

Voter Guide 2022 (revised 10/20/2022)

(Online version is at martincountydemocrats.org. Link for Voter Guide is in red type near top of the page.)

Vote for Your Democratic Candidates

US Senate

Val Demings

US House

District 21 Corinna Balderramos Robinson

Governor/Lt Governor

Charlie Crist & Karla Hernandez-Mats

Attorney General

Aramis Ayala

Chief Financial Officer

Adam Hattersley

Commissioner of Agriculture

Naomi Esther Blemur

State House

District 85 Curtis Tucker

District 86 Raymond Denzel

Florida Supreme Court Justices: Should they be retained?

Short answer: Either vote NO for all the justices, or vote NO for all justices except Justice Labarga, who is considered less conservative than the others.

Some detail: Justices are initially appointed by governors but face a retention vote on the first general election more than one year after their appointment. If elected, they serve six-year terms. Currently all justices on the ballot were appointed by Republican governors. Out of all the justices up for retention, Justice Jorge Labarga seems to be the most moderate. While some Democrats advocate NO for all the justice retentions, others believe they should vote YES for Justice Labarga and NO for all the others. The Palm Beach Editorial Board recommends a YES for Labarga and a NO for all the others.

If you'd like to research the justices further, here are some sites to consider:

<https://www.floridabar.org/public/faircts/votes010/2020-merit-retention-biographies/>

<https://www.votingforjustice.com/candidates/florida-supreme-court>

https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Supreme_Court_elections,_2022

4th District Court of Appeals Judges: Should they be retained?

Short answer: Either vote NO for all the judges, or vote NO on all the judges except Justice Gross.

Some detail: Similar election process as Supreme Court judges. All were appointed by Republican governors except for Robert Gross, who was appointed by Lawton Chiles. Check out these websites to learn about the judges up for retention.

<https://www.4dca.org/Judges>

https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Fourth_District_Court_of_Appeal

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Amendments: There are 3 constitutional amendments on the ballot.

Short answer: Vote NO on all amendments.

Some detail: These proposed amendments were brought about by the Republican Legislature, not the public. Many Democrats are voting NO for all 3 amendments. In fact, the Palm Beach Post Editorial Board recently recommended a NO vote for all. Here is a breakdown of the amendments:

Amendment #1: Effective January 1, 2023 this amendment authorizes the Legislature to prevent flood resistance improvements made to a home from being considered when determining a property's assessed value for property taxes. **Analysis:** Some would argue this is good because it provides an incentive to homeowners to make their structures more resilient to storms. Others argue this would reduce the ad valorem taxes available for local government, that this would primarily benefit the wealthy who own homes along the coast, and that the state should not be amending the constitution for such purposes.

Amendment #2: This amendment would abolish the Constitution Revision Commission (CRC). This body meets every 20 years to determine what amendments to the State Constitution are needed and, if approved, the amendment is then put on the ballot. **Analysis:** Those supporting this amendment say the CRC has put forth unpopular and sometimes confusing amendments and this body is no longer needed. Others say this is one significant means by which the public can update the state's constitution periodically and it should be left in place. Safeguards could be enacted to improve wording and prevent bundling of issues within the amendments.

Amendment #3: This amendment would let the Legislature give an additional homestead tax exemption of \$50,000 on the assessed value of homestead property owned by classroom teachers, law enforcement officers, correctional officers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, child welfare services professionals, active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces, and Florida National Guard members. **Analysis:** Some would argue this is an appropriate benefit to provide to workers in these essential fields, while others would argue that providing an additional \$50k property tax exemption is unwise. They point out that salaries for many of these professions should be increased and that government should work to provide more affordable housing, not reduce local government money by providing additional tax exemptions.

For more discussion on the merits of these amendments, you might check out these sites:

<https://lwvfl.org/amendments-2022/> (League of Women Voters)

<https://bit.ly/3M0qNc8> (Florida TaxWatch)

Go to the Martin County Supervisor of Elections office webpage to view your **sample ballot**. You can go to <https://sites.omniballot.us/12085/app/sb/vr>, fill in your name and birthdate, and the app will display your personalized sample ballot so you can get acquainted with the categories and layout.

DATES & TIMES TO REMEMBER:	
Oct 11	Voter registration deadline
Oct 30	Vote-by-Mail request deadline
Oct 26 - Nov 5	Early in-person voting, 8am – 5pm daily
Nov 8	Vote-by-Mail ballots must be received in the SOE office by 7pm
Nov 8	ELECTION DAY! Polls open 7am – 7pm

Still have questions?

Call the Martin County Democrats office at 772-221-0405.

Early in-person voting: OCT 26 – NOV 5, 8am – 5pm daily

EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS

<p><i>STUART</i></p> <p>Elections Center 135 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd Stuart, FL 34994</p> <p>Robert Morgade Library 5851 SE Community Dr Stuart, FL 34997</p>	<p><i>JENSEN BEACH</i></p> <p>Hoke Library 1150 NE Jack Williams Way Jensen Beach, FL 34957</p>
<p><i>HOBE SOUND</i></p> <p>Hobe Sound Library 10595 SE Federal Hwy Hobe Sound, FL 33455</p>	<p><i>PALM CITY</i></p> <p>Cummings Library 2551 SW Matheson Ave Palm City, FL 34990</p>
<p><i>INDIANTOWN</i></p> <p>Elisabeth Lahti Library 15200 SW Adams Ave Indiantown, FL 34956</p>	

You are required to provide current and valid photo and signature identification in order to vote in person. Acceptable forms:

- Florida driver's license
- Florida Identification Card (ID) issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles
- U.S. passport
- Debit or credit card
- Military identification
- Student identification
- Retirement center identification
- Neighborhood association identification
- Public assistance identification
- Veteran health identification card issued by the US Dept. Of Veterans Affairs
- A license to carry a concealed weapon or firearm
- Employee identification card issued by any branch, department, agency or entity of the Federal Government, the state, county or municipality

Visit the Martin County Supervisor of Elections website at <https://www.martinvotes.gov/> for further details on all matters related to voting. To reach SOE by phone, call 772-288-5637 during office hours 8am – 5pm.