaders.

A furious competitor, Grimme

swam more furiously than ever. Quickly, steadily, she cut into the lead before the last few feet where she reached for the wall

And the beat goes on because

Grimme, a junior. "I really, really don't want to let them down. I know they are depending on

not only does Grimme return,

Grimme said. "We didn't know

until we looked up at the score-

minute, 36.88 seconds, was the

drum next to me when I saw

that we had won," Sunlake coach

Lorin Macdonald said. "We

would have been happy with

anything in the top eight and

then we end up winning. It was

hugs because she had smoked

through her leg in an astonish-

swimming for my team that

gives me extra strength," said

Grimme was mobbed with

"There is something about

so exciting and fun."

ing 22.60 seconds.

number "1."

Next to Sunlake's time, one

"None of us could tell," but so does Sunlake's entire 200 free relay and last year's thirdplace state finishing 200 medley relay, which switches out Audrey Ballash for her sister, Elise Ballash, in the breaststroke.

Along with all that, Sunlake "I nearly broke the guy's ear returns solid contributor Alex Sprague and brings in talented freshmen Leah Forinotto and Amber Ewald along with a couple of high-scoring divers in sophomore Isa Monagas and senior Alexa Scalchunes.

> Add up all the possible individual and relay points and Sunlake is in the conversation for a top three or better team finish at the 2018 state meet in about a month.

"It certainly is an exciting time for us," said Macdonald in her second year as Sunlake's coach. "We come to practice every time with a lot of good energy because we know if we keep working hard we have a chance to do some great things."

>> CHANGES continued from 1

AMENDMENT 2: Limitations on Property Tax Assessments, another property tax proposal referred by the Legislature, would cement an existing cap on non-homestead property assessments. Such property tax assessment increases have been limited to 10 percent of the previous year's assessed value since 2008, when another constitutional amendment that capped the increases passed.

AMENDMENT 3: Voter Control of Gambling in Florida, a citizen-initiated amendment, would give voters the exclusive right to decide to authorize expansions of casino gambling in Florida. That authority currently rests with both the Legislature and voters, through constitutional amendment.

Card games, casino games and slot machines are limited to tribal facilities in most of Florida, though some slot machines are allowed at certain parimutuel facilities in Broward and Miami-Dade counties.

toration Amendment, another idea, floated by Gov. Rick Scott petition-drive amendment, would restore voting rights to former felons if they have served their time, with the exception of those who have committed crimes like murder or sex offenses. For the past seven years, the state has required that felons wait at least five years after their sentences are complete to apply to regain voting rights. The current process can take a decade or more under the Scott administration's requirement that a state clemency board consider each request during its four meetings a year. If passed, about 1.5 million people

AMENDMENT 5: Super-majority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees, another proposal from lawmakers this year, would require a two-thirds supermajority vote in the Legislature to impose, approve or raise state taxes and fees. The higher threshold means it would take only a third of members in either the state House or Senate to block any future tax increases or Responder and Military Memposals: one to have the state's tem. It would also remove the myflorida.com/elections/

in Florida could be affected.

AMENDMENT 4: Voting Res-repeal existing exemptions. The last year, would also stop any provisions to raise taxes or fees from being tacked onto other state bills, and does not apply to any fees or taxes that would be levied by local governments or agencies, such as school districts.

AMENDMENT 6: Rights of Crime Victims; Judges, links three proposals that would create a bill of rights for crime victims and set new requirements for judges. The bill of rights, modeled after Marsy's Law in California, has the support of major Republican and Democratic lawmakers but has drawn criticism that the way victims' rights are drawn might flood the justice system with additional responsibilities.

The latter two proposals increase the mandatory retirement age for judges to 75 from 70, effective July 1, 2019, and would bar judges from deferring to administrative agencies' interpretations of a rule or statute when ruling in cases involving those laws.

AMENDMENT: First

ber Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities, would pull together three proposals, providing college tuition for the survivors of first responders and military members killed on duty, requiring university trustees to agree by a two-thirds supermajority to raise college fees (not including tuition) and establishing the state college system in the Florida Constitution. Universities are in the state Constitution, but state colleges (also known as community colleges) are not. (A Leon County circuit court judge ruled in early September that this amendment and 9 and 11 be struck from the ballot because of its bundled status — that decision is currently being appealed by the state.)

AMENDMENT 9: Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces, would tether a ban on oil and gas drilling in stateowned waters with a proposal to add vaping to the ban on smoking indoors.

AMENDMENT 10: State and Local Government Structure and Operation, would link four proarv rather than March in evennumbered years (the Legislature currently changes its dates by statute), two that would create a counter-terrorism office and make the state veterans affairs department constitutionally required, and a proposal that would require five county-level offices to be elected.

All of the county positions including tax collectors, property appraisers, supervisors of elections and clerks of circuit many counties. (A case seeking to remove this amendment including affected counties like Miami-Dade, Broward and Volusia— was taken up by the state Supreme Court, which ruled Sept. 7 that the amendment remain on the ballot.)

AMENDMENT 11: Property Provision; Criminal Statutes, would revise the Constitution to remove some language, including a provision that stops "aliens ineligible for citizenship" from owning property and wording approving a high-speed rail sys-

legislative session start in Janu- state's Savings Clause, which prohibits retroactively applying the amendment of a criminal statute to sentencing for a crime committed before the change, and clarify that repealing a criminal statute would not necessarily affect the prosecution of that crime committed previously.

AMENDMENT 12: Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers, a stand-alone proposal, would bar public officials from lobbying both during their terms and for six years following, and court — are already elected in restrict current public officers from using their office for personal gain.

AMENDMENT 13: Ends Dog Racing, is also a single proposal. It would end commercial dog racing involving wagering by 2020. There are about a dozen tracks in Florida, and the practice has drawn criticism from Rights: Removal of Obsolete animal rights advocates who assert that the practice is inhumane. The Florida Grevhound Association has sued seeking to remove the amendment from the ballot.For more information visit the state Division of Elections website at https://dos.

Real estate transactions

DADE CITY

34107 Trilby Road, to David Ralph Hengl & Melinda Jo Hengl by Carolyn V. Kilpatrick & Kilpatrick Carolyn V Trustee, \$305,000, 9/24/2018.

18285 Townsend House Road, to Julio C. Morillo & Samantha L. Morillo by Terry Ashe & Vickie Ashe, \$285,000, 9/21/2018. 13138 Palmilla Circle, to Pamela W. Christie & William L. Christie by Kk & Tp Investments

LLC, \$190,000, 9/24/2018. 36316 Lanson Avenue, to Michelle Sticht by Angeline A. Smith, \$172,000, 9/25/2018. 36011 Sassy Way, to Scott Edward Nebolsky by Beverly J. Winter & Robert S. Winter, \$145,000, 9/15/2018.

36828 Missouri Avenue, to Jennifer Borregard & William Borregard by Albert J. Hayden III, \$135,000, 9/19/2018. 14328 Old Mission Road, to Sandra Lamphier & Terrance Lamphier by Superior Real Estate Solutions LLC, \$86,000, 9/14/2018.

21135 Trilby Cutoff Road, to Joshua Burt & Miranda Burt by Lindsay Allen Fladd & Timothy W. Fladd, \$85,000, 9/13/2018.

HOLIDAY

2305 Wood Pointe Drive, to Debra K. Penna & Jimmie L. Penna II by Maria D. Loucas & William Loucas, \$333,000, 9/25/2018. 2211 Pleasant Hill Lane, to Sherri Drew & Norma Kay Metz by Viera Lopota, \$195,000, 9/18/2018.

2801 Punta Palma Court, to Steve Serbaty by Southeast Property Acquisitions LLC, \$190,000, 9/13/2018. 5123 Darlington Road, to Edward B. Karlander by Wayne G. Darlington, \$160,000,

9/21/2018. 1332 Greenlea Drive, to Chelsie Mendez by Barbara A. Breest & Breest Barbara A. Trustee, \$160,000, 9/13/2018.

3517 Margate Drive, to Lillian Schene & Michael A. Schene by Yuri lakovel, \$135,000, 9/24/2018.

2317 Grandin Street, to Arthur John Bufo & Kathy Lynn Bufo by John D. Perrie & Perrie John D Living Trust, \$135,000, 9/21/2018. 3248 Devonshire Drive, to Christina Torres by Sol State Homes LLC, \$132,000, 9/24/2018. 3128 Palamore Drive, to Mark A. Levy by Karen Hayden & Christine Lee Mattio, \$122,000, 9/21/2018.

2728 Featherstone Drive, to Bonnie Featheringill & Herbert L. Featheringill by Glenda A. Lemay & Lemay Glenda A Living Trust, \$115,000, 9/20/2018.

2125 Pamela Drive, to 2125 Pamela Drive Trust & Jonas Steven K Trustee by Carolyn C. Brown & Richard K. Brown, \$104,600, 9/7/2018.

1127 Tamarac Drive, to Kyle Davis by Sarina Kudryavtsev & Allen Sprey, \$102,000, 9/18/2018.

HUDSON 8544 Regal Lane, to Ellen R. Freund & Joan

D. Keller by Laurenzano Family Trust & Joseph Laurenzano, \$245,000, 9/21/2018. 13635 Stacey Drive, to Adrienne E. by Carol Clark & Gary Clark, \$225,000, 9/17/2018

13549 Woodside Drive, to Gilda America Duarte & Henry Duarte by Bonnie A. Tooker & Mark A. Tooker, \$224,500, 9/14/2018. 11920 Lakewood Drive, to Laurel Coker &

Steven Coker by Denise Kaplan & James A. Kaplan, \$222,500, 9/14/2018. 14729 Potterton Circle, to Cynthia Goodwin & Gerald E. Goodwin Jr. by Gagliardi-josephine & Gagliardimario, \$214,000, 9/21/2018.

13623 Evelane Drive, to Christine Magoulis & Richard Magoulis by Yoav Khavzon, \$210,000, 9/2/2018.

12229 Southbridge Terrace, to Daniel P. Paulson by Chad Slater & Linda Slater, \$200,000, 9/26/2018. 13017 Starboard Court, to Matthew T. Coleman & Kari M. Woodard by Rivelli

Anthony Living Trust & Rivelli Jessica Trustee, \$200,000, 9/21/2018. 13355 Old Florida Circle, to Mary Roth by Frank C. Assalone & Mary E. Assalone, \$180,000, 9/15/2018.

9610 Clyde Street, to Melissa L. Gasaway by Anthony Annan & Laura Annan, \$175,000, 9/19/2018.

13404 Neptune Drive, to Kevin Wytko by Maria F. Bergersen & Robert Bergersen, \$172,500, 9/20/2018. 13308 Shadberry Lane, to Samantha Infanti

& Vincent Chester Infanti by Gerald Roach, \$167,000, 9/24/2018. 6738 Harbor Drive, to Lace Rose Nowak by Buyers Title Inc & Mae Fannie, \$163,500,

8500 Sunflower Lane, to Kevin Jon Provost & Robert Isadore Provost by Catherine A. Taylor & William G. Taylor, \$160,000,

18837 Green Park Road, to Abimael Sierra Rivera & Julia M. Sierra by Lynn Peat & Ronald Peat, \$160,000, 9/20/2018.

13640 Claudia Drive, to Christiana Trust & Savings Fund Society Fsb Wilmington by Electric Supply Of Tampa Inc & Leslie M. Gomillion, \$147,600, 9/20/2018. 8608 Village Mill Row, to Sheila P. Kelly by Mitchell Betty Louise Revocable Living

Trust & Mitchell Dwight Trustee, \$143,000, 12347 Gallant Court, to Constanta Ziub by

Celine R. Rutkowski & Rutkowski Family Trust, \$132,000, 9/20/2018. 13130 Greenview Court, to Jean M. Lorenz & Peter A. Lorenz by Margarita Diaz, \$125,000, 9/19/2018.

8300 Needles Drive, to Breann Bianco & Timothy Bianco by Mari J. Davis, \$120,000, 13403 Wagner Drive, to Ann Abbey & Robert Abbey by Gladys A. Wavra & Thomas J. Wavra, \$120,000, 9/20/2018.

LAND O LAKES

23626 Gracewood Circle, to Anne Stoppa & Michael Stoppa by Deanna K. Falls & Lawrence R. Falls, \$525,000, 9/21/2018. 3711 Swans Landing Drive, to Michael J. Ford

& Rachel C. Ford by Julie A. Korn & William A. Korn, \$446,500, 9/20/2018. 8910 Handel Loop, to Reginald T. Brown & Beba E. Ramos by Deanna R. Marshall & Troy M. Marshall, \$420,000, 9/13/2018. 20632 Broadwater Drive, to Cheryl L. Rupp & Ronald J. Rupp by Brian Wischnack & Carol Wischnack, \$420,000, 9/18/2018. 3330 Leaf Lake Drive, to Opendoor Property

W35 LLC by Carlos M. Mauricio & Nieves Mauricio, \$411,300, 9/20/2018. 3555 Diamond Falls Circle, to Kirsten M. Hansen & Ryan R. Hansen by Jennifer L. Ruskiewicz & Jon D. Ruskiewicz, \$395,000,

8807 Crystal Creek Court, to Carolyn K. Marzullo & Matthew J. Marzullo by Irene P. Strickland, \$309,000, 9/21/2018.

24106 San Giovanni Drive, to Kristofer Zervoudakis & Sharlette Zervoudakis by Carlin Elizabeth Kennedy & Richard L. Kennedy, \$292,000, 9/21/2018. 3041 Downan Point Drive, to Jasmine Micah Mendoza & Nick Mendoza by Jeanette I.

Dotson, \$280,000, 9/14/2018. 20904 Ruby Red Way, to Suchner Michelle Duda & William Suchner by Masoner

Patricia L Revocable Trust & Masoner Patricia L Trustee, \$280,000, 9/14/2018. 4616 Cozzo Drive, to Anthony E. V. Vidal by Sara Anise Dunigan, \$279,000, 9/11/2018. 19623 Bellehurst Loop, to Allison Dolan & James Paul Dolan by Doreen M. Perez &

Roy D. Perez, \$275,000, 9/4/2018. 2422 Stillwood Drive, to Daniel Wayne Burr & Diane S. Cwiklinski by Fletcher Gibby & Fletcher William F, \$272,000, 9/12/2018. 19309 Red Sky Court, to Amado Nunez & Claritza Nunez by Rahaman R Family Revocable Living Trust & Rozina Rahaman, \$268,400, 9/24/2018.

25028 Hyde Park Boulevard, to Kelsey Jones & Taylor Jones by Sandra G. Chase, \$251,000, 9/13/2018.

3043 Trinity Cottage Drive, to Amy Wagner & Kevin Wagner by Anne M. Mcmullen & Jamey Mcmullen, \$250,000, 9/24/2018. 23514 Sierra Road, to Hp Florida I LLC by Jeffrey M. Conn & Conn Jeffrey M Inter Vivos Trust, \$246,000, 9/25/2018. 19809 Bellehurst Loop, to Rvan J. Gniadek by

Gustaf Julie Banks & Robert Henry Gustaf

III, \$245,000, 7/31/2018.

10049 Coldwater Loop, to Julius Harris & Krayola Harris by Andrea F. Urig & William M. Walke Jr., \$225,000, 9/24/2018. 19554 Timberbluff Drive, to Ah4r Properties Two LLC by George N. Girgis & Mariam N. Girgis, \$215,000, 9/13/2018.

15406 Pepper Pine Court, to Tyler Pellegren by Next Stage Properties LLC, \$213,000,

25017 Hyde Park Boulevard, to Property Owner 7 LLC by Amy Pawelczyk & Kevin Wagner, \$203,000, 9/21/2018. 18842 New Passage Boulevard, to Deborah Lynn Salsbury by Heather M. Pastrana & Mark F. Pastrana, \$202,000, 9/21/2018.

3450 Fyfield Court, to Gloria Jean Bowen & James David Bowen Jr. by Carol A. Jones & Mace E. Jones, \$194,900, 9/18/2018. 24338 Twin Lake Drive, to Property Owner 6 LLC by Benton Mobley, \$189,000, 9/20/2018. 21031 Picasso Court Unit 104 to Jon D. Lusk

& Sally L. Lusk by William Loyd Branum, \$155,000, 9/20/2018. 2705 Kristi Court, to Michele Cornwell by Brenda I. Hill & Hill Brenda I Trust,

\$152,000, 9/17/2018.

24251 Royal Fern Drive, to Adam Loper & Natalie Loper by Daniel J. Leahey & Lauren M. Leahey, \$247,000, 9/21/2018. 1854 Canoe Drive, to Scott R. Piazza & Taew Piazza by Lopez Manuel Esteban Mateo & Nahir Z. Ramirez, \$239,000, 9/20/2018.

24243 Denali Court, to Adam M. Lauth by Luis M. Tapia, \$215,000, 9/19/2018. 21107 Fountain View Lane Unit 5201, to Amy E. Kirby & Julia A. Plakis by Jerry W. Kirk & Laura L. Kirk, \$140,000, 9/5/2018. 21149 Lazy Days Circle, to Wille James A

Living Trust & Wille James A Trustee by T Royal Partners LLC, \$105,000, 9/13/2018. 1881 Mazo Manor Unit 4, to Nelson C. Alves & Victoria Olson Alves by John Frost & Lisa Frost, \$62,100, 9/14/2018.

