

ValenciaVoice

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Tim Goheen

The outcome of November 2 midterms elections will dictate a lot of how the country proceeds into the future. The biggest issue of the day are the financial trouble, health care reform, the war in Afghanistan



Florida election preview

By James Austin
jaustin@valenciavoice.com

The midterm elections are upon us. The American people will once again have

the opportunity to legally overthrow the powers that be or keep the current people in charge, November 2.

Unfortunately the midterm elections have a history for having a much lower turnout than presidential elections even though in the midterms.

The candidates that are running would have a much larger influence on the day to day life of each voter, due to the fact that they will be representing each state or district in congress.

This year Florida has one senate seat available, one governorship up for grabs and many house representative seats open.

This article lists some of the options on this years ballot. Information on each candidate's platform were pulled from their respective websites or past speeches.

Keep in mind that this is just to highlight some of the things that make the candidates different. It is by no means a full comprehensive list. These lists do not take into account aspects such as experience, morals, or previous record, as those can be subjective and affect each voter's opinion differently.

Please research any candidate you have more questions feel free to email me at jaustin@valenciavoice.com.

The focus is on the three main candidates for the US Senate, the two main candidates for the governor of Florida, and the proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution.

Go out and vote on November 2.

US Senate / Florida

Marco Rubio, Republican party

- Permanently extend Bush tax cuts for everyone
- Cut taxes on businesses
- Permanently end the death tax
- Repeal or reform the health care bill
- Prevent Cap and Trade
- Reduce the size of government
- Replace the sunshine state standards and provide new scholarship opportunities for students of chronically failing schools

Kendrick B. Meek, Democratic party

- Wants to remove the Bush tax cuts for the wealthy and keep the tax cuts in place for middle class
- Wants to close tax loopholes for companies that ship jobs overseas.
- Supports unions
- Has supported cutting interest rates on student loans
- Has voiced opposition to offshore drilling
- Supports cap and trade
- Supports the repeal of Don't ask Don't tell
- Supported the health care bill
- Supported the high-speed rail system

Charlie Christ, Independent

- Advocates for a ban on insurance for offshore oil leases
- During his term as governor he advocated using renewable energy sources
- Wants to continue the federal-state partnership under the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan
- Supports tax credits and scholarships for charter schools
- Supports a free market health care system
- Is against amnesty for illegal immigrants

By James Austin / Valencia Voice

Florida Governor

Rick Scott, Republican party

- Against amnesty for illegal immigrants
- Voice support for the Arizona immigration law
- Supports off-shore drilling, nuclear energy, and alternate fuels
- Believes Roe v. Wade should be overturned
- Believes marriage should be between a man and a woman
- Is opposed to the health care bill
- Supporter of gun rights
- Is for limited government and low taxes

Alex Sink, Democratic party

- Wants to put in a performance based pay rate for teachers
- Wants to expand science, technology, engineering, and mathematics initiatives in public schools
- Supports amendment 8
- Wants to offer tax credits for renewable energy
- Does not support an immigration law like Arizona's
- Supports future plans for more light rail systems like the one currently being built

Constitutional Amendments

Amendment one, repeals the promise of public funding to candidates who agree to spending limits/statewide office. Essentially the goal of this amendment is to get rid of a law passed in 1997 that required the state to help fund campaigns that had agreed to spending limits.

Support:

Those that support the new amendment say the funds used to finance the elections could be put to better use elsewhere and that the law has not been effective in limiting campaign spending.

Opposition:

Those who oppose the new amendment say that public financing keeps the campaigns more transparent and prevents anyone from spending their opponent into oblivion.

Orange County Mayor

Bill Segal

- Wants to offer a property tax rebate for small businesses
- Wants to reorganize the county government using the city of Orlando as a model
- Wants to have Orange County office stay open later on certain days

Teresa Jacobs

- Is against Amendment four
- Wants to require community meetings before any new zoning hearings or new comprehensive land use amendments
- Wants to publish a semi annual report card on the County website.

Amendment two, requires the state legislator to provide an additional homestead tax break for active military and state guard. The goal is to provide a homestead tax exemption for any military or state guard troops that was deployed on active duty outside of the United States the previous year. The size of the exemption would be determined based on how many days that year the person was deployed.

