



CENTRAL FLORIDA
FREETHOUGHT
COMMUNITY

2022 Nonpartisan Voter Education Guide Central Florida House & Senate Districts

The Central Florida Freethought Community (CFFC) is proud to present this 2022 General Election Voter Education Guide and to provide helpful information regarding the upcoming election on our CFFC Voting Page at www.cffreethought.org/voting.

The CFFC sent a questionnaire to each candidate running in active races for Florida House and Senate seats in the Central Florida counties of Orange, Seminole, Osceola, Lake, Volusia, and Brevard. The questions cover a broad range of issues important to Florida voters.

The questionnaire was sent to 49 candidates in 19 active races for Florida House and 5 active races for Florida Senate. These races are listed on the [Florida Department of State website](#). Candidates were reached by the campaign email provided to the Division of Elections or the email address on their campaign website or campaign Facebook page. Some candidates could not be reached and some candidates were contacted and did not participate.

If you find this guide helpful, or if you have feedback or questions about the process, please let us know at info@cffreethought.org.

**To find candidates for your district,
go to the page for your county.
Districts in more than one county
can be found on each county's page.**

The CFFC is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit organization focusing on the separation between religion and government, educating the public on the value of secularism, and building a thriving Humanist community in the Central Florida area.

Founded in 2012, the CFFC assists its community members and the public in resolving Establishment Clause and other violations, and advocates for the values we have in common with all Central Floridians—regardless of religion or political party.

Orange County

House Districts 35, 37, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 45, 47

Senate Districts 10, 13, 17, 25

Click on the candidate name to visit the campaign website (when provided by the respondent)

Florida House District 35	<u>Rishi Bagga</u> Democrat	<u>Fred Hawkins*</u> Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Mostly	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	[No response]	DNP
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Bagga responded “I am strongly committed to religious freedom. As a devout member of a minority faith, I strongly believe that the separation of church and state secures my own right to practice my faith without interference.”	DNP

Florida House District 37	<u>Susan Plasencia</u> Republican	<u>Carlos Guillermo Smith*</u> Democrat
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	DNP	No
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	DNP	Always
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	DNP	Yes
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	DNP	No
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	DNP	No
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	DNP	No

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7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	DNP	[No response]
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	DNP	Smith [No response]

Florida House District 40	<u>LaVon Bracy Davis</u> Democrat	Nate Robertson Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Always	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	Yes	DNP
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Davis [No response]	DNP

Florida House District 41	Bruce H. Antone Democrat	<u>Robin Denise Harris</u> Green Party
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	DNP	No
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	DNP	Mostly
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	DNP	Yes
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	DNP	Yes
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	DNP	No
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	DNP	[No response]
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	DNP	Yes
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	DNP	Harris responded "I can consider myself to be a Spiritual being vs. a Religious being. I believe we all should respect each person's journey. There should be more focus on how we can best serve those who need to be lifted up."

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Florida House District 42	<u>Anna V. Eskamani</u> * Democrat	<u>Bonnie Jackson</u> Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	Yes
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Always	No
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	No
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	Yes
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	No
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	[No response]
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	Yes	[No response]
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Eskamani responded "Separation of church and state must be preserved."	Jackson responded "I am unable to answer some of your questions, because of the way in which the questions are worded."

Florida House District 47	<u>Anthony Nieves</u> Democrat	<u>Paula Stark</u> Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Always	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	Yes	DNP
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Nieves responded, "Government should remain neutral toward all religions and not officially recognize or favor any one religion."	DNP

Florida House District 39	<u>Doug Bankson</u> Republican	<u>Tiffany Hughes</u> Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

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Florida House District 43	Christopher Wright Republican	Johanna Lopez Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida House District 45	Carolina Amesty Republican	Allie Braswell Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida Senate District 10	Jason Brodeur* Republican	Joy Goff-Marcil Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida Senate District 13	Dennis Baxley* Republican	Stephanie L. Dukes Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida Senate District 17	Steve Dixon Republican	Linda Stewart* Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida Senate District 25	Peter A. Vivaldi Jr. Republican	Victor M. Torres Jr.* Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

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Seminole County

House Districts 36, 37, 38 | Senate District 10

Click on the candidate name to visit the campaign website (when provided by the respondent)

Florida House District 36	Rachel Plakon Republican	Deborah Poulalion Democrat
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	DNP	No
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	DNP	Always
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	DNP	Yes
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	DNP	No
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	DNP	No
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	DNP	No
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	DNP	Yes
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	DNP	Poulalion responded "One of the greatest foundations of the United States is the freedom to practice religion - or NOT to practice religion. Nobody should be able to force you into their beliefs.."