NEW PORT RICHEY

4933 Marlin Drive, to Frederick W. Nelson Jr. & Patricia Ann Nelson by Andrew Franek & Debra A. Franek, \$460,000, 9/18/2018. 5351 Jobeth Drive, to Andrew Villicana & Lisa Villicana by Daniel Vickers & Heather Vickers, \$445,000, 9/24/2018.

4750 Grandview Avenue, to James Wilson II by Christine Magoulis & Richard Magoulis. \$430,000, 9/18/2018. 1707 Winding Willow Drive, to Susan Gail

Wood & Wayne Arthur Wood by Kay Marleen Rogers & Phillip Paul Rogers, \$379,900, 9/21/2018. 8129 Spirit Court, to Wong Rebecca Lopez

& Michael Wong by Andrew Villicana & Andrew J. Villicana, \$334,000, 9/24/2018. 8141 Lucidul Court, to Alison Castle & Jeffery Castle by Kayla Allbritten & Westley Adam Allbritten, \$315,000, 9/19/2018. 1628 Short Birch Lane, to Cary Nevins & Deija Nevins by Matthew D. Kimery, \$310,000, 9/6/2018.

8935 Wavvedge Court, to Kevin Andrew Kuerzi & Roseann Marie Kuerzi by Michael T. Livingston & Michael Todd Livingston, \$304.900, 9/20/2018.

11310 Pine Forest Drive, to Carl Lee Joyner Jr. by Sevim Tavlan, \$300,000, 8/22/2018. 6213 Wooden Street, to Joseph Francis Kaminski IV by Paul Scott & Sherry Scott, \$290,000, 9/24/2018.

by Karen H. Dulaney & Randy D. Dulaney, \$290,000, 9/26/2018. 6526 River Road, to Donna M. Hixson by Eugene Marrone, \$285,000, 9/19/2018. 7846 Grimsby Lane, to Katie Ann Reschny & Markus Joseph Heinz Reschny by John

3522 Durrance Street, to Joann L. Litman

P. Verstappen & Sandra K. Verstappen, \$262,900, 9/25/2018. 9521 Springmeadow Drive to Anthony C. Bellomo & Brenda M. Bellomo by Thomas V. Toner, \$250,000, 9/21/2018. 11253 Belle Haven Drive, to Lisa Kave Spicer & Robert Thomas Spicer by Christine Bilodeau & Erwin Bilodeau, \$245,000,

9/20/2018. 1112 Sweet Jasmine Drive, to Shirley Schneeweis & Robert Sempolinski by George L. Stratton & Sharon Ann Stratton, \$242,000,

9341 Palm Haven Court, to Julie H. Jackson & Matthew G. Jackson by Anthony C. Bellomo & Brenda M. Bellomo, \$240,000, 9/20/2018.

6500 Green Acres Boulevard, to Shannon Pfaff by Pamela W. Coulter & Coulter Pamela W Revocable Living Trust, \$237,000, 9/18/2018. 22 Trafalgar Drive, to Grace Cuollo & Michael Henry Cuollo by Alfred T. Green-

holdt, \$235,000, 9/18/2018. 3509 Player Drive, to Courtney E. Anderson by Bernardus Roodnat & Sarah E. Roodnat, \$234,500, 9/19/2018.

10504 Peppergrass Court, to Malissa A. Spencer & Mark Spencer by Valerie T. Banfield, \$230,000, 9/19/2018. 11619 Leda Lane, to Andrea Flaherty & Jam Henry Flaherty III by Kevin J. Dillon &

Sarah K. Dillon, \$230,000, 9/17/2018. 4742 Whitetail Lane, to Barry L. Truitt & Carly L. Truitt by William Steele & William C. Steele, \$227,500, 9/19/2018. 8707 Persea Court, to Barry Hudson by Jose Melendez, \$226,300, 9/25/2018.

9824 Zaharias Court, to Candace M. Brown & Elizabeth C. Brown by Andrea Lee Fla-herty & James H. Flaherty III, \$225,000, 9/19/2018.

5101 Bonito Drive, to Becky Lu Mcelroy & Paul Mcelroy by Kimberly A. Thorne, \$218,000, 9/20/2018.

4424 County Breeze Drive, to Opendoor Property D LLC by Leesa J. Mckee & Leesa Weisenhutter, \$209,300, 9/12/2018. 8217 Crescent Moon Drive, to Mj Rental I LLC by Cody A. Hansen & Nicole D. Hansen,

\$209.000, 9/11/2018. 6435 Taylor Court, to Manuel Gomez Garcia & Stacy Gomez by Joyce Carol Shontere, \$190,000, 7/31/2018. 4704 Casswell Drive, to Gladys Holland by John C. Balazs Sr. & John C. Revocable

Trut Balazs Sr., \$186,000, 9/17/2018. 4308 Chipmunk Drive, to Property Owner 7 LLC by Catherine Kelly & Michael J. Kelly,

\$175,000, 9/20/2018. 6100 River Road, to Robert Holland Mayne Jr. by Robert A. Hogan III, \$173,000, 9/18/2018. 4737 Floramar Terrace, to Danny R. Ippolito & Karen K. Ippolito by Raynel Otero, \$171,000, 8/24/2018.

G708 Medlar Drive, to Anthony L. Glasser by John Ebert, \$170,000, 9/13/2018. 4539 Alligator Drive, to Joseph A. Geiss by Donna M. Ruark & Norris E. Ruark, \$165,000, 9/18/2018. 3330 Baugh Drive, to Guillermo Barroso &

Maria Madeline Barroso by Kristin Leiker & Mark Leiker, \$165,000, 9/20/2018. 11400 Golf Round Drive, to Linda L. Snover & Thomas D. Snover by Aida T. Linzaga & Linzaga Aida T Trustee, \$165,000, 9/13/2018. 5623 Sea Turtle Court, to Robin Moran & Thomas Moran by Michael Casey & Michael A. Casey, \$164,900, 9/19/2018.

3707 Modesto Street, to Hp Florida I LLC by Douglas L. Davidson & Susan E. Davidson, \$164,500, 9/17/2018. 4323 Royal Oak Lane, to Louis M. Forteza by Pearl A. Alster & Veronica Alster Muth,

\$154,000, 9/20/2018. 7415 Mengi Circle, to Michael L. Burton by Judith D. Hanson & Leslie A. Hanson, \$150,000, 9/14/2018.

6443 Bandura Avenue, to Jones Shanta L. Goods by Christina E. Wincer & Kevin J. Wincer, \$145,700, 9/14/2018. 3539 Madison Street, to Pedro Juan Gonzalez Edwards & Toro Alida Esther Rivera by Denise Keough, \$140,000, 9/17/2018. 3639 Grayton Drive, to Cynthia A. Baer & Mark S. Baer by Geraldine A. Beach & Edwin J. Sweda, \$140,000, 9/13/2018.

7833 Teal Drive, to Gary L. Branscomb by Catherine A. Towne, \$139,900, 9/20/2018. 5628 Virginia Avenue, to Willard P. Clark & Anna M. Pasquine by Stephen M. Grum III & Kara Christine Parris, \$130,000,

3935 Stratfield Drive, to Richard Rikabi by Kevin Silverstein, \$122,500, 9/20/2018. 9230 Golf View Drive, to Donald Jon Batt & Judy Ann Batt by Athena Zitella & Italo

Zitella, \$117,000, 9/25/2018. 10510 Millriver Drive, to Elizabeth J. Wolfe & Keith M. Wolfe by Frances Kohler, \$115,000,

PORT RICHEY 9826 San Sierra Way, to Scott A. Kuiperi

9/18/2018.

by Streamline Homes Inc, \$256,500, 9/21/2018. 8316 Golden Bear Loop, to Valerie D. Matos by Lizette Afanador & John N. Vann, \$162,000, 9/18/2018.

10735 Cedar Breaks Drive, to Raland E. Shingler & Ruth J. Shingler by Elizabeth R. Deceased Bode & John J. Bode, \$160,000, 9/25/2018

11326 Pond Court, to Cindy Garrett & Harley Garrett by Debra A. Tornatore & James E. Tornatore, \$151,900, 9/25/2018. 11240 White Oak Lane, to Anthony James Michael Corbin & Peter Leach by Patricia

Mortensen \$129,000, 9/21/2018 7924 San Miguel Drive, to Jennifer Falzarano & Krysta Falzarano by Frederick J. Goulden & Richard B. Goulden, \$122,000, 9/17/2018. 9316 Rainbow Lane, to Alex Powell by Aaron Buckley, \$110,000, 9/17/2018.

8946 Sterling Lane, to Tampa Bay Property Holdings LLC by Equity Trust Company & Melinda Ira Roberts, \$110,000, 9/21/2018. 7825 Tyson Drive, to Christina Robles & Eros Velazquez by Brenda J. Dodgion & James M. Deceased Dodgion, \$105,000, 8/20/2018.

SAN ANTONIO

29250 Caddyshack Lane, to Curtis S. Hardaway & Hardaway Debra Nappier by Sharon Dishner, \$209,000, 9/14/2018. 29406 Zeller Avenue, to June Wood & Larry Wood by Gloria E. Campos, \$157,000,

SPRING HILL

18713 Wellborn Lane, to Michael A. Caldwell Jr. & Michele Lee Dodson by Marilyn Caldwell & Michael A. Caldwell, \$250,000,

16036 Bonnie Brae Court, to Kimberly K. Garrity by Jean K. Manders & John P. Manders, \$245,000, 9/25/2018. 12322 Field Point Way, to Property Owner 7 LLC by Lisa Moser & David C. Payne, \$192,000, 9/20/2018. 17853 Littlewood Drive, to Kristina M. Edwards by Tiruwork Hailemariam, \$130,000, 9/11/2018.

17941 Student Acres Street, to Robert Blasewitz by Erik Hicks, \$75,000, 9/17/2018.

WESLEY CHAPEL

32201 Summerglade Drive, to Jennifer M. Svob & Michael J. Svob by Edward Duffy & Kathleen Duffy, \$481,000, 9/19/2018. 8535 Quail Run Drive, to Ellen Patz & Steven Patz by Debra Smith Swone & William A Swope, \$380,000, 9/18/2018. 28807 Crooked Stick Court, to Logan B.

Jarman by John C. Hentz & Kimberly F. Hentz, \$322,500, 9/10/2018. 1421 Baycrest Drive, to Ewa Jedrzejczyk & Tomasz Jedrzejczyk by Bertha R. Pastors & Michael Noel Rodriguez, \$302,500, 9/25/2018.

7604 Thunderhead Street, to Rico Aleiandro Figueroa & Vazquez Hilda M. Pantoja by Doris T. Gallagher & Dory T. Gallagher,

\$300,000, 9/25/2018. 29120 Rivergate Run, to Diane Frank by Catherine D. Grosser & Eberhard G. Grosser, \$292,500, 9/18/2018. 6127 Wesley Brook Drive, to Clinton Miller & Rebecca M. Miller by Leonor B. Shaw &

William A. Shaw, \$281,000, 9/26/2018. 2611 Silvermoss Drive, to Stephanie Defreest & Stormy Defreest by Inna Sandulyak & Oleg Sandulyak, \$280,000, 9/12/2018. 4411 Hawksley Place, to Althea Moitt & Eustace Moitt by Deonarine Sumeersam-

auth & Tiffany Sumeersarnauth, \$280,000,

9/19/2018. 5205 Maplebrook Way, to Keith Fay by Lewis T. Roberson & Shirley L. Roberson, \$279,900, 9/19/2018. 28721 Creekwood Drive, to Shelly White &

Terry R. White by Anabel S. Weis & David R. Weis, \$273,000, 9/14/2018. 4732 Mapletree Loop, to William Hancock by Clarelle D. Sylvain, \$268,000, 9/20/2018. 1451 Baythorn Drive, to Andrew S. Rubiano & Carmen E. Rubiano by Glen R. Aleo & Virginia E. Aleo, \$265,000, 9/7/2018.

6912 Pine Springs Drive, to Jennifer R.
Lunceford & Jonathan Taylor Nellson by Antionette Howard & Antionette Johnson, \$265,000, 9/20/2018. 4549 Gateway Boulevard, to Ively Fernandez

& Jesus Fernandez by Stephanie L. Roberts Parker & Stephanie Roberts Parker, \$260,000, 9/5/2018.

1542 Maximilian Drive, to Spencer Sarah Stewart by James T. Luedde & Linda A. Luedde, \$240,000, 9/19/2018. 4030 Constantine Loop, to Patricia Maufinet & Diego Bullon Vallejo by Carmen I. Fontan & Orlando Fontan, \$240,000, 9/24/2018.

7552 Shore Acres Street, to Brett Hutton by Erica L. Brock & Jordan Evan Brock, \$238,000, 9/21/2018. 6935 Boulder Run Loop, to Reynier Enrique Valdes Marti by Denz Inc, \$235,000,

30413 Colthurst Street, to Amber N. Matthews & William Tyler Matthews by David L. Mcferon & Sharon Mcferon, \$235,000, 9/21/2018.

6401 Buckhead Court, to Iryna Daubner by Chante Griffin, \$230,000, 9/24/2018. 27145 Coral Springs Drive, to Deutsche Bank National Trust Company As Trust & Gsaa Home Equity Trust 2006 10 by Hideko T. Cabe & Cabe Hideko T Unknown Spouse Of, \$228,100, 9/25/2018.

5350 War Admiral Drive, to Joseph G. Conrad by Burton Charles Leppla & Linda Rose Leppla, \$222,000, 9/19/2018. 5628 Dark Star Loop, to Barbara Allen by Federal National Mortgage Association &

Mae Fannie, \$219,900, 9/20/2018. 29443 Azalea Lane, to Richard S. Fotheringham by Bern Conrad, \$218,000, 9/5/2018. 7802 Mariners Harbour Drive, to Zoraida Lucia Aleman & Luis Enrique Aleman Bar-

rera by Josh A. Seletos & Shannon M. Seletos, \$216,000, 9/11/2018. 31418 Glendalough Way, to Reanna Gregory & Timothy Gregory by Sarah Elwood & Sarah Simmons, \$210,000, 9/4/2018.

1906 Ravenridge Street, to Elizabeth E. Page

by Annie T. Harmon & Kenneth L. Harmon, \$208,500, 9/19/2018. 4300 Old Waverly Court, to Aigner Carmen E.

Serrano by Bryan M. Fain & Sherry A. Fain, \$208,000, 9/6/2018. 31826 Turkeyhill Drive, to Gina Picard & Peter Picard by Gregory W. Grist & Kathi K. Grist, \$200,000, 9/25/2018. 31819 Blythewood Way, to Guerline Osterval

by Po Leung Chau & Chau Tany Christine Sok Hing, \$185,500, 9/18/2018. ZEPHYRHILLS

3834 Allen Road, to Angel R. Hernandez & Arlene Hernandez by Alchanelly Franco De Suriel & Luis Suriel, \$355,000, 9/12/2018. 7400 Chenkin Road, to Brandon Lee Grooms by Juan M. Almeida & Mary C. Palus Argumanis, \$215,900, 9/14/2018. 35547 Wickingham Court, to Betty Lennon &

Brian Lennon by Maureen Mason & Stephen L. Mason, \$205,000, 9/24/2018. 6847 Chenkin Road, to Daniel C. Wetherell & Susan C. Wetherell by Robin Pietkewicz & Will Pietkewicz, \$204,900, 9/21/2018. 6037 Twin Bridges Drive, to Camron R. L.

Buck & Stephanie Caruana by Marie E. Harris & Nicholas A. Harris, \$200,000, 9/14/2018. 37202 Temple Avenue, to Hector Hernandez Martinez by Kimberly A. Kaylor & Walter R. Kaylor, \$167,900, 9/19/2018.

Compiled from public records. This is not a complete listing of all the real estate transactions. Addresses reflect the location of the property that changed hands.

Know your candidates

U.S. Senate

It is one of the most expensive races in the country and the outcome could determine which party controls the U.S. Senate. Sen. Bill Nelson, a moderate Democrat, faces the toughest political challenge of his career against two-term Republican Gov. Rick Scott.