Support:

Those that support the amendment say that it is a way to honor and thank those who serve in our military.

Opposition:

Those that oppose the amendment say that it is not a fair way to honor the military because it has many loopholes and exceptions that would cause some members to not qualify.

Constitutional Amendments

Amendment four, requires any new land use plans or edits to land use plans be voted on by the local government in which the land use plan would go into effect. The proposed amendment would require that before a local government can adopt a new comprehensive land use plan, or amend an existing one, the plan must be voted on by the electorate of the community in question. A comprehensive land use plan is basically a document that explains how a given community wants to use it's available land. It can include plans for everything from residential areas and communities to transportation corridors and manufacturing centers.

Support:

Those that support this amendment say it acts as a layer of defense against unwanted developments.

Opposition:

Those who oppose this amendment say it will drastically increase taxes due to the increased number of votes the state would have to run.

Amendment eight would raise the average maximum number of students per teacher in public schools. This would increase the maximum class size by three students in pre-k through third grade, and by five students in fourth through 12th grade

Support:

Those that support this amendment say that it would save money without decreasing the quality of learning in the classroom. And that keeping the class sizes the same would cause the government to spend money on new classrooms instead teachers salaries.

Opposition:

Those that oppose this amendment say that increasing class sizes would be harmful to students and that any money it saves would only be filtered out of education.

Amendment five, requires that district lines must not be drawn to favor or disfavor any incumbent or political party, ethnic group or language minority. The amendment also states that districts must be compact, as equal in population as is feasible and when possible, must make use of existing county, city or geographical boundaries.

Support:

Those that support this amendment say that it forces legislators to draw district lines based on location and population instead of ethnicity or party affiliation, giving more voters a fair representation.

Opposition:

Those that oppose this amendment say that it will inadvertently result in less competitive elections.

Amendment six, same as amendment five just in a different section of the constitution.



From Left to right: Daniel Pacchioni, Joshua Downing, Arley Gieski, Johnathan Brennan, and Greg Pereira

Pre-Election Coverage Team



From left to right: Luis Cartagena, Diana Abreu, Daniel Payne, Dawn Ginnetti, and Ricardo Aponte



From left to right: Ramon Corporan, Cameron Heaton, Jared Winn, Zoraida Sifontes, Omar Fabian Bueno, and Melaine Banchs

The students of profeesor Adrienne Mathews Government and the Media have worked in partnership will the Valencia Voice to put together a Pre-election special issue.

Breaking up into coverage team, each team focused on the canidates of the US Florida Senate race, the Florida Governor race, and the Orange county mayor election.

"I wanted the students to get a hands on expierence working with the colege media on this election," said Mathews.

This special edition is meant to be a comprehensive guide on the major mid-term political races. Provide information on each candidates political platform.

Be sure to check back for election coverage in next weeks Valencia Voice.

Former Alaska governor spoke out to Republicans of Orlando

By Jim Stratton
The Orlando Sentinel

With former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin leading the charge, Florida Republicans sought to rally their base Saturday, telling a cheering crowd of activists and party officials that a GOP wave was poised to wash over Tallahassee and Washington.

"The momentum is with us," Palin told supporters at the Marriott World Center in Orlando. "But now is not the time to let up. Now is the time to dig deep."

The Republican National Committee fundraiser served as a massive get-out-the-vote rally. Many of the

folks who showed up - more than 1,000 - are the volunteers and activists who will be on the front lines during the next nine days canvassing neighborhoods and staffing phone banks to push party voters to the polls.

To rev up supporters, a slate of GOP candidates and party leaders delivered a dependable menu of conservative hot-button issues and names: Barack Obama, Obamacare, Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid and Alan Grayson. They seized on the nation's struggling economy, saying Democrats had failed in the past two years and now it was time to step aside.

"America is on fire to fire Pelosi," RNC Chairman Michael Steele said. "America is ready to retire Reid.

But most of all, you're ready to grab hold of your country again."

The GOP, fueled by voter anxiety and frustration, is convinced it is about to change the complexion of Congress. Orlando's Democratic Congressman Alan Grayson has become a favorite target. His name drew enthusiastic "boos" at each mention.

At the statewide level, Florida Republicans hope to capture the governor's office - Republican Rick Scott is in a close contest with Democrat Alex Sink - and run the table on Cabinet positions.

