

# 2018

## Candidate Questionnaire



FLORIDA FEDERATION  
*for Children*

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NAME

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PARTY AFFILIATION

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ADDRESS

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NAME OF CANDIDATE COMMITTEE

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TELEPHONE NUMBER

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CAMPAIGN MANAGER/CONTACT

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EMAIL

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CAMPAIGN WEBSITE

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OFFICE SOUGHT

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FACEBOOK PAGE

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DISTRICT

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TWITTER HANDLE

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***Florida Federation for Children*** is a non-partisan electioneering organization. Our mission is to support policies that will improve public education and ensure that all children – without regard to race or income – have equal access to a quality education.

1. Florida Schools

a. What things do you think the State of Florida does well with regard to K-12 education?

b. In what areas do you believe the State of Florida must do better with regard to K-12 education?



2. Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of parental choice—that the government should provide parents with as many quality choices as possible to ensure that their child receives a good education?

\_\_\_\_\_ Supporter

\_\_\_\_\_ Opponent

3. Which target populations should be the focus of parental choice programs? (Mark all that apply.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Children with special education exceptionalities

\_\_\_\_\_ Children from low-income and working class families

\_\_\_\_\_ All Florida children, regardless of income or special education needs

\_\_\_\_\_ None of the above

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain):

4. When it comes to the mechanism for providing families with more parental choice do you support:

\_\_\_\_\_ New options within the traditional public school districts, like magnet schools

\_\_\_\_\_ Public charter schools

\_\_\_\_\_ The McKay Scholarship Program for Students with Disabilities, which are funded with funds from the state treasury

\_\_\_\_\_ Scholarships for children from low income and working class families to attend private schools funded indirectly through corporate tax credits, like those administered by Step Up For Students

\_\_\_\_\_ State funded individual spending accounts that parents utilize to purchase customized educational services for their child with special needs, like the Florida Personal Learning Accounts, now called Gardiner Scholarships

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtual Schooling, either through the Florida Virtual School or district offerings

\_\_\_\_\_ Dual enrollment, with students taking high school classes and classes at colleges and community colleges

\_\_\_\_\_ None of the above

\_\_\_\_\_ Other (please explain):



5. The Florida Tax Credit Scholarship is a program created by the Florida Legislature in 2001 to help low income families choose a private school or an out of district public school. It gives companies a 100% tax credit against certain taxes for donations to qualified non-profits that give scholarships to pay for tuition or transportation costs.

Do you consider yourself a supporter of this program?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

6. Before the 2014 session, only families meeting the Free or Reduced Lunch program were eligible for the Tax Credit Scholarship program (a household of four could make \$44,123 per year). In the 2014 session, the law was changed so that starting in the 2016-2017 school year families with up to \$60,000 in income for a household of four can receive a 50% scholarship, as long as demand from low income families is satisfied first.

Do you agree with this change?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

7. If demand from low income families for the tax credit scholarship program was ultimately satisfied, would you like to see middle class families (e.g. a household of four with \$70,000 of income) be eligible for full scholarships? Full scholarship amounts are currently set at a maximum of 88% to 96% of the state contribution to public school per pupil funding depending on grade attended.)

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

8. Tax Credit Scholarship students are now required to take a nationally recognized standardized test like the Stanford 10, or they may elect to take the Florida State Assessment, and the results are reported to a research entity chosen by the state and study results are available on the state DOE website. Do you support allowing the current policy or should all scholarship students be required to take the Florida State Assessment? (Check the one you support.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Nationally recognized standardized test approved by the Department of Education

\_\_\_\_\_ Require tax credit scholarship students to take the Florida State Assessment test

\_\_\_\_\_ Either test is fine (current policy)



9. Last year nearly 100,000 children who began applications for the tax credit scholarship had to be turned away. If the Florida State Supreme Court would allow it, would you support converting the program to one funded from the state treasury similar to the McKay Scholarship Program and the Gardiner Scholarships, so that more children could be served?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

10. In 2014, Florida’s teachers union filed a lawsuit asking the courts to shut down the tax credit scholarship program, claiming it violated the state constitution. This lawsuit would have forced the 100,000 low income children in the program out of their chosen schools. The suit ultimately failed. Would you have supported this lawsuit?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

11. Do you believe Florida’s current system of funding for public education provides adequate support for all schools across the state, including charter schools? Please explain your position.

12. Do you believe charter school students should receive equitable funding when compared to their traditional public school counterparts (FTE Funds, Capital Funds and Federal Funds)?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

13. A. Should local law enforcement provide School Resource Officers to each public school including charter schools?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES                      \_\_\_\_\_ NO

B. If yes, who should be responsible for the cost?

- \_\_\_\_\_ a) local county government;
- \_\_\_\_\_ b) local sheriff or law enforcement agency;
- \_\_\_\_\_ c) school district;
- \_\_\_\_\_ d) public charter school or
- \_\_\_\_\_ e) combination of the above (provide).



14. Should certain properly trained school personal be allowed assess to firearms in case of an emergency?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_\_\_ NO

15. Do you support a policy which would allow state universities or a state agency to also approve/sponsor charter schools rather than just the local school district as currently required?

\_\_\_\_\_ YES

\_\_\_\_\_ NO

16. Describe the ideal relationship between a school board and a charter school.

17. What other changes would you recommend to Florida's K-12 education system?

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**PLEASE COMPLETE THIS PAGE**

*I understand that the **Florida Federation for Children (FFC)** will use my answers to the questions above as one of a number of factors in consideration for endorsement of my candidacy. In general, the FFC does not release the answers of the survey to the public; however we reserve the right to do so.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN COMPLETED AND SIGNED FORM BY: May 2, 2018**



***Return options:***

- Toll free fax at (866) 366-4574
- Email a scanned copy to [laserinc@gmail.com](mailto:laserinc@gmail.com)
- Online at <https://federationforchildren.wufoo.com/forms/2018floridasurvey/>
  - Your unique PIN is located in the cover letter.

If you have any questions about this survey, please do not hesitate to contact Denise Lasher at [laserinc@gmail.com](mailto:laserinc@gmail.com) or 813-240-4567.

**Comments Section**

Please use this section if you need to expand on answers to any of the questions in the survey.

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