By Steve Contorno, National Political Correspondent

	Bill Nelson	Rick Scott		
Party	Democrat Republican			
Profession	U.S. Senator	Florida Governor		
About the candidate	Bill Nelson has served three terms in the U.S. Senate. A centrist Democrat, he was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1972 and later served in Congress for 12 years before an unsuccessful run for governor.	Rick Scott has served two terms as Florida's governor, a job her first won in 2010 on the backs of a tea party wave. Scott previously served as CEO of Hospital Corporation of America and is independently wealthy.		
Education	J.D., University of Virginia; Yale University	J.D., Southern Methodist University; University of Missouri, Kansas City		
Do you support any measures that address gun violence?	I have cosponsored legislation to ban assault weapons and expand universal background checks to include the transfer of any firearm.	Three weeks after the tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, (I) signed significant reforms to make Florida schools safer while keeping firearms out of the hands of mentally ill and dangerous individuals.		
Explain your position on the tariffs President Trump has imposed on Canada, Europe and Mexico.	These tariffs imposed by the Trump administration have sparked a trade war with some of our closest allies. It's causing the price of goods to go up and, if it's not resolved soon, some American companies are going to be forced to start laying people off. I have called on the Trump administration to take the steps necessary to end this trade war immediately.	I have heard directly from Florida companies who are worried that the administration's proposal regarding tariffs is not fair and consistent between countries and this is an issue I will continue discussing with the Administration to ensure Florida companies are treated fairly. I support free and open trade with the world because it is good for Florida and our economy.		
Should oil drilling off the Florida coast be banned or allowed?	(Former) U.S. Sen. Mel Martinez and I wrote the 2006 law that currently bans oil drilling as far out as 235 miles off of Florida's Gulf Coast until 2022. I have filed new legislation to make that ban permanent.	I have opposed offshore drilling. As soon as (Interior) Secretary (Ryan) Zinke was confirmed, I met with him, I talked to him about that we didn't want it off our coast, and then when they came out with their plan right around Christmas, I immediately called and asked if we could meet, and he was gracious enough to come down, and the right thing happened. There's not going to be offshore drilling.		
Do you support Trump's approach to immigration?	We need a comprehensive immigration reform plan and we need to end this administration's policy of ripping families apart at the border with no plan to reunify.	The chaos at our border will continue until we secure the border. Washington's failure to secure our border has been a bipartisan failure for many decades I've long been an outspoken opponent of illegal immigration and I remain so. But I refuse to watch these children be punished for the actions of their parents.		
Assets/ liabilities/ income	Assets: \$1,459,041 - \$6,498,000 Liabilities: \$850,000 - \$1,750,000 Income: \$57,074	Assets: Reported net worth of \$232.6 million; \$215 million, is in a qualified blind trust. Liabilities: None listed		
Personal	Home: Orlando Marital status: Married to Grace Nelson Children: Two adult children	Home: Naples Marital status: Married to Ann Scott Children: Two adult children		
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$18.7 million Expenditures: \$6.3 million	Contributions: \$31 million Expenditures: \$28 million		
On the web	Website: www.nelsonforsenate.com Twitter: @NelsonforSenate	Website: rickscottforflorida.com Twitter: @ScottforFlorida		
ABOUT THE JOB:	A U.S. senator holds a statewide office and se	erves a six-year term. The salary is \$174,000 .		

School Board | District 5

Candidates Megan Harding and Tara O'Connor received nearly identical vote totals in the August primary and now square off to replace retiring board member Steve Luikart.

Ru Leffrey S. Solochek Times Staff Writer

By Jeffrey S. Solochek	By Jeffrey S. Solochek, Times Staff Writer				
	Megan Harding	Tara O'Connor			
Profession	Teacher	Attorney			
About the candidate	Megan Harding, 28, is a lifelong Pasco County resident. She interned at Pasco County schools while earning her degree and has worked as a teacher in area charter and traditional schools since 2012. This is her first run for public office.	Tara O'Connor, 46, moved to Pasco County as a child and has remained since. She has been an active school volunteer as a parent, while also working as a lawyer and participating in local civic organizations. This is her first attempt to seek elected office.			
Education	Harding has a bachelor's degree in education from the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg.	O'Connor has a bachelor's degree from Eckerd College and a law degree from Stetson University College of Law.			
What are your views on school rezoning and crowding?	Harding said the board's recent actions were justifiable. However, she added, "people felt their voice wasn't being heard, and all the groundwork they laid was brushed aside We may not always get our way, but we at least need to be heard." She added, "The students who are newly enrolled [as in just moved] should be rezoned."	"The district has to be fully transparent throughout the process, including meetings with the parents and students in affected areas. The process isn't an easy one, but parties want the opportunity to be heard."			
Should the district seek a tax referendum to support daily operations?	"We need to look closer at our budget, dissect it with a fine-tooth comb, and then if we really cannot eliminate unnecessary items, we need to not be afraid and fight for what we need."	"I believe it is worth exploring the option as the budget is extremely lean, given the mandates for school safety and mental health."			
Should the district elect its superintendent?	"If we made changes, it would help eliminate the career politicians and those who are a part of the 'good ole boys.' This in my opinion would help better our school system."	"I want to maintain my right to vote and elect a superintendent."			
Assets/ liabilities/ income	Assets: Home, pension fund, automobile, checking account Liabilities: Car loan, home mortgage, student loan Income: Teacher salary	Assets: Home, investments, bank account Liabilities: Student loans, car loan Income: Law firm salary and shares			
Personal	Home: Port Richey Marital status: Married Children: None	Home: Hudson Marital status: Married Children: Two			
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$28,721 Contributions: \$39,050 Expenditures: \$19,901 Expenditures: \$30,972				
On the web	Website: www.mrsharding.com Twitter: @meganhardingsc1	taraoconnorforschoolboard.com Twitter: @taraoconnor2018			
AROUT THE IOR. The five-member Pasco County School Board adopts policies and budgets for the school					

Governor

Andrew Gillum and Ron DeSantis are running to be Florida's chief executive. If Gillum wins, he would be the first Democrat to be elected to the governor's mansion since Lawton Chiles in 1994. If DeSantis wins, he would be the fourth straight Republican to occupy the post, which is currently held by Rick Scott. This is the first run at a statewide office for both Gillum and DeSantis. Editor's note: Because the DeSantis campaign declined to answer the Times' candidate questionnaire, some of the candidate answers below were pulled from public statements to ensure issue parity.

	ts to ensure issue parity. nd Emily L. Mahoney, Times Staff Writers		
	Ron DeSantis	Andrew Gillum	
Party	Republican	Democrat	
Profession	Former U.S. representative	Mayor of Tallahassee	
gradua vard Ui ecutor	Desantis, 40, was a U.S. congressman representing northeast Florida until he resigned the post in 2018 to run for governor. The conservative Republican and Freedom Caucus member was endorsed by U.S. President Donald Trump. DeSantis graduated from Yale University and Harvard University before serving as a prosecutor with the U.S. Navy.	Gillum, 39, has beet the mayor of Tallahassee since 2014 Before that, the libb Democrat, a graduate of FAMU, serve on the Tallahassee city commission for over a decade after getting elected in 2003 at the age of 2 the youngest to get elected to the commission in city history. His longshot b for governor was given a boost when was endorsed by Vermont Sen. Bern Sanders, becoming an instant favorit with progressives.	
Education	B.A. from Yale University, J.D. from Harvard Law School	Florida A&M University, B.A., Political Science	
What is your position on Medicaid expansion in Florida?	Currently, Medicaid in Florida covers the most vulnerable in our society, serving as a much-needed safety net. Expanding Medicaid, however, would extend to ablebodied adults. That's not what Medicaid was designed for, that's not what taxpayers pay for, and that's not how health care or government should work. We've got to increase access and drive down costs on health care. The best way we can do that is to make sure we are creating an environment where everyone has a great education that leads to a job where they are covered or they have the ability to buy their own insurance in the market. I believe that access to quality able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able to a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Rick Scott, Trump, and Republican lawm have threatened that access for the able health care is a fundame not a privilege. But Ri		
How would	The cornerstone of a comprehensive	Our environment belongs to all of us a	

How would you solve the toxic green algae crisis surrounding Lake Okeechobee?

solution to Lake Okeechobee is restoring the Everglades, with the centerpiece being the completion of a southern reservoir to store water. Beginning day one, I will work with the Trump administration and Congress to ensure the federal government honors its 20-vear old funding promise to CERP (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan) by appropriating its \$200 million in matching federal dollars to build the Southern Reservoir and complete the entire suite of projects. The 120-billion-gallon reservoir will be built primarily on state land and will serve as a dynamic storage system discharging clean water into Everglades National Park and then into the Florida Bay

it's time we put scientists back in charge — not the corporate polluters. I'm ready to fight and protect our precious environment on day one by re-establishing several programs that should never have been cut, like the Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force to combat the effects of red tide and toxic algae. I would also put some environmental protection back into the Department of Environmental Protection and finally hold corporate polluters accountable for the pollution and runoff they dump into our groundwater.

How would you approach funding of public schools?

To maximize Florida taxpayers' investment in our students, I will implement the 80% Classroom Spending Plan, which ensures that 80% of public K-12 education spending goes directly into the classroom. This will cut bureaucratic waste and administrative inefficiency and ensure that money is being spent where it matters most. To determine where wasteful spending occurs, I will direct the Commissioner of Education and the State Board of Education to oversee a complete operational and financial audit of the Florida Department of Education to identify funding that can be put back into the classroom.

As a product of Florida's public schools, I know how a quality public education can interrupt intergenerational poverty. That's why as Governor, I'm committed to investing \$1 billion into our public schools — and I'm the only candidate with a plan to pay for it. As Governor, I'll adjust our state's corporate income tax rate and recoup \$1 billion from Donald Trump's tax giveaway. I'll use those funds to pay new teachers a \$50,000 starting salary, raise pay for veteran school teachers and staff to the national average, invest in SHOP 2.0 and vocational training, and rebuild our crumbling public schools.

What's a specific example of an economic goal you would have for your administration?

know that for business to flourish and job growth to continue, we must be as competitive as possible. As Governor, I will work to lower this business tax to encourage businesses to move to Florida and help Florida-based businesses continue to grow. Lowering this tax will help spur the creation of more high wage jobs.

Reduce the Corporate Income Tax. I

Our state's devastating income inequality forces families to live paycheck to paycheck, because our economy isn't built for everyone to succeed. As Mayor, I've presided over Florida's fastest-growing local economy, President Obama named Tallahassee a TechHire city for our commitment to training workers, and we eliminated our local business tax, saving businesses \$2 million annually. I believe the way forward for Florida's economy starts with ensuring workers get the vocational and technical training they need for good jobs. attracting those good jobs by investing in our state's schools and infrastructure, and embracing technology - from ridesharing and home-sharing to renewable energy production — that will remake Florida into an innovation economy that works for all.

Assets/ liabilities/ income Assets: \$819,545 Liabilities: \$527,350 Income: \$201,500

Home: Palm Coast

Liabilities: \$535,530 Income: \$176,926 Home: Tallahassee

Assets: \$878,230

Personal

Marital status: Married Children: 2 Contributions: \$30,446,348 Marital status: Married Children: 3 Contributions: \$23,514,949.29

Campaign fundraising
On the web

Expenditures::\$25,128,988

Website: www.rondesantis.com
Twitter: @RonDeSantisFL

Expenditures: \$15,021,150.43 Website: www.andrewgillum.com Twitter: @AndrewGillum

ABOUT THE JOB: Florida's governor is the state's highest ranking executive. He or she oversees the state's regulatory agencies under the executive branch and has the power to sign or veto laws passed by the Legislature. He or she also fills open judicial vacancies by appointing jurists across the state.

Breaking News – delivered as it happens.

Know your candidates >>

Attorney General

The race for attorney general matches state Rep. Sean Shaw, D-Tampa, and former judge Ashley Moody, a Tampa Republican. Moody is a former circuit judge, federal prosecutor and civil lawyer. Current Attorney General Pam Bondi is term-limited. By William March, Times Correspondent

	Ashley Moody	Sean Shaw
Party	Republican	Democrat
Profession	Lawyer, former judge and federal prosecutor	Lawyer
About the candidate	Ashley Moody, 43, a Plant City native now living in Tampa, is a former federal pros- ecutor and civil lawyer who was elected to a Hillsborough circuit judgeship in 2006 and re-elected in 2012. She left the office to run for attorney general, and defeated state Rep. Frank White, R-Pensacola, in a primary. She has been active in civic and legal charitable causes and is a former president of the Univer- sity of Florida Blue Key honorary society. She contends that her experience in law enforcement makes her best qualified for the office.	Sean Shaw, 40, of Tampa, grew up in Tallahassee and works with a law firm that represents policyholders in insurance disputes. He previously was appointed by former Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink as state insurance consumer advocate. He was elected to the state House in 2016 and defeated Ryan Torrens of Tampa in the attorney general primary. He promises that as attorney general he will act against corrupt business practices and predatory corporations, will investigate President Donald Trump's business practices in Florida, and withdraw the state from in a lawsuit challenging the Affordable Care Act.
Education	Plant City High School; bachelors and masters degrees in accounting and law degree, University of Florida; Masters in international law, Stetson University	Leon High School; BA, Princeton University, 2000, JD, University of Florida 2003
Do you support Florida's lawsuit against the	"Yes. As a judge and prosecutor, I saw first-hand those that sought to profit from the opioid epidemic and the lives destroyed as a result. Those responsible must be held accountable a doctor wrongfully prescribing drugs or some of the largest companies in the world engaged in the conduct described in the complaint. However, the lawsuit, by itself, is not an end to this crisis We will move forward with a targeted, data-backed approach, focusing on law enforcement, addiction, and education."	"It is highly disappointing that it took (Bondi) until the end of her term to file this lawsuit. The role of the pharmaceutical companies in prolonging and exacerbating this crisis has been well known for years. As ground zero for pill mills, Florida should have been leading on this issue I worry that Floridians will not see the damages they deserve because we were not out in front. I will vigorously pursue this case."
What are your thoughts on the gun legislation that was passed this year (SB 7026) by Florida lawmakers?	"While many aspects of SB 7026 are commendable and will make a difference in preventing another Parkland tragedy I do not support making it illegal for competent law-abiding adults to purchase firearms Those without parents are on their own at 18. The law would leave them defenseless. We will work to deal with the mentally ill who have firearms and provide the necessary resources to protect schools We must improve our justice system to effectively address mental illness in society."	"I agree with the three-day waiting period (but) voted against this legislation because arming teachers was a poison pill I could not swallow My approach: challenging the constitutionality of the gun lobby's preemption of local governments' ability to pass firearms safety laws enforcing the firearms laws already in statute and advocating for a ban on assault weapons and high capacity magazines; closing loopholes that allow violent individuals to purchase guns; challenging (laws that give) gun manufacturers immunity in court for their role."
Please explain what your top priority would be as attorney general and how you would address it.	"As a conservative, I will vigorously enforce the law and defend the Constitution Florida's next Attorney General must be a strong supporter of the men and women within law enforcement. I will be a partner that pushes for training and resources that will keep them safe as they protect us. The strength of our judicial system stems from a legal process that is fair and perceived as fair. I will lead on how we can foster a trust between law enforcement and all the communities they serve."	"My top priority is cutting down on the senseless gun violence plaguing our state by pushing for common sense gun safety reforms and enacting the principles I laid out above as Attorney General. When a child is shot every seventeen hours in your state, it is clear there is an epidemic. We need to ban assault weapons and high capacity magazines, institute universal background checks, and work with our local communities to find solutions to keep our citizens safer."
Please explain how campaign contributions don't (or do) influence how Florida's top law enforcement official subsequently addresses issues involving donors to their campaign.	"As a conservative, I will vigorously enforce the law and defend the Constitution Florida's next Attorney General must be a strong supporter of the men and women within law enforcement. I will be a partner that pushes for training and resources that will keep them safe as they protect us. The strength of our judicial system stems from a legal process that is fair and perceived as fair. I will lead on how we can foster a trust between law enforcement and all the communities they serve."	"The simple answer is they shouldn't. Unfortunately, we do not live in a world in which we don't have to raise money to get our message out. However, those contributions should never influence how you prosecute or pursue a case Under our current Attorney General, it is clear that she was motivated in some cases by the donations she was receiving."
Assets/ liabilities/ income	Assets: \$3,488,267 Liabilities: \$469,243 Income: \$183,969	Assets: \$180,702 Liabilities: \$170,000 Income: \$159,697
Personal	Moody comes from a family that has been in Plant City for five generations. She is married to a Drug Enforcement Administration agent, Justin Duralia, and they have two sons.	Shaw is single. He's the son of the late Leander Shaw, Florida's first black Supreme Court chief justice.
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$2,913,400 Expenditures: \$2,837,022	Contributions: \$1,072,906 Expenditures: \$580,539
On the web	Website: electashleymoody.com Twitter: @VoteAshleyMoody	Website: seanshaw.com Twitter: @SShawFL

enforcement officer. The attorney general is also one of four members of the state Cabinet, along with the governor, chief financial officer and agriculture commissioner. The salary is \$128,972.

Share the Times.

Donate your newspaper to a classroom when you go on vacation.



To donate, visit tampabay.com/subscribe

To learn more about our Newspaper in Education program, visit tampabay.com/nie

Chief Financial Officer

insurance

what are ways you would work to

market and

improve it?

More than two-thirds

of Florida's

budget is

contracts

What is the role of

to properly

audit these

contracts

-- such as

and prisons

-- to make

are held

What are

you could

four votes in Florida's

Cabinet as

Assets/ liabilities/

income

Personal

Campaign fundraising

CFO?

sure vendors

accountable?

SunPass

with vendors.