In a six-minute speech, the former speaker of the Florida House stuck closely to his campaign message of fiscal restraint and American exceptionalism. With just over a week until Election Day, he told supporters that the race now comes down to one thing: "Turning out and voting."

Continued on page 3



Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT

Former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin spoke to supporters during a rally in Orlando, Florida on Saturday.



Robert Duyos, South Florida Sun Sentinel / MCT

Democrat Alex Sink, Florida chief financial officer, running for governor of Florida.

Florida woman hopes to be governor Democrat Alex Sink hopes to win gubernatorial election

By Arley Gieski
Special to Valencia Voice

Voters may be asking themselves, "Who is Alex Sink and what does she stand for?"

Alex Sink is the Democratic candidate hoping to become the first woman Governor of Florida. She has 26 years of experience in the business world and has spent the last four years as Florida's chief financial officer (CFO).

Alex Sink was born Adelaide Alexander Sink and grew up on a farm in Mt. Airy, North Carolina and then went on to college at Wake Forest University, North Carolina. She currently resides in Thonotosassa and Tallahassee with her husband,

former Democrat gubernatorial candidate Bill McBride. They have two children together; Bert, a football player at Stanford University and Lexi, a student at Wake Forest University.

Before being elected as Florida's CFO in 2006, Sink was president of Florida operations for Bank of America where she managed 9,000 employees and \$40 billion in customer accounts.

During her career as Florida's CFO, she was responsible for 2,000 employees and an annual budget of \$200 Million. As the CFO she put her business experience to work for the good of Floridians.

She is known for cracking down on unnecessary spending and demanding accountability for Florida's vendors, consultants and contractors.

If Sink wins the Governor's race she plans to get Florida's economy moving again and intends to create long-term economic prosperity for the future. Once in office, she will implement targeted tax cuts, offer incentives for businesses, and "trim the fat" in government.

Sink feels that Florida's economy needs a boost. She plans to do this by offering research and development tax credits to increase commercialization of new products in Florida. She also seeks to plan up to \$2 billion for high-tech spending.

Sink plans to streamline regulations by temporarily postponing corporate income taxes for qualified start-ups. She would provide incentives for the clean-tech, aerospace, life sciences, information technology and financial services industries.

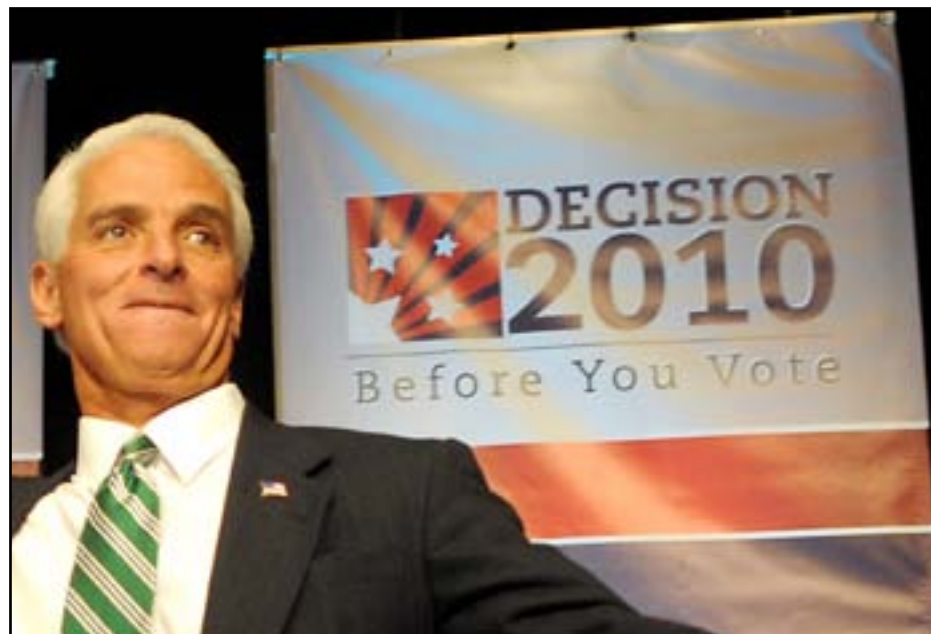
Although Sink's election would be historic, she is a down-to-earth candidate stressing time-honored values such as discipline, moderation and efficiency.