Florida House District 37	Susan Plasencia Republican	Carlos Guillermo Smith* Democrat
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	DNP	No
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	DNP	Always
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	DNP	Yes
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	DNP	No
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	DNP	No
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	DNP	No
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	DNP	[No response]
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	DNP	Smith [No response]

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Florida House District 38	<u>Sarah Henry</u> Democrat	David Smith* Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Always	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	[No response]	DNP
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Henry responded "Part of what makes Florida so incredible, is our respect for religious diversity. Our very nation was founded on the principle that we all have the right to believe and practice that belief how we see fit."	DNP

Florida Senate District 10	Jason Brodeur* Republican	Joy Goff-Marcil Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

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Osceola County

House Districts 35, 45, 46, 47 | Senate District 25

Click on the candidate name to visit the campaign website (when provided by the respondent)

Florida House District 35	Rishi Bagga Democrat	Fred Hawkins* Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Mostly	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	[No response]	DNP
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Bagga responded "I am strongly committed to religious freedom. As a devout member of a minority faith, I strongly believe that the separation of church and state secures my own right to practice my faith without interference."	DNP

Florida House District 47	Anthony Nieves Democrat	Paula Stark Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman's right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Always	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	Yes	DNP

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8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Nieves responded, “Government should remain neutral toward all religions and not officially recognize or favor any one religion.”	DNP
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Florida House District 45	Carolina Amesty Republican	Allie Braswell Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

Florida House District 46	Kristen Arrington* Democrat	Christian De La Torre Republican	Ivan A. Rivera NPA
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP	DNP

Florida Senate District 25	Peter A. Vivaldi Jr. Republican	Victor M. Torres Jr.* Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

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Lake County

House Districts 25, 26, 39, | Senate District 13

Click on the candidate name to visit the campaign website (when provided by the respondent)

Florida House District 25	Banks Helfrich No Party Affiliation	Taylor Yarkosky Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Mostly	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	[No response]	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	[No response]	DNP
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Helfrich responded “#4. If a student follows the prayer, I support them.”	DNP

Florida House District 26	Linda Kero Democrat	Keith Truenow* Republican
1. Do you favor the placement, for any reason, of religious symbols or displays in public places?	No	DNP
2. Do you believe it is solely a woman’s right to choose to have an abortion for any reason?	Always	DNP
3. Do you support statewide human rights protections for the LGBTQIA+ community?	Yes	DNP
4. Do you support allowing public school employees to pray with students during school or at school-sanctioned activities?	No	DNP
5. Do you support teaching religious scriptures in public schools other than in a course on literature or comparative religions?	No	DNP
6. Do you support giving religious organizations government funding to support inherently religious activities?	No	DNP
7. Do you support requiring houses of worship to file the same IRS report forms as other 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations?	Yes	DNP
8. Do you have any comments you would like to share regarding the questions or your position on religious freedom?	Kero responded “It is wrong to make disrespectful remarks about someone that is religious, just as it is about a non-religious person or	DNP

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	group. Religion is a personal choice. Division of Church and State is a founding principle!"	
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Florida House District 39	Doug Dankson Republican	Tiffany Hughes Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

Florida Senate District 13	Dennis Baxley* Republican	Stephanie L. Dukes Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

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Volusia County

House Districts 28, 29, 30 | Senate Districts 8

Florida House District 28	Tom Leek* Republican	John Clifford Navarra Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida House District 29	Webster Barnaby* Republican	Rick Karl Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida House District 30	Chase Tramont Republican	Vic Baker Write-In
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida Senate District 8	Tommy A. Wright* Republican	Andrea Williams Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

Brevard County

House Districts 30, 33, 34 | Senate District 8

Florida House District 30	Chase Tramont Republican	Vic Baker Write-In
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida House District 33	Randy Fine* Republican	Anthony Yantz Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida House District 34	Robert Brackett Republican	Karen Greb Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP
Florida Senate District 8	Tommy A. Wright* Republican	Andrea Williams Democrat
Candidates did not participate	DNP	DNP

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