Florida's CFO

ter left to become financed Demo- conservative. The being financed	seeks to win the job he was appointed the CFO at Florida Atlantic University is crat in Jeremy Ring, who served eight the race has become a particularly nasty by criminals. Solution 18	n 2017. To do, he'll have to beat a well years in the Florida Senate as a fiscal
	Jimmy Patronis	Jeremy Ring
Party	Republican	Democrat
Profession	Chief Financial Officer	Investor
About the candidate	It's been a while, but Jimmy Patronis, 46, has thrust himself into campaign heat once again. After three years of working in plum positions Gov. Rick Scott appointed him to, he's fighting to hold onto his current cabinet-level job as the state's chief financial officer. The incumbent candidate for CFO was born to the well-known Panama City family behind Captain Anderson's restaurant and has remained involved with the restaurant — and politics — for most of his adult life. er has to remain blank. interned in the Senate while attending Florida State University and was appointed to the Florida Elections Commission upon graduating. In 1998, he was re-appointed by then-Gov. Jeb Bush. In the years that followed, Patronis represented Northwest Florida in the statehouse.	Ring, 48, was born in Canton, Mass. — an affluent suburb southwest of Boston — to a garment salesman father and homemaker mother. In 1994, Ring started work at a boutique ad agency. Ring befriended an ad scheduler (Yahoo! co-founder, Jerry Yang) and was hired soon after. While an employee of Yahoo, Ring enjoyed a life in the circle of tech socialites, taking work trips to places like Monterey, Calif., and throwing lavish hotel parties that prompted "not-so-subtle requests" for the guests to leave. In 2001, Ring left Yahoo! for an opportunity in Florida. He won a seat in the Florida Senate in 2006, where he served for eight years. While in the Senate, he was chair of the Oversight Committee. He often had his hands on pension reform bills, and said if the CFO had a hand in a bill, it was run through his committee.
Education	Associate's degree in restaurant manage- ment from Gulf Coast Community College and his bachelor's degree in political sci- ence from Florida State University	Bachelor's degree in advertising from Syracuse University.
Insurance consumer service is managed by the CFO. How would you rate Florida's	I believe we must root out insurance fraud and waste. Insurance fraud is not a victimless crime and is the main cause that drives up insurance rates. I am proud of the work that's been done since I've taken office. So far, we've arrested 885 people for insurance fraud since I took office,	Florida's insurance market is a "house of cards". Rates are artificially low, which results in potential destabilized market and massive risk to the residents of the state. The legislature suppresses insurance rates for political expediency without regard to the back-end risk post

office. So far, we've arrested 885 people insurance rates for political expediency for insurance fraud since I took office, without regard to the back-end risk post resulting in 767 successful prosecutions. a catastrophic event. I'd shift the focus We have to look for new ways to stay from rates first to risk first. I believe that ahead of the criminals that commit insurallowing the Florida Catastrophic Fund to ance fraud. After Hurricane Irma, I created sell catastrophic financial securities (Cat the Disaster Fraud Action Strike Team to Bonds, Insurance Linked Securities) in put boots on the ground to help attack an open market will move risk away from insurance fraud head on. We go after Floridians. Citizens Insurance needs sigfraud, but we also alert Floridians of how nificant reform. While weight needs to be given to families who have lived in smaller to spot and prevent fraud. dwellings for lengthy periods of time, new expensive homebuilding should have to pay a more fair rate so others outside of flood zones or away from the coast are not bearing all the risk. Other insurers must be allowed an incentive to write policies As CFO, I'm the state's business manager Currently the CFO is somewhat hand-

and I know that strong asset managecuffed because they do not have the abilment at a state level is critical. My office ity to review contracts with vendors prior performs state contract reviews, audits to execution. I intend to work with the legislature to change this, thus allowing for payments over \$35,000, and audits pre-auditing of agreements. It is imposvendor contracts that are more than \$750,000. We're charged with being the sible without massive appropriations and hiring dozens if not hundreds of auditors watchdogs over the state's finances and ensuring there are checks and balances for the Department of Financial Affairs to audit every agreement in the state as the in place. I am proud of the incredible team we have in the Division of Accounting system is set up currently. The FLAIR sysand Auditing. This capable and talented tem has no auditing capabilities. The new PALM system must include auditing funcstaff look at elements that make a good contract and review agreements that protionality, perhaps even using blockchain vide goods and services to the state. My technology which creates a technological office protects taxpayers by making sure solution allowing the state to more thorthat we are getting the highest impact for oughly audit all of its agreements. Clearly Floridians' tax dollars. We also are quick payment should be withheld until the to look at contracts that are executed. agreements have provided the services contracted for. For instance, audits for all contracts over \$750,000 are completed within 30 days after being signed and placed into the

The role of Florida's Chief Financial Officer pressing issues facing is incredibly important. On the Cabinet. we oversee the Office of Insurance Regulation and the Office of Financial Regulathe state that tion, working to ensure they are looking address with out for Florida consumers. My role also being one of includes making sure Citizens Property Insurance is operating at their most efficient and with the highest ethical standards. We are constantly looking for new ways to guarantee insurance rates are low. I believe Floridians deserve to keep more of their hard-earned money. One of the most important roles I have as a member of our Cabinet is to look after the fiscal health of the state, including our pension. We must ensure our pension plan is as strong as possible for both current and future retirees. After a lifetime of service, workers deserve to have peace of mind regarding their retirement. Approximately \$2 out of every \$3 paid to a retiree today comes from investment gains, not from taxpayers. As a result, we are one of the lowest "all-in" cost providers among our peers. I'm proud that last year Florida's pension fund showed a positive gain for the ninth straight year in a row.

Contributions: \$2.1 million

Expenditures: \$793,548

Florida Accountability Contract Tracking

System.

Reforming the state Clemency program, allowing for non-violent ex-offenders to receive their rights back through a very seamless process. Purchasing land (through existing agreements such as the contract negotiated in the Crist administration with US Sugar or voting on land leases south of the Lake Okeechobee) that would provide the state much needed land to build a reservoir to hold and treat water. Having a much more serious role than current administration with regards to being a Trustee to the State Board of Administration (Florida Retirement System). The legislature is constantly trying to attack the Retirement system and its beneficiaries with entirely unfounded claims of the weakness of the system, when in fact by all financial rating accounts is one of the strongest retirement systems in America..

Assets: \$6.8 million (real estate, investments, partnerships) Liabilities: \$398,882 (mortgage, loan) Income: \$504,954 (CFO salary, restauarant, investments)	Assets: \$5.1 million (investments) Liabilities: \$2.2. million (mortgage, line of credit, auto) Income: \$329,470 (investments, consult ing)
Patronis lives in Panama City with his wife, Katie, and sons Theo and Johnny.	Divorced; engaged to Rachel Friedland; four children.

Contributions: \$413,151

Expenditures: \$387,157

On the web Website: joinjimmy.com Website: jeremyring.com Twitter: @JimmyPatronis Twitter: @JeremyRingFL **ABOUT THE JOB:** The CFO, considered the business manager for the state, oversees a variety of offices, mainly handling the state's finances, retirement fund and both the state's financial regulation and insurance commissioners. The cabinet officers, including the CFO, work with the governor on matters such as the purchase of land, clemency and law enforcement. The CFO makes about \$128,972 annually.

Know your candidates

State Senate | District 20

Tom Lee

Republican

Party

This race pits incumbent Tom Lee, Republican and former Florida Senate president, against Democratic newcomer Kathy Lewis, a writer and motivational speaker. They're competing for a district that leans Republican and covers the corner where Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk counties meet and includes much of the University of South Florida area. By Philip Morgan, Times Staff Writer

Kathy Lewis

Democrat

Profession Home builder, executive with Sabal Writer and motivational speaker. Now Homes of Florida, Inc. cares for grown autistic daughter full About the Tom Lee, 56, a veteran Kathy Lewis, 57, won candidate of 16 years in the Florida the Democratic prima-Senate, took 85 perry with 60 percent of cent of the vote in the the vote over Joy Gibprimary race against son, a 40-year-old labor little-known challenger union official. Lewis John Houman. Lee ran said she was inspired for state Chief Financial to run by her struggle Officer in 2006 but lost. with the state bureaucracy over government aid and services for her autistic, adult daughter. Hillsborough Community College, Johns Hopkins University, bachelor's in Education AA Degree; University of Tampa, B.S. **Business** The Florida In February, the Legislature understand-Earlier this year, the Florida Senate Senate ably shifted its focus to addressing the changed its employment policy, but did proposed tragedy in Parkland. As #metoo moved not change its formal rules. The Florida Senate should incorporate sexual harassoff the front page, sexual harassment rules that would legislation moved to the back burner. A lot ment policy into its formal rules, just like of this is common sense. Most people in address the Florida House did. If a senator is found sexual the Capitol were raised with manners and guilty of sexual harassment, the taxpayknow right from wrong. The Senate did ers should be reimbursed for the cost of harassment earlier this the investigation. Additionally, Senators amend its rules to require that Senators complete workplace decorum training, should not be able to use political comvear. but didn't pass but they should pass the bill that was left mittees to finance their defense during them. What should, if pending in 2018. an investigation ... Sexual harassment is entirely inappropriate in any workplace, anything, and the Florida Senate is no exception. state lawmakers do to address sexual misconduct in the Capitol? Please Reduce the micro-management of public 1) My top priority is improving our health describe your education from Tallahassee (this includes care system in Florida ... My adult daughtop three legislative excessive testing), Increase access and ter has autism, and ensuring that she has efficiency in health care (the current path the care she needs and that she is entitled priorities. we are on is not sustainable) and improve to is a full-time job. (2) Increasing pubworkforce development programs and lic funding for schools is another priority. funding in K-12, Community Colleges This is an issue that I am very passionate and Apprenticeship Programs (too many about because I know first-hand how a people coming out of the state university quality education can help lift people out system with more student loan debt than of poverty. I grew up incredibly poor, but because I had teachers who cared about employable skills). me, access to after-school programs, and resources available to me both inside and outside the classroom, I was able to succeed and make a better life for myself and my family. ...3) Raising the minimum wage is also one of my priorities. Right now, over 50 percent of Floridians are working in jobs that pay less than \$15 an nour. It we raise the minimum wage millions of families will be able to lift themselves out of poverty. As Senate Appropriations Chairman, I Would you I would support accepting federal Medicaid expansion money. Accepting Medicsupport supported a plan in 2015 to draw down or oppose federal funding to provide health insuraid expansion money would make health accepting ance for low-income Floridians with a job. care more affordable and accessible for federal Medicaid Ironically, under the Trump administration, low-income Floridians. Florida is consis-CMS has recently approved similar plans tently ranked as having one of the worst expansion for other states. The office of Economic health care systems in the country, and money? and Demographic Research testified that we're doomed to continue on this path the Senate plan would have created tens Please if we don't accept Medicaid expansion of thousands of health care jobs in Florida you would and saved the state \$500-million over 10 years. Medicaid has its problems... access make health care more is poor, reimbursement rates are low and outcomes need improvement, but the curand rent system of funding low-income care in accessible to Florida is inefficient and the program continues to grow at an unsustainable rate, low-income while Floridians watch their health care tax dollars go to support other states. Would you I support evidence-based legislation that I support closing the gun show loophole keeps guns out of the hands of criminals support on background checks for gun buyers, Personal or oppose closing the and the mentally ill. All licensed firearm banning assault weapons, and limiting dealers in Florida are required to conduct the size of magazines. I was extremely gun show background checks regardless of where a disappointed when the Legislature did loophole on transaction takes place. Only private firenot pass more common-sense gun con-Campaign fundraising background checks for trol measures to protect Floridians, and arm sales are unregulated. I do not support a ban on semi-automatic weapons. I I will be fighting for this issue when I'm On the web gun buyers? don't know a lot about magazines. Banning weapons? Limiting the size of magazines? Assets: \$5,117,415 (home, stocks) Assets: \$97,000 Assets/ liabilities/ Liabilities: \$865,905 Liabilities: \$42,021 income Income:\$368,255 Income: \$465,024 (jointly with husband) Personal Married to Hillsborough Circuit Judge Married to physician Betram Austin Lewis Laurel Lee. They live in Thonotosassa and Jr. They have two children, Katherine have three children: Ryan, Brandon and Josephine Lewis, 24, and Remington Faith Lee Chloe Lewis, 21. Campaign fundraising Contributions: \$382,432 Contributions: \$18,374 Expenditures: \$162,991 Expenditures: \$17,440 On the web Facebook: @TomLeeFlorida Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ Twitter: @TomLeeFL KathyLewisfor2018 Twitter: https://twitter.com/KathyLew-

State Senate | District 16

Republican Ed Hooper and Democrat Amanda Murphy are vying for the District 16 seat, which has been vacant since December, when Republican Jack Latvala resigned amid a

	Ed Hooper	Amanda Murphy	
Party	Republican	Democrat	
Profession	Partner at Consus Group Consulting	Vice president of investments at Wealth Management Group of Ray- mond James	
About the candidate	Hooper, 70, has been a longtime presence in Tampa Bay politics, serving on Clearwater City Council from 1996 to 2000 and in the Florida House of Representatives from 2006 to 2014. He was a fire-fighter for 28 years before politics and has spent the past 20 years consulting clients on government approvals and permitting, primarily in Pinellas County. After an unsuccessful bid for Pinellas County Commission in 2014, Hooper said he's running for office again to make an impact on critical issues in Tampa Bay, like transportation, flooding and ending the assignment of benefits.		
Education	Statesville (NC) High School, diploma	Florida State University, B.S. politica science	
Would you support or oppose accepting federal Medicaid expansion money? Explain how you would make health care more affordable and accessible to low-income Floridians	Opposes Medicaid expansion. "The senate had a plan four years ago that had a low income insurance component with managed care. It beat straight Medicaid expansion. I think Medicaid is the worst delivery of health care on the planet. Doctors don't want to deal with it. Dentists don't take it. Part of that's got to be a federal solution Let's start over at the federal level and come up with something better."	"Support. We are not only leaving lions of dollars on the table each ye we are actually costing ourselves unnecessary expenses in not insu ing millions of working Floridians. This simple and available means vexpand health access for low-income Floridians, improve we place health and save us millions eyear in uncompensated care to outpublic hospitals."	
Would you support or oppose criminal justice reforms such as raising the threshold amounts that qualify as felony thefts and giving judges more sentencing discretion for nonviolent drug trafficking convictions?	"Support. It's either that or we've got to start building more prisons. I'm a big believer in, especially younger people, are more prone to make stupid mistakes that could follow them for the rest of their lives and ruin a potential career based on one dumb thing that happened when they were a teenager. It's easier to rehabilitate than keep putting people in jail."	"I would not be for raising threshold amounts on felony thefts. I have see too many people not prosecuted where the limits currently set. I do support more discretion for nonviolent drug and drug related offenses except trafficking. It is one thing for someone to be a user (we need to have programs to get them clean) but when someone enters into trafficking, I support strosentencing guidelines and strict purishment."	
Would you support or oppose closing the gun show loophole on background checks for gun buyers? Banning assault weapons? Limiting the size of magazines?	Yes. If you're going to buy a weapon, you ought to have to be able to prove you're not wanted, not a felon, not a risk, not mentally ill. I don't think they have anybody at the entrance to gun shows that can confirm that." No on banning assault weapons: "It's not the gun that's the problem it's the person that's the problem." Yes on limiting capacity: "Thirty rounds ought to be sufficient for any clip."	"I support our 2nd Amendment and feel that the law is the law – we have laws to require background checks waiting periods and the like. We should make sure those laws are uniformly applied regardless of whe you purchase a weapon. We should ban military-style assault weapons and limit the size of magazines."	
Would you support or oppose changing state law to allow cities to hold voter referendums to raise the sales tax for transit projects instead of continuing to require those referendums to be held countywide?	"Yes if the voters of any political body, city, county, if they want to impose upon themselves additional ways to solve their problems, in the big picture it doesn't do a darn thing. But in the day to day traffic they have to deal with, if that's what their voters want, good for them. I think you have to look at every option, even the ones we don't know about yet."	Yes. As Florida lawmakers pass mo unfunded mandates, local governments need more flexibility. We need to reevaluate the gas tax which is a declining source of revenue. We need to fund our roads based on usage a not gas consumption or at least son combination of the two. I am leery of managed toll lanes especially in areas where local commuters cannaccess them. I am also fearful FDOT is re-engineering roadways simply that add more managed lanes.	
Assets/liabilities/ income	Assets: two properties, three checking accounts and cash, six investment accounts Liabilities: none Income: \$7,898 monthly from business, pension, retirements add more managed lanes. Assets: home, bank accour share, stocks, mutual funds Liabilities: three mortgages Income: Raymond James & Associates salary \$125,612		
Personal	Home: Clearwater	Home: New Port Richev	

ABOUT THE JOB: State senators serve four-year terms and are paid \$29,697 annually. District 16 covers northern Pinellas and western portions of Pasco counties.