Governor fights to become Senator

By Aron Smukler
Special to Valencia Voice

The current governor of Florida is back for his second attempt at becoming a United States senator representing the state of Florida.

Charlie Crist has said that the reason why he left the Republican party this past April was because he felt he was squeezed out of the party. Now, Crist has no party affiliation and is running as an Independent.



Robert Duyos, Sun Sentinel / MCT

Florida Gov. Charlie Crist debates Democratic candidate Kendrick Meek and Tea Party Republican candidate Marco Rubio for Florida's Senate seat.

While this could hurt his chances of getting elected because he is not backed by any party, it is also hurting his opponents by having an extra candidate in the race. Charlie Crist believes his political policies put him in between the ideas of the two major parties and therefore does not allow him to enforce the policies he believes best suits his constituents.

Crist has publicly stated that the reason for switching par-

ties is "a product of a broken political system." This decision to abandon the Republican party came only weeks after polls showed the current Florida governor was a 20-point underdog.

While the current governor has been criticized for his fiscal policies, he has also been recognized for his advocacy on environmental preservation and capital punishment and has a dense educational and career track record.

Crist attended Florida State University where he was elected vice president of the student body and gained his first experience in representing his constituency. After earning his bachelor's degree in political science, Crist decided he wanted to further his education and began attending law school at Samford University Law School in Birmingham, Ala.

Upon graduation from law school, Crist was quick to find a job becoming part of the general council of the Minor League Baseball Commission where he worked for six years. This was a great accomplishment for Crist and after resigning from the position in 1987 he decided to open his own law firm ["Wood and Crist"] with his former brother-in-law.

Governor Crist has persistently attempted to get voted into public office during this time and finally in 1992 he got voted into Florida state's senate where he represented his constituents for the next six years.

After his term as Florida's state senate came to an end and losing in the United States senate race to the popular incumbent Democrat Bob Graham, Crist was elected Education Commissioner of Florida in 2000, a position he held until it became an office filled by political appointment in 2003.

Crist was then elected Florida's attorney general in which he was recognized for heavily prosecuting civil rights and fraud cases. The current governor has been criticized for vetoing the teacher merit bill, which among other matters ties teacher pay largely to student learning gains on standardized tests, because he believes the plan is "significantly flawed" and "we must start over."

In the past month governor Crist purchased 26,800 acres of land for everglades restoration in an attempt to make the Everglades Florida's national park.

Charlie Crist has nearly 20 years of political experience and, now that he is not attached to a political party, can run under his own political platform in which he believes best serves his constituency.

Palin preaches about election

Continued from page 2

Like Republicans around the country, Rubio has sought to nationalize his race, making it about Obama, Pelosi and Reid. He casts the election in near apocalyptic terms, saying the contest is not just an election but a "referendum on our identity as a people and a nation."

"Washington is broken, and let me be blunt, both parties are to blame," he said. "But we have never seen anything like the last 18 months."

Rubio's supporters ate it up.

Dana Nappi came from Jupiter, Fla., to see the GOP Senate candidate. A semi-retired businessman from New Jersey, Nappi, 59, has been involved in the tea party movement for more than two years. For him, Rubio is "the only one in the race."



Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT

"Rubio gives us hope," said Nappi. "He gives us hope that we'll get back to the principles of America."

Palin played on those same principles in a 30-minute speech punctuated chiefly, it seemed, by exclamation points. It was a wide ranging mix of one-liners and conservative bell ringers, designed to re-

inforce her standing as one of the right's most popular voices.

She bashed government as too big and intrusive. She praised America's military and small businesses. She lamented the deficit, joking, "Please God, don't let anyone tell Obama what number comes after a trillion."

"Our government and our country has really gotten off track," Palin said. "But people also know there's nothing wrong with America that we can't fix with a good old-fashioned election."

Palin was joined onstage by a host of GOP officials and candidates, but not everyone showed up for the party or stayed for the entire affair. Rubio left early to prepare for today's Senate debate - ensuring he could not be photographed with Palin, a political lightning rod to Democrats and many moderates.

Scott did not appear at all, citing a scheduling conflict.

The man he defeated in the gubernatorial primary, however, did. Attorney General Bill McCollum appeared on stage for a short time, signaling he has begun his reconciliation with the state party. McCollum endorsed Scott just last week, after refusing to do so for almost two months.

-MCT Campus

Realistic Democrat for the real people

Meek wants troops home

By Diana Abreu
Special to Valencia Voice

Democrat Kendrick Meek is one of three candidates nominated in the 2010 United States Florida senate elections.

Born in Miami, Florida, September 6, 1966, Meek grew up in the world of politics. His mother, Carrie, was a United States House Representative. He was viewed by many an eager young man looking to follow in his mother's footsteps.

“he will be the first African American senator elected to represent Florida.”

However, Meek struggled with Dyslexia in school and worked very hard to overcome his learning disability. He attended Florida A & M University on a football scholarship and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. He founded the Young Democrats Club at Florida A & M and was president of the Florida Young Democrats Organization.

After college, Meek extended his political education when he got a job with the Florida Highway Patrol as a state trooper. Meek rose to the rank of captain, and became the first African American to hold that title. As a side note, if he wins the upcoming senate election, he will be the first African American senator

elected to represent Florida.

Meek then became a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1994-1998. He was elected to the United States House when his mother retired in the year 2002.

Kendrick Meek has had an adequate amount of political experience throughout his life, and is using this background as a support to his run to the United States senate. He has been a Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives since 2003. He was a United States Florida Senate member from 1999-2002, and he was also a member of the Florida State House of Representatives from 1995-1999.



Robert Duyos, Sun Sentinel/MCTcampus
Kendrick Meek has struggled to keep up in the races since Charlie Christ entered.

Candidate backs America to be best in business

Rubio states much needs to be done to restore the country's name

By Ricardo Aponte
Special to Valencia Voice

Republican Marco Rubio is one of three U.S. Senate candidates from the state of Florida that is on the voting ballot for this coming November 2 election.

He was born in Miami, Florida to Cuban parents who came to America after Castro's appropriation of the island.

Rubio has served on the boards of the Latin Builders Association and Alafit International, a non-profit organization that promotes global literacy. He also remains engaged in the West Miami community where he served as a city commissioner prior to being elected to the Florida State House from 2000 to 2008.

During this period, Rubio served as Majority Whip, Majority Leader and Speaker of the House, effectively promoting an agenda of lower taxes, better schools, a leaner and more efficient government and free market empowerment. With this particular agenda and mind set of a smaller government, Rubio wants to represent conservative Florida voters in the U.S. Senate.

Rubio and the other two senate candidates, Alex Sink and Rick Scott, were asked critical questions

by The League of Women Voters of Florida to better understand where each candidate stands. Rubio was asked what steps the government should take to create new jobs, facilitate a strong economic recovery, and reduce the national debt.

Rubio believes that people need to directly address the uncertainty in the market caused by policies coming from Washington, permanently extend the 2001 and 2003

Another question asked how Rubio plans to use his position to improve the lives of Floridians. His response was that he is the only candidate who will challenge big-spending politicians and offer a clear and positive alternative. He stated that America is the greatest country in the world, but to maintain that, we must address the national debt and other issues facing our nation.

It is obvious by Rubio's answers that his main theme goes around cutting spending, reducing the national debt, and creating new jobs. He wants to work with anyone who supports making America the best place to do business, reduce government dependency, find alternatives to petroleum and invest in renewable energies.

Rubio wants to target and destroy terrorist cells and their leaders, restore control of the health policy to the states, and support research resulting in innovations that help drive America's economic edge.

These issues seem to make him popular with Florida voters, and as a result, he is currently leading in the polls by an average of 20% points over his two closest opponents.

Marco Rubio has listed more ideas such as create jobs and cut spending at MarcoRubio.com/ideas.



Joe Burban, Orlando Sentinel/MCTcampus
Marco Rubio is a native to the state he seeks the senate seat.

Bush tax cuts. He also would like to repeal Obamacare, and halt policies and practices that hurt job creation. In regards to the national debt, Rubio believes that spending cuts and growth are ways to alleviate the debt.

Outsider hopes to find a seat

Former county commissioner Teresa Jacobs hopes to assist current and future students of Central Florida

By Cameron Heaton
Special to Valencia Voice

Many would call Teresa Jacobs an outsider. Her proudest role is being a mother of four and a wife for 29 years. A side from her family, Jacobs has always been active in our community, rallying for rights for her and her neighbors.