Home: New Port Richey

Contributions: \$195,018

Expenditures: \$74,281

Marital status: declined to disclose

Children: declined to disclose

Website: amandamurphyfl.com

Twitter: @AmandaMurphyFL

Home: Clearwater

Contributions: \$603,044

Expenditures: \$364,851

Marital status: wife, Lee Ellen Hooper

Children: Brian Hooper, Ann Hall

Website: hooper4senate.com

Twitter: @EdHooper4FLSen

Be picky about your next employee.

Tampa Bay Times | MONSTER

tampabay.com/joblink



About the job: The winner of the race will serve a four-year term representing Florida Senate District 20, which covers parts of Hillsborough, Pasco and Polk counties. The job pays \$29,697 annually.

Every day, the Tampa Bay Times delivers stories about the amazing people in our community and the news that matters to you. Visit tampabay.com/subscribe

Know your candidates >>

Commissioner of Agriculture

XyDemocrats don't typically compete for this Florida Cabinet position, but the minority party hopes they can surprise with Nikki Fried, a Broward County attorney who is an ardent support of expanding access to medical marijuana. She faces the conservative Caldwell, who became a champion of Big Sugar interests while pushing legislation in the Florida House that delayed improving water quality in the Everglades for another decade. By Emily L. Mahoney, Times/Herald Tallahassee Bureau

Matt Caldwell Nikki Fried **Party** Republican Democrat Profession State lawmaker, real estate appraiser Lawyer **About the** A seventh-gen-Fried, 40. is a promicandidate eration Floridian, nent advocate for Caldwell, 37, has increasing access served in the Florida to medical mari-House since 2010, juana and lobbied extensively for the representing the North Fort Myers passage of a 2016 area. While in the bill that expanded Legislature, he marijuana use for sponsored bills to further support and the terminally ill. She has also worked permanently fund restoration of the to ensure passage of a bill in 2014 Everglades, and worked to steer the that granted millions for disabled dependent children to have access to state toward acquiring more land for conservation. Caldwell was the first lawyers. As an attorney, she defended statewide candidate to be endorsed by homeowners facing foreclosure during the National Rifle Association... the Great Recession. Education Florida Gulf Coast University, B.A., his-University of Florida, bachelors, tory; Edison Community College, A.A masters, law degree University of Florida, bachelors, masters, law degree What are your top 1. Ensure concealed weapon permits 1. Perform an audit of the entire departthree priorities? are overseen by a professional who ment. Recent revelations of failures fully understands and upholds our to properly oversee permitting of 2nd Amendment rights. 2. Continue concealed carry potentially indicate to advocate for the removal of barriers broader mismanagement. Reorient to economic growth, most particularly the Department to focus more on consumer advocacy and services. 2. Advoin nonsensical regulation and burdensome tax policy. The Commissioner cate for access to medical marijuana. should advocate for well-rounded eco-Ensure there is oversight of pesticides nomic opportunities in our rural areas, used in growing medical marijuana. 3. not just for farming land but (also) for Ensure that the Department considers packaging, processing, and manufacthe environmental and community impacts of its decision-making, rather turing. 3. Water is our most important resource. Balance the demands of than acting as a rubber stamp for big growing cities with the needs of our corporate actors. farmers and our environment. Are you satisfied Of course I am not satisfied with the The Dept. of Agriculture should conwith how the tinue to manage and oversee the Department's handling of concealed concealed weapons program. As with Department of Agriculture carry. As a single woman who lives all programs in the public or private alone, I became a gun owner and concurrently handles sector, program management requires cealed carry permit-holder. Uncovering the state's ongoing performance measures, perthe full nature of the failures would be formance reviews, and implementation one of my first priorities. It's probably concealed of best practices. ... It is critical that we wiser to house concealed carry perscreen & process CWL applicants effiprogram? Could mits at FDLE, but that seems unlikely. it be improved, ciently and thoroughly. I will lobby for more communication with law enforcement. I'd also add a and if so, how? Should the Dept. continuing education requirement to of Agriculture concealed carry renewals. oversee the program? Why? I will lead the Department by maintain-How do you Tourism and agriculture are the two see the role biggest economic drivers in our state. ing the level of responsive services to of the office the industries overseen, seeking solu-There has to be a clearer balance tions in partnership with UF-IFAS and between the concerns of Big Ag, and the state's our growers; enforcing our laws against how their actions potentially affect agribusinesses? our land, water, beaches and coasts. consumer fraud; as well as leading energy policy toward a common-sense But the Commissioner must be an advocate for the industry as well. That future. This includes speaking out and leading solutions in critical areas such means fighting Trump on this unproas immigration, labor, and trade. voked trade war, combatting citrus greening and other crop threats and doing more to help struggling small farmers and nurserymen. Assets/liabilities/ Assets: Two homes, savings Assets: Savings, investments Liabilities: Mortgages, car loans Liabilities: Student loan income Income: \$81,034 Income: \$84,000 Home: Fort Myers Home: Fort Lauderdale **Personal** Marital status: Married. Marital status: Single Children: one child Campaign fundraising Contributions: \$1.2 million Contributions: \$272,739 Expenditures: \$866,182 Expenditures: \$184,421 Website: Votecaldwell.org Website: nikkifried.com On the web Twitter: @mattcaldwell_fl Twitter: @nikkifried

ABOUT THE JOB: Commissioner of Agriculture is a statewide position with four-year terms and a current salary of \$128,972. The Commissioner is a member of the governor's cabinet and oversees the state's farming industry practices in addition to food safety, pesticides, state land and water

State Senate | District 10

This race pits incumbent Republican businessman Wilton Simpson, who never has faced a challenger in the heavily conservative district spanning Pasco, Hernando and Citrus counties, against Democrat Michael Cottrell, a teacher who never has run for office. Simpson, the Senate's majority leader, is in line to become Senate president in 2020. Cottrell filed his candidacy on the last day of qualifying, saying no one should have a free pass into public office. By Jeffrey S. Solochek, Times Staff Writer

	Michael Cettrell	Milton Cimpon		
Douty	Michael Cottrell	Wilton Simpson Republican		
Party Profession	Democrat Teacher	Business owner		
About the candidate	Michael Cottrell, 51, is a teacher who has worked in Hernando County schools as well as Department of Defense schools. He was working in Japan until April, when he returned to Hernando County for cancer treatment. His wife, Dana, is running as a Democrat against U.S. Rep. Daniel Webster.	Wilton Simpson, 52, was first elected to the Florida Senate in 2012. One of the Senate's wealthiest members, he owns a large egg farm and an environmental cleanup firm, among other ventures. He has served on the Pasco-Hernando State College board of trustees, led the Pasco County Fair Association and chaired the Pasco Economic Development Council.		
Education	Bachelor's degree in education, University of South Florida	Associate's degree, Pasco-Hernando Community College		
What should, if anything, state lawmakers do to address sexual misconduct in the Capitol?	"The government and its employees should be held to the same, if not higher standard, that all other organizations are held to. If, once investigated, a teacher, police officer, business employee, etc were found to have sexually harassed someone in any way, they would be fired immediately; our elected officials deserve NO SPECIAL treatment!!!"	Simpson said he will work with Senate leadership to ensure it has new rules implementing the highest standards against sexual misconduct. "I have a zero policy on that stuff. There is zero room for harassment."		
Please describe your top three legislative priorities.	"Affordable Health Care for all citizens, Education, Our Environment, including investing in renewable energies."	Improving the state's foster care and adoption process, focusing on water policy and springs restoration, improving the state's education system with choice and competition.		
What gun legislation is needed in Florida?	Cottrell said he supports gun ownership, but called for "responsible" conversation about guns and the Second Amendment. "Every poll I can find shows that roughly 90 percent of Americans support tougher background checks, so as a public servant/representative, with these numbers it should be irrelevant as to what I want; the people want tougher background checks, and I do support that."	Simpson said he supports making it easier to get a concealed-carry permit. "Having more concealed carry in the state of Florida will make us safer." He backed the new program requiring armed guards in schools, and said the state has taken positive steps to remove weapons from people with mental health problems. "We have to do more in this area."		
Should Florida's public schools receive more funding from the state?	"Yes, schools should receive more funding, however, we should also look at ways to more effectively utilize the monies that the schools already get."	Simpson stressed that the state's funding for education has increased, with improved academic outcomes as a result. If accounting for the cost of living across the nation, he said, Florida's education funding is "in very good shape." "It is very important the Legislature be sure we are being very frugal with tax dollars," he added. Simpson called for a more stable funding source for education construction projects.		
Assets/ liabilities/ income	Assets: Home, savings Liabilities: Car loan, equity line of credit Income: Teacher salary Net worth: \$519,290	Assets: Businesses, savings, property Liabilities: Mortgage, business loans Income: Business income, salaries, investment income Net worth: \$25.3 million		
Personal	Home: Spring Hill Marital status: Married Children: One son	Home: Trilby Marital status: Married Children: One son, one daughter		
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$2,290 Expenditures: \$2,019	Contributions: \$459,725 Expenditures: \$144,570		
On the web	NA	Twitter: @WiltonSimpson		
ABOUT THE JOB: Each of Florida's 40 senators is responsible for helping to pass legislation for the state,				

ABOUT THE JOB: Each of Florida's 40 senators is responsible for helping to pass legislation for the state, including annual appropriations. Senators are paid \$29.697 annually.

Share the *Times***.**

Donate your newspaper to a classroom when you go on vacation.

To donate, visit tampabay.com/subscribe

Now Accepting New Patients

Sonal H. Patel, MD **Board Certified in Internal Medicine**

Dr. Sonal H. Patel is accepting new patients to Medical Associates of West Florida. Dr. Patel is a **Board Certified Internal Medicine** physician who has been practicing medicine in the Tampa Bay area for over a decade.

Professional Specialties:

- Adult Preventative Medicine
- Acute and Chronic Disease Management (18 years+)
- Geriatric Medicine Intra-Articular Injections
- Trigger Finger Injections



Medical Associates of West Florida 7575 State Rd 52 • Hudson, FL 34667

PHONE: 727-861-9800

www.mawfnet.com Hablamos español



Affordable Legal Services

MEDICAID & ESTATE PLANNING ASSET PROTECTION Trusts • Wills • Probate



Living Will.....

Single Will

Husband & Wife

Donald R. Peyton ATTORNEY AT LAW

7317 Little Road • New Port Richey, FL (1/4 mile S. of County Bldg.)

The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. Before you decide, ask us to send you free written information about our qualifications and experience

Now Accepting New Patients!

We specialize in diabetes, high blood pressure, kidney disease, high cholesterol and preventive screening.

We are affiliated with Medical Center of Trinity and Morton Plant Northbay.

Freedom, Humana, Medicare, Optimum and most other insurances are accepted. ******



Yogesh Ranpariya, MD Board Certified Internal Medicine



Trevor Rose, MD, FACP Board Certified Internal Medicine Geriatrics

Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8am-5pm 6551 Ridge Rd., Ste. 2 • Port Richey, FL 34668 727-846-0666

Know your candidates

State House | District 37

The race to succeed state House Speaker Rep. Richard Corcoran, R-Land O' Lakes, who cannot seek re-election because of term limits, features two first-time candidates. District 37 includes portions of west and central Pasco and is bordered approximately by Little Road on the west and Ehren Cutoff on the east.

By C.T. Bowen, Times Staff Writer

State House | District 36

State Rep. Amber Mariano, R-Hudson, faces her first re-election since her stunning defeat of a popular incumbent two years ago. The district covers coastal west Pasco including the U.S. 19 corridor.

By C.T. Bowen, Times Staff Writer

				Linda Jack	Amber Mariano
	Tammy Garcia	Ardian Zika	Party	Democrat	Republican
Party Profession	Democrat Billing manager for eye-care business	Republican Business consultant	Profession	Veterinarian	Nonprofit fundraising coordinator; real estate agent
About the candidate	Tammy Garcia is a Tampa native who moved back to the region from North Carolina to be closer to family after her husband was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. They reside in Land O' Lakes.	Ardian Zika, 38, immigrated from Kosovo, the former Yugoslavia, 21 years ago. A former banker, he is president of his own businessadvisory company. He has received three gubernatorial appointments to sit on Pasco-Hernando State College Board of Trustees, CareerSource Florida Board of Directors and the Florida	About the candidate	Linda Jack, 57, a former professional musician and music teacher, who switched careers in 2006 to become a veterinarian. A Florida native, she moved to Pasco County in 2015. Manhattanville College (N.Y.) bachelor of arts in music; North Carolina State Univer-	Since winning office two years ago, Amber Mariano, who turns 23 on Oct. 18, graduated college and began careers at the nonprofit Community Aging and Retirement Services, CARES, and as a real estate agent. University of Central Florida, bachelor's degree in political science
Education	Blake High School for the Performing Arts;	Council on Homelessnes. Louisiana Tech University, bachelor's		sity, doctorate of veterinary medicine	
Should public schools receive	University of South Florida, bachelor's degree in psychology; Nova Southeastern University, master's degree and additional graduate studies in conflict analysis and resolution. "Absolutely. With the school safety bill, the legislators created mandates that are costing counties hundreds of thousands	degree in marketing; Saint Leo University, master's of business administration. "Growing our state's economy will generate additional revenue and resources for K-12 and higher education."	Should public schools receive more state funding?	"Absolutely yes. Here in Pasco County, in particular, our K-12 teachers are underpaid, our classrooms are overcrowded and our students don't have the learning environment or the supplies and support they need to succeed."	"I have yet to see those numbers on paper regarding the shortfall they (Democrats and school superintendents) are speaking of. However, when I looked at the numbers when we voted on the budget, students had a \$100 increase in the FEFP (funding formula). We are committed to making record investments into education that continue to pay off as Florida is
more state funding?	of dollars and up, but provided no way for them to pay for it The further reduction of the budget does a disservice to our students If we're not providing our students with better educational opportunities, we're failing to provide them with the skills needed for life."		Support or oppose accepting federal Medicaid expansion	"I strongly support accepting federal Medicaid expansion money, which could potentially bring affordable health care to 700,000 Floridians. We need to do all we can to lower prescription drugs costs and premiums, which I believe should be	"I oppose it because there is no guarantee that Congress will continue to fund Florida's share of Medicaid dollars in the future. Considering Florida is on solid financial footing and rated number one in fiscal health, it would be reckless to bind
Support or oppose accepting federal Medicaid expansion	"Between 730,000 and 900,000 people in Florida fall in the insurance gap – make too much for Medicaid and not enough to qualify for subsidies. Expanding Medicaid would help those caught in the gap and would decrease the amount of uninsured	"We need Medicaid reform that is consumer-focused and incorporates health-care innovation. We need price transparency in all areas of health care to create a more competitive environment and lower cost."	money?	addressed legislatively at both the federal and state levels."	Florida's fiscal future to Congress If we were left on the hook or shortchanged promises, we'd have to either cut programs or raise taxes, which is not what Floridians want." "I believe ensuring that guns are not
dollars? Support or oppose closing gun show loophole?	individuals by half." "I am a Moms Demand Action Gun Sense candidate because I believe that we are long overdue for having real conversations about common sense reforms. A law-abiding citizen would not be pre-	"The gun show loophole is a misnomer. What you're referring to is 'private sale.' Any federally licensed dealer at a gun show must run a background check like any other gun store We must work	Support or oppose closing gun show loophole?	"I support universal background checks for all gun purchases, which includes closing the gun show loophole."	getting in the wrong hands is critical. Ensuring that all levels of government are communicating is crucial to this process. At gun shows, every federally licensed firearms dealer is required to run a background check."
	vented from obtaining a gun because of a background check or a waiting period. These mass shootings have been committed by individuals with legally obtained guns. Our system is failing to protect citizens, and it needs to change. I'm open to any and all discussions as to what we can do to prevent as much gun violence as possible."	together to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and those with mental illness."	Top three legislative priorities?	"Increasing funding and support for public education K-12. Addressing the growing poverty in our county and all the challenges it contributes to, including homelessness, hunger, sickness (and overworked health-care providers), substance abuse and a cycle of despair. Obtaining funds to alleviate flooding and drainage problems in our coastal district,	"Sponsoring a local bill to generate funds for dredging up and down the coast of my district to help raise the property values and quality of life for residents. Continuing to advocate to improve the storm water infrastructure in west Pasco to mitigate flooding Continue to work on preventing our students from paying double tuition from excess credit hour
Top three legislative priorities?	"Improve our eduction system to properly fund education, properly paying teachers and eliminating high-stakes testing environment. Protect the environment by pro-	"Higher education and workforce and vocational training; health-care innovation; banking and insurance."		which are a public health concern and repeatedly damage our homes and businesses."	surcharges."
	ronment. Protect the environment by preserving our wetlands, improve water quality and invest in renewable energy. Entice new businesses to bring high-paying jobs to the area by making it an environment Assets/ liabilities/ income	liabilities/ income	Assets: House, bank account, IRAs Liabilities: Mortgage, student loan, car loan Income: \$86,370	Assets: Retirement account Liabilities: Student loan, car lease Income: \$29,697	
Assets/ liabilities/	that businesses crave." Assets: Home, vehicle, bank accounts Liabilities: Mortgage, student loan	Assets: Home, bank account, 401(k), IRA Liabilities: Credit card	Personal	Home: New Port Richey Marital status: Domestic partner Children: None	Home: Hudson Marital status: Single Children: None
income Personal	Income: \$50,000 Home: Land O' Lakes		Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$54,550 Expenditures: \$29,059	Contributions: \$226,346 Expenditures: \$113,617
r-orsonal	Marital status: Married to Dennis Children: One son	Marital status: Married to Tasha Children: Two daughters, three sons	On the web	Website: ElectLindaJack.com Twitter: @electlindajack	Website: ambermariano.com Twitter: @ambermariano
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$13,379 Expenditures: \$6,732	Contributions: \$242,216 Expenditures: \$158,034	ABOUT THE JOB	: House members serve two-year terms and a	re paid \$29,697 annually.
On the web	Website: votetammygarcia.com	Website: voteardianzika.com			

ABOUT THE JOB: House members serve two-year terms and are paid \$29,697 annually.