While serving as commissioner, Jacobs fea-

lessly faced developers and powerful politicians. She has quickly developed a reputation for being a straight shooter.

It's important to Teresa Jacobs to note that she is the only candidate in this race that opposed and voted against the 23% property tax increase four years ago. In addition, she fought a plan that would build more toll roads funded by increasing sales tax.

Jacobs proposed an amendment to protect schools against overcrowding and has also initiated ways to reduce traffic congestion and conserve our environmental resources while keeping taxes low. Most importantly she would like all citizens to get involved.

To ensure that she successfully practices the "Public's Right to Speak," reserving time at County Commission meetings is required in order for citizens to speak before votes are passed.

The most frequently asked question by Orange County citizens is: "How are you going to provide us with jobs?"

Jacobs has been working on attracting companies to Orlando from around the world. Jacobs is also focusing on what we can do internally. Short term tax exemptions for new and expanding businesses have been suggested, provided that voters are in favor.

Jacobs encourages entrepreneurship for graduating students from Valencia Community College and University of Central Florida.

Jacobs does support the SunRail project but does not feel that increasing taxes are necessary to fund it. The SunRail project is a plan to help



Photos by Jack Mulligan Photography
Teresa Jacobs defending her platform at International Drice Chamber Debate.



Photos by Jack Mulligan Photography

Teresa Jacobs addressing the women at the Candidate Forum hosted by the League of Women Voters.

de-congest our highways and roads.

"A commuter rail transit project that will run along a 61-mile stretch of existing rail freight tracks in the four-county area," SunRail.com says.

Other goals include putting education before development, alternatives to toll increases for the Wekiva Parkway construction, and decreasing police officers behind desks, thus increasing those who patrol the streets.

In the four-way primary race held in late August, Jacobs accumulated 42% of the vote and

Segal followed in second with 23% of the vote. Because no one had more than 50%, this lead to another voting on November 2. The primaries were held and Jacobs has received \$179,000 in outside donations for the campaign, compared to Segal's \$130,000.

The best way to sum up Teresa Jacobs is her disapproval of raising taxes, enthusiasm for bettering our schools and neighborhoods, faster ways to create jobs, and thorough record of protecting the voters' interests.

Segal buddies up with Dyer, Orlando Magic

Candidate vows to avoid raising taxes and bring beneficial industries



[personal photo/Facebook]

Bill Segal shows his support for local veterans at the renaming ceremony for the National Vietnam War Museum; now the Cpl Larry Smedley National Vietnam War Museum.

By Cameron Heaton
Special to Valencia Voice

Bill Segal is the average American husband and father of two. For many, this is what makes him so relate-able. He has lived and worked in District 5 his entire life and cares deeply about our community.

Segal has spent over thirty years running successful businesses and managing multi-million dollar budgets. Customer service is important to him and he plans to bring new beneficial industries to the area. He details a 27 point job plan on his website [www.billsegal.com], which focuses on helping existing small businesses and recruiting new ones.

One of Segal's attempts to save homeowners money would be to encourage county employees to go to county-run healthcare clinics. This would save homeowners an estimated \$10 million a year. While it's a small start, he says it's a step in the right direction.

The Orange County sheriff's department is facing budget cuts this year and sheriff Jerry Demings is concerned that they will have to resort to layoffs. The people being cut first will be school resource officers and community policing. Segal, instead, has suggested raising booking fees from \$5 to \$50 and increasing charges by \$1 for all inmates to generate revenue; anything to avoid raising taxes is better, he says.

Among some of his many accomplishments, Bill negotiated a deal with the Orlando Magic basketball team to build five community centers, some of which are already open and being enjoyed.

He was a founding director for the Coalition for the Homeless, has been a member of the board that



[personal photo/Facebook]

Bill Segal, running candidate for mayor of Orange County, at the first Turkish festival.

oversees the county's foster facility, and designed Orange County's Water Ordinance which charges people more for water based upon who uses more.

Segal supports the recent lift of the ban on homosexuals adopting children and supports same sex marriage. Two of his top priorities would be to pass a human rights ordinance and extend domestic partner benefits to county employees.