Twitter: @ArdianZika

Twitter: @VoteTammyGarcia







County Commission | District 2

The District 2 Pasco County Commission race pits first-term Republican incumbent Mike Moore against Democrat Kelly Smith, who is making her first run for public office. Commissioners must reside within their districts, but are elected by voters countywide. District 2 is based in central Pasco and includes Land O' Lakes and Wesley Chapel.

By C.T. Bowen, Times Staff Writer

	Mike Moore	Kelly Smith	
Party	Republican	Democrat	
Profession	Business consultant	Operations manager for engineering and design firm	
About the candidate	Mike Moore, 47, a first-term commissioner is seeking re-election to the District 2 seat based in central Pasco. He currently chairs the Tourism Development Council and the Homeless Advisory Board and is ex-officio member of the North Tampa Bay Chamber.	Kelly Smith, who turns 44 on Oct. 22, moved to Pasco nine years ago after previously serving as the Federal Emer- gency Management Agency coordinator for Collier County and zon- ing administrator for the city of Marco Island. This is her first run for public office.	
Education	Polk Community College, associate's degree; University of Central Florida, bachelor of arts	Southern Connecticut State University, bachelor of science in liberal studies	
Top issue facing Pasco County?	"I'm proud of all we have accomplished over the last four years However, we still have much to do. Keeping Pasco County a great place to live, work, worship and raise a family is my top priority over the next four years. My plans to accomplish that include ensuring our county is fiscally responsible so we can remain a low-tax county, improving our infrastructure to reduce traffic congestion and flooding, helping local businesses grow and bringing new companies and jobs to Pasco, protecting our natural resources and making our parks more accessible for all residents and ensuring our law enforcement and first responders have the resources they need to keep our community and schools safe and secure."	"The top issue facing Pasco County is poverty. So many of the challenges facing Pasco County's residents are rooted in poverty – affordable housing, homelessness, income inequality, drug use, mental health and education. Currently, 42 percent of Pasco County residents struggle to afford basic needs and approximately 2,700 people are homeless." Smith said she wants to encourage companies paying more than \$15 per hour to expand or relocate to Pasco. She wants to increase starting wages of county employees; increase availability of affordable and workforce housing and increase homeless services.	
Do you support the Ridge Road Extension?	"Pasco County needs additional east/ west connectivity. I'm open to consider- ing any options that meet the increasing transportation needs of our county in the way the people of Pasco County support and see fit."	"I do not support the construction of the Ridge Road Extension, and I believe the county should immediately cease all funding for the pursuit of the permit. The county claims the Ridge Road Extension is needed as an additional hurricane evacuation route. This was proven to be incorrect last year during the evacuation period for Hurricane Irma. There were no east-west back-ups during the evacuation process. Constructing the Ridge Road Extension would significantly disturb the Serenova Tract, which was dedicated to Pasco County as mitigation for over 200 acres of wetlands destroyed in construction of the Suncoast Parkway. Pasco County is not in the position to continue to waste millions of dollars pursuing a permit to build a road that we can't afford financially or environmentally".	
How will you vote on the four bond referendums on the November ballot?	"Voters deserve the opportunity to determine how their hard-earned tax dollars are spent. I've supported these referendums appearing on the November ballot, so that Pasco voters get the opportunity to make their voices heard and their votes count on these priority items."	"I intend to vote yes on the referendums except the referendum to expand the Land O' Lakes jail. It is unfortunate the current county commissioners chose to take on new debt to fund these necessary improvements rather than re-prioritizing the budget. This is especially disappointing given the results of the Clearview Research polling which indicated a majority of Pasco County property owners were willing to pay higher taxes to maintain and improve our current parks and library systems. Why did the Board of County Commissioners hire the consultant to conduct the study if there weren't willing to make a decision based on the results of the study?"	
What is the key, unfinished part of the Harbors master plan to redevelop west Pasco and how do you complete it?	"We are tackling the challenges in west Pasco by passing the commercial blight ordinance, getting rid of run-down buildings, enhancing roadways, supporting our small businesses, bringing in major employers, adding the gateway beautification plan for landscaping on U.S. 19 and supporting the Leisure Lane and Van Doren Avenue redevelopment plans. These are but a few of the initiatives we already have underway to help west Pasco. We are continuing to work closely with the cities in west Pasco and the business community so that even more public and private resources are efficiently utilized to enhance the west Pasco community. This county commission takes redevelopment of west Pasco seriously and we are actively working on many fronts to see that redevelopment continues to occur as rapidly as possible."	"The Harbors plan is a very thorough, long-term redevelopment plan. While improvements from the plan have been implemented, the feedback I have received from residents is that the implementation seems to have stalled. One of the unfinished elements that I believe is a high priority is C12 – the development of a rental inspection program. It is critical that we make sure rental housing in Pasco County is safe, appropriate and affordable. Conducting inspections of rental properties will help to ensure that our residents are not living in substandard housing. Further, implementing the inspection program may also improve blighted areas, help renters feel pride in their community and other plan neighborhood revitalization elements."	
Assets/ liabilities/ income	Assets: Home, bank accounts, personal business, retirement accounts, vehicles, boat Liabilities: Mortgage, recreational vehicle loan Income: \$169,429	Assets: Home, 401(k), vehicles Liabilities: Mortgage, loans Income: \$60,722	
Personal	Home: Wesley Chapel Marital status: Married to Lauren Children: Two daughters, one son	Home: Wesley Chapel Marital status: Married to Patrick Children: Daughter, two sons adopted from foster care	
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$230,869 Expenditures: \$69,429	Contributions: \$19,627 Expenditures: \$15,146	
On the web	Website: VoteMikeMoore.com Twitter: @mikemoore2014	Website: kellyforpasco.com Twitter: @smith4pasco2	

ABOUT THE JOB: County commissioners serve four-year terms and are paid \$82,910 annually. They decide land-use and zoning issues, adopt local ordinances and oversee a budget of more than \$1.3 billion. They set the annual property tax rate and other assessments to fund it.

County Commission | District 4

The District 4 Pasco County Commission race pits first-term Republican incumbent Mike Wells Jr. against Democrat Brandi Geoit who is making her first run for public office. Commissioners must reside within their districts, but are elected by voters countywide. District 4 is based in west Pasco.

Brandi Geoit		Mike Wells		
Democrat		Republican		
Social worker	Social worker		Real estate agent	
	Brandi Geoit turns 43 in November. She is a social worker and former executive direc- tor of West Coast AIDS Foundation. A native of Michigan, she moved to Pasco County nine years ago.	commission sea	Mike Wells Jr., 47, spent most of his life in Pasco County where his father served as a commissioner and property appraiser. A former long-time mar ager at Enterprise Rer A Car, Wells won his tin 2014.	
Central Michigar degree	University, bachelor's	Graduated Ridgewood High School, attended Pasco Hernando Community		
"Poverty is the top issue facing Pasco. We need to start bringing in different types of employment. Restaurants and retail are great but they do not pay enough for people to pay all of their bills here in Pasco. We also need to start working on different types of affordable housing programs. If we want to improve the issues of crime, substance abuse issues, food insecurity, homelessness, health disparities, you need to work on the root cause and that is poverty. We need to find ways to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of Pasco County. I want to start looking into different grant programs and finding ways to fund the programs that this county pands."		"It is my view that the top issue facing or county is public safety. Without public safety, none of the other issues count. I' continue to fight hard to make sure Sher Chris Nocco, law enforcement professionals and our first responders have the tools and resources they need to keep or community safe and secure."		
sion. We need to to nowhere. We dit is about hurrical it goes east and viricane everyone stop wasting the pursuit that has guse that money firstructure improve	stop pursuing this road continue to hear that the evacuation when west and during a hurheads north. We need to taxpayers' money on a gone on too long. We can or other things like infraements and fixing water	tions that meet our residents needs in a way that they support."		
erendums. We nand maintain the parks are millions The libraries and the communition of the communition of the citizens and taken care on needed because ing we need to employees at the what they are masion issue is really backlog and peoto bond themselves system started so that people could be an issue with need to start a jai Pasco County. This other counties the issue of the o	eed to build fire stations parks and libraries. The seed to build fire stations parks and libraries. The seed to be an essential part of all lies and are used by a seed to funded for the fire stations are four community is growbuild more and pay the fire stations more than aking now. The jail expany an issue with court ple who cannot afford we out If the court etting the bonds at a rate of afford, there would not overcrowding. We also I diversion program in the phave been beneficial and would also help with vercrowding that we	on the ballot for Pasco voters to decide. is important to me that the voters of Pas County make the decision on these four referendums. This is their county and th are best able to tell us what their expect tions are for the future of our county."		
have not even statissue we should to work on the Harbup the issues that coliform bacteriat tourists to come up the waterway to come and visit the Harbors happen on cleaning up the swim at the beact development dol Pasco and this cocan start by helpithave leaking seponto the county starts happening ally remain open start by improvincoast and bringin need for people to	arted the plan. The first tackle before we start fors project is to clean it we have with fecal in our waters. We want there, but we do not clean is that we want them is that we want to make ben, we need to work he water so people can whes. We get economic lars from the Penny for build tie into that We ng out the citizens that tic and putting people sewer system. When this is, our beaches will actumore often. We can then g the drainage along the ng in the parking that we o come and enjoy what	have hugely streamlined approval process to speed up land use approvals and building permit issuance time lines. We funded (Pasco Economic Development Council's) west side incubator/training center, which has been very successful We have been working on the (land development code) rewrite. (We are) proactively working with property owner in the Harbors area to update their future land use and zoning to make their proper		
account Liabilities: Mortga	ages, credit cards	Assets: Home, boat, pre-paid college p Liabilities: Mortgage, home equity loan car loan Income: \$87,664		
	Central Michigar degree "Poverty is the toneed to start brinemployment. Regreat but they do ple to pay all of the We also need to types of affordable we want to improsubstance abuse homelessness, henced to work on poverty. We need to toneeds." "I do not support sion. We need to tonowhere. We dit is about hurrical it goes east and wricane everyone stop wasting the pursuit that has guse that money fistructure improvents and taken care on the communitation of the citizens." "I will be voting yearendums. We need to to the citizens and taken care on needed because in g we need to employees at the what they are mand to fithe communitation is sue is really backlog and peoto bond themsels system septed so that people could be and its use with a people could be and its use with	Brandi Geoit turns 43 in November. She is a social worker and former executive director of West Coast AIDS Foundation. A native of Michigan, she moved to Pasco County nine years ago. Central Michigan University, bachelor's degree "Poverty is the top issue facing Pasco. We need to start bringing in different types of employment. Restaurants and retail are great but they do not pay enough for people to pay all of their bills here in Pasco. We also need to start working on different types of affordable housing programs. If we want to improve the issues of crime, substance abuse issues, food insecurity, homelessness, health disparities, you need to work on the root cause and that is poverty. We need to find ways to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of Pasco County. I want to start looking into different grant programs and finding ways to fund the programs that this county needs." "I do not support the Ridge Road extension. We need to stop pursuing this road to nowhere. We continue to hear that it is about hurricane everyone heads north. We need to stop wasting the taxpayers' money on a pursuit that has gone on too long. We can use that money for other things like infrastructure improvements and fixing water quality issues that the people of Pasco really need." "I will be voting yes on three of the four referendums. We need to build fire stations and maintain the parks and libraries. The parks are millions behind in maintenance The libraries are an essential part of all of the communities and are used by a lot of the citizens. They need to funded and taken care of The fire stations are needed because our community is growing we need to build more and pay the employees at the fire stations more than what they are making now. The jail expansion issue is really an issue with court saken care of The fire stations are needed because our community is growing we need to work on the horse happen, we need to work on the hards we have with fecal coliform bacteria in our waters. We wan	Brandi Geoit turns 43 in November. She is a social worker and former executive director of West Coast AIDS Foundation. A native of Michigan, she moved to Pasco County nine years ago. Central Michigan University, bachelor's degree "Poverty is the top issue facing Pasco. We need to start bringing in different types of employment. Restaurants and retail are great but they do not pay enough for people to pay all of their bills here in Pasco. We also need to start working on different ypes of affordable housing programs. If we want to improve the issues of crime, substance abuse issues, food insecutive, hornelessness, health disparities, you need to work on the root cause and that is poverty. We need to find weys to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens of Pasco County, I want to start looking into different grant programs and finding ways for fund the programs that this county needs." "I do not support the Ridge Road extension. We need to stop pursuing this road to nowhere. We continue to hear that it is about hurricane everyone heads north. We need to stop wasting the taxpayers' money on a pursuit that has gone on too long. We can use that money for other things like infrastructure improvements and fixing water quality issues that the people of Pasco really need." "I will be voting yes on three of the four referendums. We need to build fire stations and maintain the parks and libraries. The parks are millions behind in maintenance. The libraries are an essential part of all of the communities and are used by a lot of the citizens. They need to funded and taken care of The fire stations are needed because our community is growing. We also need to start a jail diversion program in Pasco County. They have bend bendicial nother counties and would also help with the issue of the overcrowding. We also need to start a jail diversion program in Pasco County. They have been beneficial nother counties and visit. If we want to make the Harbors happen, we need to work on the Harbors happen, we need to wo	

ABOUT THE JOB: County commissioners serve four-year terms and are paid \$82,910 annually. They decide land-use and zoning issues, adopt local ordinances and oversee a budget of more than \$1.3 billion. They set the annual property tax rate and other assessments to fund it.

Contributions: \$198,911

Website: votemikewells.com

Twitter: @mikewellspasco

Expenditures: \$70,849

Contributions: \$17,194

Twitter: @GeoitforPasco

Website: brandicampaign.com

Expenditures: \$6,978



Campaign fundraising

On the web

Know your candidates

U.S. House | District 12

U.S. Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Palm Harbor, is running for a seventh term in the seat his father held for 24 years. Democratic challenger Chris Hunter, a former FBI agent and federal prosecutor, was cited as a reason the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee thinks District 12 can flip blue in 2018. Angelika Purkis, a nurse practitioner with no party affiliation. By Tracey McManus, Times Staff Writer

	Gus Bilirakis	Christopher Hunter	Angelika Purkis
Party	Republican	Democrat	NPA
Profession	United States Representative; St. Petersburg College adjunct professor	Former FBI agent and state and federal prosecutor; current University of Tampa adjunct professor	Nurse practitioner; owner Angie's Art Glass and Signature Building Products
About the candidate	Bilirakis, 55, is running for a seventh term in Congress and serves on committees for energy and commerce, veterans affairs, health and other issues. Bilirakis has made bipartisanship a central message. But he has also voted in line with President Donald Trump's positions 97.8 percent of the time, according to an analysis by FiveThirtyEight. Bilirakis said he prioritizes protecting Medicare and Social Security, ensuring benefits for veterans, and protecting schools with school resource officers. Bilirakis was scrutinized this term for being one of six House co-sponsors of a 2016 law that made it harder for the Drug Enforcement Administration to halt suspicious quantities of drugs amid the opioid crisis	Hunter, 45, left his career as a prosecutor with the U.S. Department of Justice in Tampa in December to run for Congress. He said he saw American values under attack by the Trump administration and Congress failing to uphold its Constitutional duty as a check and balance. His priorities are to restore good governance, promote an innovation economy, and strengthen national security. Hunter applied to the FBI two weeks after 9/11 while working as a state prosecutor in Boston. He later worked as assistant U.S. attorney in Miami in 2007 prosecuting economic crimes before joining the DOJ in Tampa in 2013, prosecuting health care fraud	In her first bid for public office, Purkis, 58, is the no party affiliation candidate running a campaign based on anti-corruption, address- ing disparities in communities and largely word of mouth campaigning. A career nurse practitioner, Purkis has also made health care reform a center of her platform. Purkis said she has been a Democrat and a Republican at different points in her life but believes neither party is serving the public. She said she has self-financed her campaign because she fears retaliation for those who support her speaking out against corruption. Owner of an art glass and window repair business, Purkis said economic justice and helping small businesses is a priority.
Education	University of Florida, B.A. , political science Stetson College of Law, J.D	Boston College, B.A., political science Boston College Law School, J.D.	St. Petersburg College, B.S., nursing; University of Tampa, MSN
Do you support the Mueller investigation? Do you support an investigation into Obama/Clinton officials for their conduct during the 2016 election?	Yes, I have supported each of the investigations into whether or not Russia interfered with our elections process, and if there was any wrongdoing on behalf of any campaign. I do think the independent process of both House and Senate Oversight Committees and the Special Counsel is important in order to provide appropriate accountability.	I support Special Counsel Mueller's investigation. An ODNI report issued January 2017 documented Russia's attack on the United States during the 2016 election for the purposes of destabilizing our democracy, supporting Trump's election, and undermining American global leadership. Propaganda and disinformation techniques of the Russian intelligence services have been adopted by partisan politicians in the United States intent on retaining power and deflecting attention from the extent to which our democracy has been compromised.	Any activity that is questionable should be investigated to the fullest extent
Would you support or oppose changes to immigration policy that would include a path to permanent legal status or citizenship for undocumented immigrants? Please explain stance on strengthening the border and Dreamers	There's no doubt our immigration system needs reform. We must enforce current immigration laws, strengthen our borders, and ensure all visas are enforced properly. I recently voted for two different immigration bills that greatly improved our immigration policy, strengthened border security and provided legal status for those who were brought here illegally as children through no fault of their own. I was disappointed my colleagues opposed these because they did not contain everything they wanted.	I support comprehensive immigration reform including a pathway to permanent legal status and protection of Dreamers. The so-called "border wall" is a gimmick—an ill-advised, expensive waste of taxpayer money that will not make us more secure. The long-term solution to securing our borders lies in promoting safe, democratic societies and market-based economies in developing nations to eliminate desperate conditions that drive mass migration while global population levels rise.	We need many more work visas. Frequently workers come here to earn, they pay taxes and lift our economy, then they would like to return home for a season. Large corporations and well to do individuals have used them for yearsThose who brought them in on their jets and in their companies to work cheap should be rooted out and prosecutedA path to citizenship should be made for those who work hard to achieve it.
Would you support or oppose repealing the Affordable Care Act? Please explain how you would strengthen it or replace it?	I support honoring the commitment I made to my constituents to repeal the Affordable Care Act and replace it with policies that increase access to affordable, quality health care and patient protections. There were elements of the ACA which I continue to support, including protections for those with pre-existing conditions, coverage for preventative care, mental health and substance abuse treatment and allowing children to stay on their parents' insurance until age 26.	We all need affordable health care we can count on. I support the Affordable Care Act and continuously improving our health care system so that everyone has access to quality care at affordable prices. The "Solutions Over Politics" proposal that has bipartisan support from the Problem Solvers Caucus is a great place to start. For example, creating a permanent reinsurance program to mitigate risk from excessively high medical claims will help stabilize and reduce premiums.	Medicare should be available for all to purchase immediately while we look for other answers. I work with Medicare daily and this year it is changing day by day. Less is covered. More is traded away for secondary programsInsurance should not have a handbook of different ways to get out of paying. Everyone who needs health care should have it. Primary, Secondary, and Tertiary We need to license Nurse Practitioners Federally so that they can work independently across the nation.
Do you support or oppose closing the gun-show loophole on background checks, banning assault weapons or restricting the capacity of magazines?	I support thorough background checks to keep weapons away from criminals and the mentally ill. I don't believe we should restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens to own firearms. We must address the root cause of the violence, including mental health issues. I was proud to co-sponsor the STOP School Violence Act, help secure \$2 billion for school safety, and help improve crime reporting systems to ensure criminals don't obtain guns. Also, I sponsored legislation to help fund School Resource Officers.	A safer society is within reach if we promote common sense policies, free our government from the grip of special interests, and reject a culture of violence. I support universal background checks and closing the gunshow loophole. I support banning military-style assault weapons, bump-stocks, and high capacity magazines. As a federal prosecutor and FBI agent, I dealt with the consequences of violence, and I believe in having more guidance counselors, not guns, in our schools.	We have rules that impede our right to free travel if we use a vehicle. Different vehicles have different rules. You can ride a bike without a registration. Driving an 18 wheeler is different and requires a different way of treatment. I do not believe everyone has the right to an assault weapon or other means to do harm without some sane sort of rules. A musket might have bicycle type rules.
Assets/liabilities/ income	Assets: property, two prepaid college plans, bank accounts, stocks Liabilities: mortgage, student loans Income: teaching *as of 2017, most recent disclosure available	Assets: two bank accounts, four prepaid college plans Liabilities: a mortgage, loan, credit card Income: Teaching and project work	Assets: art glass business, equipment, bank account, real estate Liabilities: home and business loans, credit card Income: Pinnacle Home Care
Personal	Home: Palm Harbor Marital status: married to Eva Bilirakis Children: Michael, Teddy, Manuel, Nicholas	Home: Trinity Marital status: married to Celeste Hunter Children: Luke, Claire, Grace, Brooke	Home: New Port Richey Marital status: married to Ross Purkis Children: Ross III, Monika, Benno
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$1.4 million Expenditures: \$894,332	Contributions: \$465,626 Expenditures: \$211,441	Contributions: \$7,164 Expenditures: \$9,194
On the web	Website: bilirakisforcongress.com Twitter: @RepGusBilirakis	Website: chrishunterforcongress.com Twitter: @ChrisHunterFL	Website: angelikapurkisforcongress.com Twitter: @itsnotokayfl

ABOUT THE JOB: District 12 covers northern Pinellas, all of Pasco and a sliver of northwest Hillsborough counties. U.S. Representatives are elected to two-year terms and are paid \$174,000 annually.



HCA and the PHM Group, Inc. are requesting proposals from qualified **Subcontractors** and **Suppliers** for the Blake Medical Center expansion project. Bradenton, Florida and surrounding area businesses are invited to attend a preconstruction Meet & Greet to learn more about opportunities associated with this upcoming project.

The project consists of a 3,000 sf addition to the Emergency Department, over 6,000 sf of major renovation, and approximately 9,000 sf of minor renovations. The project will be completed in 5 phases with a duration of approximately 20 months.

Bid packages associated with the project include the following: • Selective Interior and Site Demolition • Paving • Site Utilities • Landscaping • Cast-in-Place Concrete

• Structural Steel • Casework (MRI Only) • Spray Fireproofing • Firestopping • Glass & Glazing Systems • Dampproofing/Waterproofing • E.I.F.S. • Roofing • Doors/Frames/Hardware Installer Doors/Frames/Hardware Supplier • Metal Framing/Gypsum Drywall • Acoustical Ceilings
 Resilient/Hard Tile Flooring • Painting & Wall Covering • Miscellaneous Specialties • Interior Signage
 Fire Sprinklers • Plumbing/HVAC • Test & Balance • Electrical• Structured Cabling

> What: Preconstruction Meet & Greet

When: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 @ 10:00 am

Where: Blake Medical Center

MAB 1000 (Medical Arts Building) 2020 59th Street West Bradenton, FL 34209

The PHM Group, Inc. and HCA/Blake Medical Center are strongly committed to the development and implementation of initiatives that promote the inclusion of all local construction-related businesses, with an emphasis on minority- and women-owned enterprise firms. Please join us at the Preconstruction Meet & Greet to explore more opportunities.

 $For information\ regarding\ plans, bid\ packages\ or\ other\ documents\ for\ this\ project,\ please\ contact:$ Robert Krawczyk, Senior Project Manager at (941) 750-9333 or via email at rkrawczyk@phmgroupinc.com

> To RSVP for the upcoming Meet & Greet, please contact: Rhea Kinnard, Diversity Business Consultant at (615) 941-8396 or via email at kinn0167@aol.com

Exhibits, giveaways, screenings, helpful tips, prizes and more!



www.tampabayseniorexpo.com



Thursday, October 25th 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. **Gulf View Square Mall**

9409 US-19, Port Richey, FL

Come on out to the Nature Coast Senior Expo and plan to spend the day. See exhibits from local organizations offering products, advice and more! Best of all, the event is FREE!







FREE ADMISSION • FREE PARKING For information, call 727-893-8523 • tampabayseniorexpo.com

State Senate | District 24

Incumbent Republican Jeff Brandes and Democrat Lindsay Cross are running for Florida's Senate District 24 seat. Brandes, an Iraq War veteran, was first elected to the Legislature 2010 as a House representative for St. Petersburg. Cross is a political newcomer who most recently served as the executive director of an environmental advocacy group. By Kirby Wilson, Times Staff Writer

	Jeff Brandes	Lindsay Cross		
Party	Republican	Democrat		
Profession	Real estate investor	Political activist		
About the candidate	Brandes, 42, was first elected to the Florida Senate in 2012. He serves on more than half a dozen committees in the Senate, most notably the appropriations committee. During his time in the Legislature, he has made transportation and criminal justice issues top priorities.	Cross, 40, is running for her first political office. Before she resigned the post to run for office, Cross served as the executive director of the Florida Wildlife Corridor, an environmental advocacy group.		
Education	Carson Newman College, B.S., Business Administration.	Colorado State University, B.S., Environ- mental Health. University of South Florida, M.S., Environmental Science and Policy		
Should Florida's public schools receive more funding from the state?	With Florida's 3.7 percent unemployment rate, the market for high quality teachers is becoming increasingly competitive. Florida will need to prioritize raises to incentivize our dedicated and passionate teachers to remain in our state. I hope to continue the momentum from previous sessions in which we have raised spending on education to historic levels.	Absolutely. A better public education system will improve the future of our children and the families living in the state of Florida. To prepare all students for theh workforce or college, we must increase education funding, pay teachers competitive and livable wages and ensure that textbooks and technology are up to date.		
What, if anything, should state lawmakers do to address sexual harassment in the Capitol?	The Florida Legislature must have a zero- tolerance policy for sexual misconduct that protects victims that come forward. We need to hold legislatures, lobbyists and staff accountable to the same stan- dard and take swift action when inappro- priate conduct takes place.	I believe there should be a zero tolerance policy when it comes to sexual harassment. Sexual misconduct training should be mandatory for all elected officials and staff. We need to send a clear message that sexual misconduct, in any form, will not be tolerated.		
Would you support or oppose accepting federal Medicaid expansion money?	The federal government is already \$21 trillion in debt. I oppose the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, as I do not believe we can trust the politicians in Washington, D.C. to keep up their end of the bargain and fund it long term. I support block grants to the state for the medically needy. I also believe in increasing competition through the use of surgery centers and creating/enhancing mid-levels for nursing.	Rising health care costs are a serious concern for the families of District 24, and throughout the state. Expansion of the Medicaid program is the first step. Applying for and selecting the most suitable insurance through the Affordable Care Act is unnecessarily complex and can deter applications. I would encourage assistance programs through public health clinics that guide people through the process and minimize confusion.		
Would you support or oppose closing the gun show loophole on background checks for gun buyers?	There is little evidence to suggest that banning private sales actually prevents or lowers crime. Furthermore, the majority of gun crimes are committed using handguns, not rifles. We should not infringe on the rights of law-abiding gun owners.	I would support the closing of the gun show loophole. Those purchasing guns should always have a background check. The safety of children and families in District 24 and around the state is of the utmost importance and having the gun show loophole does not keep our communities safe. This is the same reason I would support a ban on assault weapons and limiting the size of magazines for firearms.		
Assets/ liabilities/ income	Assets: \$15,679,131 Liabilities: \$1,002,370 Income: \$1,460450	Assets: \$502,953 Liabilities: \$125,497.54 Income: \$83,016		
Personal	Home: St. Petersburg Marital status: Married Children: 4	Home: St. Petersburg Marital status: Divorced Children: None		
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$866,205 Expenditures: \$407,933.03	Contributions: \$82,945 Expenditures: \$11,891.29		
On the web	Website: electjeffbrandes.com	Website: lindsaycrossforsenate.com		

ABOUT THE JOB: Cross and Brandes are running for one of Florida's 40 state Senate seats. Senators are paid \$29,697 per year to serve in the state's part-time Legislature. Senators serve four-year terms, but they can serve no more than two consecutive terms in a row. Senate District 24 contains parts of Pinellas County, including much of St. Petersburg, Largo, Pinellas Park and Seminole.

Twitter: @LindsayCrossFL

State House | District 38

After gaining re-election two years ago with no opposition, state Rep. Danny Burgess, R-Zephyrhills, is being challenged in his bid for a third term by David TK Hayes, who is running with no party affiliation. District 38 encompasses all of Pasco County east of Ehren Cutoff in Land O' Lakes and includes Wesley Chapel and the cities of Zephyrhills, Dade City, San Antonio and St. Leo.

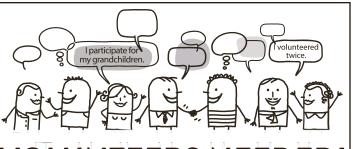
By C.T. Bowen, Times Staff Writer

	Danny Burgess	David Hayes		
Party	Republican	NPA		
Profession	Manager, Pasco Sheriff's Office	Self-employed real estate investor		
About the candidate	Burgess, 32, first won elected office at age 18 when voters put him on the Zephyrhills City Council. He later served as the city's mayor and was elected to the Legislature in 2014. A lawyer, he recently joined the Pasco County Sheriff's Office as future operations manager.	Hayes, 57, goes by the nickname "TK." A native of the Canadiar province of Newfound land, he moved to Zephyrhills in 1995 to manage the parachute-jumping business, Skydive City. He later became part owner before selling his interest this year. He became a U.S. citizen in 2008.		
Education	Bachelor's degree in political science from University of South Florida, juris doc- torate from Barry University	Associate's degree from the then-Pasco- Hernando Community College		
Should Florida's public schools receive more state funding?	"The pre-K-12 education state budget totals \$15.7 billion, which is a \$621.5 million (or 4 percent) increase over the base budget and a \$438.9 million (or 2.9 percent) increase over the prior year I believe that this stated increase does not warrant a special session."	"Absolutely. Unfunded mandates like school SRO (school resource officer) bills are classic legislative negligence on the part of the House and Senate. Education needs to be better funded, including property tax increases if needed. We are short on teachers, short on resources and short on facilities/infrastructure."		
Support or oppose accepting federal Medicaid expansion money?	"I voted against and continue to oppose Medicaid expansions for two critical reasons. First, even without the proposed expansion, Medicaid is continuing to grow and consume a larger portion of the state budget than it already does Any changes to the Medicaid system have to be approved by Washington in a tedious, time-consuming process. Secondly, Medicaid does not provide the quality insurance that is most fervent advocates claim I would like to see the federal government block grant the dollars to the states, like they did with Rhode Island, so that we as the Legislature can craft health care policies that are tailored to meet the unique needs of Florida."	"Yes, but I do not think that the ACA is the final solution for health care. I am an advocate for Medicare for all. Forcing people to buy insurance that they already cannot afford is not a solution. Health care needs to be a right in the country, and the country will be far better off if we accept the working models around the world."		
Support or oppose closing gun show loophole?	"I do not believe that more gun laws will solve the systemic problems and sense- less tragic acts of violence we have wit- nessed far too often in our society."	"Close gun show loopholes, yes. Back- ground checks on all gun sales. Escrow all gun sales through (law enforcement) to achieve the background check, and waiting period might be an option."		
What are your top three legislative priorities?	Fixing Florida's Workers' Compensation systems, child welfare issues and addressing the transportation needs of Pasco County.	"Education reform/funding. Criminal justice reform. Legalization and taxation of marijuana also, protecting women's rights through and through."		
Assets/ liabilities/ income	Assets: Home, bank account, IRA Liabilities: Mortgage, student loans, auto loan, line of credit Income: \$137,292	Assets: Home, bank account, mutual funds Liabilities: Auto loans Income: \$106,103		
Personal	Home: Zephyrhills Marital status: Married to Courtney Children: Daughter, son, expecting third child on Oct. 26.	Home: Zephyrhills Marital status: Divorced Children: One adult son		
Campaign fundraising	Contributions: \$209,471 Expenditures: \$132,963	Contributions: \$12,190 Expenditures: \$9,567		
On the web	Website: dannyburgessfl.com Twitter: @DannyBurgessFL	Website: tkforflorida.com Twitter @davidtkhayes:		



tampabay.com/do

Twitter: @JeffreyBrandes



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Meridien Research needs men and women of all ages for current research studies:

- Alzheimer's Disease
- Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia (BPH)
- Diabetes
- Women's Health

Participants receive study-related care and medication. No insurance required.



352-597-8839 **NEWSTUDYINFO.COM**





Quality

Donate your newspaper to a classroom when you go on vacation.

Go to tampabay.com/subscribe

Tim Tebow to headline "Night of Hope" revival

BY SARAH WHITMAN

Tim Tebow will speak at a free event Dec. 2 at Tropicana Field.

The athlete will share his testimony during "Night of Hope," a Christian revival also featuring recording artist Kari Jobe.

The event, organized by Tampa Bay nonprofit Movement 2819, is expected to draw about 20,000 spectators.

Volunteers are needed to work the parking lot, usher and greet people, man stations and keep the night running smooth. Sponsors also are needed.

"'Night of Hope' is about sharing the Gospel with the community," said event director Shannon Estee, worship leader at Mission City Church in Largo.

Mission City pastor Dustin LeChance founded Movement 2819 to partner with other ministries and bring big, faith-filled events to the Bay area. The organization's name comes from Matthew 28:19, which urges believers to go out and make disciples

"Night of Hope" is Movement 2819's first event. Free tickets will be handed out at the door.

"As a pastor, I have to say, what our community needs more of is Jesus," LeChance said. "We want to bring hope and encouragement, to let people know there is a God who has a bigger plan for

In addition to Kari Jobe, Mack Brock of Elevation Worship, Mission City Worship and Estee will perform at Tropicana Field. Tebow will speak mid-evening about how faith shapes his life.

Movement 2819 lined up For more information on "Night of Tebow through his mother, who Hope" and to register to volunteer, spoke at a Mission City's Wom- visit nightofhope2018.com.



Tim Tebow will speak during "Night of Hope" revival.

en's Conference in May 2018, Estee said.

"Tim Tebow appeals to Christians and non-Christians," Estee said. "We know a lot of Gator fans will come to hear him speak, so that is an opportunity to reach more people."

LeChance, who chooses not to take a salary from Mission City, knew from the start he didn't want to charge for "Night of Hope" tickets. He and other volunteers found sponsors in area businesses and churches to fund the evening. Partners include Bay Hope and Cornerstone Community Church in Tampa, the Joy FM, Pinch A Penny and SPENGA.

Volunteer registration closes at the end of October. Opportunities include helping with product and sponsorship tables, social media efforts and joining the prayer team.

The event is a community effort, and every volunteer can make an impact, LeChance said.

"This is a chance to watch God move in and change people's lives," he said.

Calendar

Faith United Methodist Church, 12128 State Road 52, invites the public to its pumpkin patch from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Oct. 31. The church will host Family Fun Day from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 27 and a Trunk-or Treat from 5 to 7 p.m. Oct. 28. For more information, call (727) 856-

St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 8320 Old County Road 54, will host its fall festival Nov. 2-4. The event will include entertainment, inflatables, carnival games, raffles and food trucks. Hours will be 5 to 10 p.m. Nov. 2, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Nov. 3 and noon to 4 p.m. Nov. 4. For more information, visit STAFall-

LAND O' LAKES **Pet adoption fees**

Pasco Animal Services has reduced its adoption fees for October: Dogs adoptions are \$25 and cats are \$10. Adoption fees include spay/neuter, microchips and vaccinations.

The shelter is at 19640 Dogpatch Lane. For a list of available pets, visit petango.com/pascocountyanimalservices. For information, call (813) 929-1212.

NEW PORT RICHEY Business recovery office opens

The Small Business Association has opened a Business Recover Center at the West Pasco Entrepreneur Center, 4532 U.S. 19, help businesses impacted by the Red Tide algae bloom (other centers are located in Lee, Manatee, Pinellas and Sarasota counties). The local center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

A representative is available to provide information on disaster loans, answer questions and assist businesses in completing the application.

Eligible businesses may qualify for economic injury loans up to \$2 million, with loan rates of 3.385 percent for small businesses and 2.5 percent for nonprofit organizations, with terms up to 30 years. The filing deadline is June 4, 2019.

Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application at disasterloan.sba.gov. Applications and program information are available at 1-800-659-2955 (hearing-impaired can call 1-800-877-8339), or by emailing to disastercustomerservice@ sba.gov.

Car show to benefit charity

Clerks for a Cure will host a car show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 20 in the West Pasco Judicial Center, 7530 Little Road.

The event will include food, raffles, music and drawing. Trophies will be awarded to win-

The entry fee is \$20 per car, which includes one raffle ticket. All cars must be registered by

9:30 a.m. on event day.

Funds raised will benefit the homas Promise Foundation and Pasco Animal Services. For information, email to clerksforacure@pascoclerk.com or visit Clerks for a Cure on Facebook.

Hearing evaluations offered free

Sertoma Speech and Hearing Foundation of Florida is offering free hearing evaluations with a licensed audiologist. Appointments must be scheduled, and are held every Friday at the office at 6333 River Road.

If it is determined that hearing aids are needed, financial assis-

tance is available. To schedule an appointment,

call (727) 312-3881.

Traveling memorial honors Florida heroes

Pasco County will host a traveling photo memorial, Remembering Florida's Fallen, from Oct. 15 through Oct. 26 at the West Pasco Government Center, 8731 Citizen's Drive. An opening ceremony will be at 2 p.m. Oct. 15.

The memorial is a tribute to Florida's fallen heroes — those who lost their lives in service to the country since Sept. 11, 2001. The display spans more than 100 feet and contains military and personal photos, personal messages and tributes.

PORT RICHEY Vendors wanted for train, hobby show

Regal Railways will host a Tov Train, Collectible and Hobby Show and Sale from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 27 at New Lake Civic Association, 8330 Civic Road.

Vendors are welcome to sell a variety of items, such as train memorabilia, trains, tracks, accessories, baseball items, crafts, comic books, coins, antiques, diecast cars or other hobby or collectible items. The cost is \$20 for 6-foot tables.

Admission to the event will be \$5, with children 12 and younger admitted free.

Interested vendors can contact Joe at (727) 244-1341, or visit the website at regalrailways.com.

>> SENATE continued from 1

book page, less than \$3,000 in spending money and a handful of short meet and greets as he endeavored to regain his health.

Still, Simpson – whose name recognition is by his own admission not huge after three uncontested races and a mostly behind-the-scenes political career - took the opposition seriously. He amassed a half-million-dollar campaign account, spurred in no small part by his scheduled ascendancy to the state Senate presidency in 2020. And he began running TV ads and sending mailers, while hitting the chicken-dinner circuit.

The first thing you see when leaving Cottrell's modest Spring Hill neighborhood is a giant blue and red "Simpson for Senate" sign, that Cottrell can't afford to compete with. The signs are popping up throughout Citrus, Hernando and Pasco counties.

"I've been told, you either run scared, or you run unopposed," said Simpson, one of the Senate's wealthiest members. He owns a giant Trilby egg farm and an environmental cleanup firm, among other ventures.

"We are going to work as hard at doing this as we do in our other activities," he said. "I want to continue to serve."

His desire stems from his parents instilling the importance of community service. Simpson's family supported programs such as 4H and area sporting teams, and he said he saw how much positive energy it brought to everyone involved.

When he went out on his own, Simpson said, he chose the Kiwanis over other organizations because of its service

component. He led the Pasco fair association to support the agriculture of the rural community, and chaired groups such as Habitat for Humanity and the Pasco-Hernando Community College trustees to help advance what he sees as important social causes.

"I desired to make our community a better place," Simpson

While participating in his activities, Simpson said, he saw a common theme: Government often stood in the way of "potentially great work." Running for state office gave him a "bigger megaphone to do great work for our community and state." He's taken strong stances on

springs restoration and water cleanup projects, saying Gov. Rick Scott and the Legislature set up long-term, funded initiatives to protect Florida's resources. The effort might be taking some time and facing hurdles77, he said, but the state has a plan in place. Simpson backs the state's

school choice and accountability model, saying the only way to break the cycle of failure is through competition and excellence. The state has created one of the nation's best education systems while remaining financially efficient, he said, pointing to the national Quality Counts report to bolster his view.

He supports making it easier for Floridians to have concealed weapons, saying it makes the state safer. He wants to overhaul the state employee union and pension system, saying it faces a looming crisis over its unfunded

And Simpson, who was adopted as a child, wants to revamp the state's maligned foster care and adoption process.

Continuing to give children

back to their parents on that criterion alone "is a crime against humanity," Simpson said.

As a legislative leader who brokered key deals, such as the power struggle between the factions of Joe Negron and Jack Latvala, he anticipates a continued strong voice in pushing issues like this to the forefront even if he does not file the legislation himself.

Cottrell questioned Simpson's altruism, suggesting there must be other motivations for a multimillionaire to spend huge amounts of money to win a position that pays less than \$30,000 a year. He contended the incumbent wants to keep power contained in the hands of a few. which is not always in the best interest of the general public.

Having endured the health care system in the past year, Cottrell focused first on that subject.

He shared his own story, where his bills for treatment at a Japanese hospital were thousands of dollars less than those in Florida.

"If we're the richest, most powerful nation in the world. why can't we figure out a way to make this work?" Cottrell wondered aloud, blasting the Florida Legislature for its refusal to take money to expand Medicare services to needy families.

He challenged Simpson's stance on concealed carry weapons and the expansion of arming school employees. Guns should not be in schools, Cottrell said, and it should be harder to access a weapon in Florida, not easier.

"These are conversations that need to be had, but nobody wants to have that conversation because they're afraid of the political ramifications," Cottrell said, stressing he supports the Second Amendment and seeks

"responsible" gun legislation.

Cottrell acknowledged Simpson's comments on cleaning the environment, but wondered why, if that's a serious concern. the Sunshine State hardly has a presence in solar energy. He pointed to Simpson's recent sale of property to Tampa Electric for a solar farm, in which Simpson made a \$4.4 million profit, and suggested such interactions should not drive the effort.

Cottrell similarly disagreed with Simpson on education, arguing the amount spent on public schools is not enough. He does not support merit-based bonuses for teachers, saying the money should go into salaries.

And rather than expanding charter schools, which his own son attends, "I would just like to see the public schools have more autonomy and more freedom to do what they know is best."

In conversation, Cottrell frequently punctuates his key points with the observation, "It's not that difficult."

But what might prove tough is overcoming the significant odds

Even some in his own party encouraged him not to run against Simpson, who had planned to donate his campaign account to charities if unop-

That spurred Cottrell to work harder. He expects his campaign to become more active in the

And that, in turn, will fuel Simpson to work harder to get out the vote, too.

"We have to run our race," Simpson said.

Contact Jeffrey S. Solochek at jsolochek@tampabay.com.Follow @jeffsolochek.

>> BOARD continued from 1

sion," O'Connor said. "Being on the School Board takes more than just that."

Only 223 votes separated Harding and O'Connor in a tight, four-person primary that sent them into a general election runoff for the nonpartisan seat representing northwestern Pasco. Now they're trying to distinguish themselves in a downballot race that gets drowned out by the heated partisan races for U.S. Senate and governor.

They have taken some shots at one another over campaign contributors and endorsements.

Harding touts herself as being supported by parents and teachers, not politicians, a pointed barb at O'Connor's backing by several elected officials, school system employees and district contractors. O'Connor also has been criticized for accepting a \$1,000 donation from Charter Schools USA, a for-profit charter management company.

O'Connor has pushed back, noting that Harding also received contributions from

local and state officials. She further added that such support should not define her candidacy, as she intends to be an independent voice if elected to the

Both aspirants hope to assume the mantle of retiring board member Steve Luikart, the board's most skeptical member over the past eight years. They said they would not be cowed into simply following the administration's lead if they disagree.

Harding reiterated that she, like Luikart, is an educator, and suggested that placed her in a better position to share his perspectives. O'Connor said she agreed with Luikart on many issues, but would seek compromise rather than being the lone "no" vote, as Luikart often was.

The candidates also have worked to highlight their policy differences on key issues facing the board.

O'Connor, for instance, said the board needs to set employee pav raises as a budget priority and, if the money is lacking, ought to seek voter approval for a tax increase to cover the costs.

Harding, by contrast, said she

did not back a tax increase proposal, suggesting instead the district should use impact fees to pay for raises (which is not allowed) and use its influence with lawmakers to seek added funding. She agreed that the district must strengthen employee pay and other forms of support.

Despite their pro-staff stances, neither won enough support from Tiger Pride — the United School Employees of Pasco's political action committee — to gain an endorsement. On charter schools, O'Connor

stood by the district's position that state law does not require it to share construction funds with charters. She noted that it's out knowing how much, if any, will be coming in. Harding focused on the

"home-grown" charters, as opposed to company-managed ones, and suggested they should share in the district funds.

"They are all our students," Harding said.

They do not differ on every subject. Both agreed the School

Board needs to operate in a more transparent manner. @jeffsolochek.

They supported live streaming and recording board meetings for the public, as well as having more open discussion about items currently lumped together for action on a consent agenda. They also concurred on the

for future school zone revisions, so families can prepare for what leaders know is coming because of continued rapid growth. If elected, Harding said she plans to make herself a regular

goal of more advanced planning

presence in schools, treating the board position as a full-time job and volunteering in classrooms to see what's going on inside.

O'Connor said she intends to difficult to pledge money with- continue her regular job, and to represent the district's interests by pursuing issues she learns of from the community.

School Board seats are nonpartisan, and voted on countywide even though the candidates must live in set districts. The winner will be the only new member of the five-person board.

Contact Jeffrey S. Solochek at jsolochek@tampabay.com.Follow

School notes

Arts/Theater/Music

Center for the Arts at River Ridge, 11646 Town Center Road, New Port Richey.(727) 744-7382, centerfortheartsriverridge.com:

• Florida Orchestra Concert, 10:30 a.m. and noon Oct. 17.

• Gulf Middle drama presents Competition Piece, a comedy about young actors in a thespian-like competition, 7 p.m. Oct.19-20. \$5.

• River Ridge High drama presents The Awesome 80s *Prom*, at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 25-27 in the River Ridge High cafeteria. Tickets are \$5 for Thursday preview; \$10 for Friday and Saturday shows. Two for one tickets are available (\$10) for audience members who come dressed in 80s' costume.

• Center for the Arts at ies.org. For information about Wesley Chapel, 30651 Wells Road, Wesley Chapel. (813) 794-8772, centerfortheartswesleychapel.com:

• Florida Orchestra Concert, 10:30 and 11:45 a.m. Oct. 18. \$7.

• Sunlake High drama performance, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 12-13 and 2:30 p.m. Oct. 13.

• Rusche Middle choral and band concert, 7 p.m. Oct. 19.

• Wesley Chapel Comedy Show, 7 p.m. Oct. 25-26.

Library notes

Local libraries offer an assortment of educational activities throughout the week. Check out a sample of upcoming youth activities listed below. Don't see something you like? For more information and a complete calendar of events and programs at Pasco County Libraries, go to www.pascolibrar-

events at programs at the New Port Richey Public Library, go to www.npr.org. Make it Fall!, 10 a.m. to 4

p.m. Oct. 13 at the Hugh Embry Library, 14215 Fourth St., Dade City. Celebrate the season with fall craft activities. For children. Open Build Costume Mak**ing**, 2 to 4 p.m. Oct. 13 in the foundary makerspace at the Land O' Lakes Library, 2818 Col-

lier Parkway, Land O' Lakes.

Fabric and materials are avail-

able, or bring your own. Staff will help with sewing. All ages. Frightening Forensics, 4:30 to 6 p.m. Oct. 16 at the Regency Park Library, 9701 Little Road, New Port Richey. Learn about crime scene analvsis, forensic science and more from this special presentation by the Pasco County Sheriff's

Office. Grades 4-7.

Pumpkin Slime, 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 18 at the South Holiday Library, 4649 Mile Stretch Drive, Holiday. Arts and crafts program for teens.

Newsmakers

Special Olympics named Land O' Lakes High School, Longleaf Elementary School and Seven Springs Middle School 2018 National Banner Unified Champion Schools. Each school will receive a commemorative banner that will be hung on campus to highlight this national achievement. A National Banner School must meet ten standards of excellence among four categories, including unified sports, inclusive youth leadership, whole-school engagement and sustainability.

Send your schools news to Michele Miller at mmiller@tampabay.com.

WESLEY CHAPEL Kid Care Fair set for Oct. 23

Pasco-Hernando State College and the North Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce will host a Kid Care Fair from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 23 at the Porter Campus at Wiregrass Ranch, 2727 Mainsfield Blvd. (in the conference center).

Visitors can meet vendors, healthcare providers, as well as kid- and family-friendly businesses in the area. Nursing students will provide educational presentations on issues impacting early childhood development, and give tours of the home

health care laboratory on campus. There will be free food and activities for parents and children. For information, visit phsc. edu or call toll-free 1-855-669-7472.

ZEPHYRHILLS Church to host fall festival

A Fall Festival will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 20 at Zephyr Christian Church, 5940 Dogwood St. There will be games, food and activities, offered at no cost. There also will be someone on hand to pray with or for those interested in prayer.

SCRABBLE G.R.A.M.S.

This Week's Answer:

_				
$\begin{array}{ c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c c$	RACK 1 =	70		
M ₃ O ₁ D ₂ I ₁ S ₁ H ₄	RACK 2 =	12		
M ₃ O ₁ V ₄ I ₁ O ₁ L ₁ A ₁	RACK 3 =	62		
M ₃ A ₁ I ₁ L ₁ M ₃ E ₁ N ₁	RACK 4 =	63		
PAR SCORE 150-160 Hashro and its logo, SCRABBLE ² , associated logo, the design of the distinctive SCRABBLE brand game board, and the distinctive letter tile designs are trademarks of Hashro in the United States and Caredo. (2018 Hashro. All rights rideserved Distributed by Tribure Content Agency, LCC.				

WONDERWORD

This Week's **Answer:**

Cook-Off