Segal's possibly largest advantage is his endorsements. Buddy Dyer has publicly endorsed him as well as mayors of Belle Isle, Winter Park, and Eatonville.

A most recent Mason Dixon poll of 400 likely voters showed Teresa Jacobs with a 48% lead and Segal with 31% of the vote, 21% are still undecided. He has improved his vote since the primaries, and with 21% still deciding, this final week before the election will prove to be very important for both candidates.

OUR VOICE

Vote or die

Religion and politics are arguably the two most contentious subjects that come up in daily conversation. It can get so bad that some family's have to ban talking about either subject at Thanksgiving dinner. These topics have caused anger, arguments, and even wars. This intensity can force some people to cease participating, or get shouted down by the talking heads that dominate our nations political discussion.

Religion is one thing, but I know for a fact that choosing not to participate in the political discussion leads to a government that represents, not the majority of Americans, but the minority that has taken over the conversation by yelling the loudest.

Therefore, how do the calm, non-yelling, decent Americans make their voice heard? How does the quiet majority make sure they have a government that represents their concerns and best interests? We can vote.

That's what makes this country great, it doesn't matter who yells the loudest everyone has the same say in who is put in charge. This value, the idea that every citizen has equal representation in government, is what this country was founded on.

So, if it's so important to vote, why do so many people choose to sit out? There are a few reasons it's thought that citizens don't exercise their right to vote, one is that people don't feel their vote will matter. This is not only

untrue, it goes against the ideals that represent this country.

This argument is even more erroneous during a midterm election. The midterms focus on more local elections instead of national ones. For instance, on the Florida ballot this year there is one Senate seat up for grabs, all of the District Representatives in the House of Representatives, a governorship, and six amendments to the state constitution. This means that the choices that are made in this election have a more direct effect on the government you interact with the most.

Another reason people seem to show an elevated level of apathy for elections and midterms specifically, is that the electorate as a whole is really unfamiliar with the candidates on the ballot. This is a problem that is easily remedied. There are many media outlets, including this publication, that try their best to familiarize you with the candidates on the ballot. If you are unclear about their positions or are worried about media bias you can always research the candidates website or listen to them speak at any of their campaign events.

The freedom to choose our own leaders is one of the many reasons this country is great. Many men and women have died to protect our right, and to even provide that right to others around the world. Be sure to vote this Tuesday, if for no other reason then to honor those that sacrificed everything. they had to give you the opportunity to do so.

Political ink-sight

Congressional Candidate Allen Grayson warms up for one-man debate



Cartoon by Carl Theramond and Victor Ocasio

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POLL

The human element

By Victor Ocasio
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I sat down last night with the intention of fully expressing my opinion on recent political issues, but I quickly realized that I don't know much about this election at all.

Among the ocean of informed opinions, I was lost and cast adrift on a raft of utter ignorance. I couldn't help but think, "I can't be the only one."

We are the same generation that, two years ago, marched, rallied and petitioned all the way to election day for the things we believed in. Regardless of who you voted for, we were united in our stance against apathy and stagnancy. What happened?

Now we face an election where the choices our citizens make will ultimately decide whether or not our government will remain in a stasis for two years. I'm not here to argue whether that is good or bad, because I understand the argument on both sides.

How deep must our party affiliations bind us, in order to brand us as patriots? How many times must we campaign, or scream, or fight, or throw 24 year old girls who disagree with us to the ground as our comrades pummel?

We live in a nation where things have gotten so desperate, that even TV personalities are holding their own marches and rallies in Washington.

I may not fully understand what's going on, but I certainly know what I want. Progress.

Steady progress for the next few years is what this country needs in order to get back on track. It's the only way our nation's crises will ever be cured.

Our foreign issues are grave and numerous. Our education is far from representative of the most powerful nation in the world. Our economic policies are more comparable to some kind of crazy slapstick routine rather than an actual financial plan. Face it, America. We've got more problems than the cast of "Teen Mom!"

The solution of course, is vote. If we want progress, we have to demand it. Tuesday's elections will decide the kind of America we live in for years to come. It's up to all of us to do our part to insure that no matter what our individual opinion might be, it will be heard.

So on November 2, stand up for the only opinion that really matters, yours.

Which candidate supports the issues that are important to you this election?



"I'm not sure who I'm voting for yet, but the issues of abortion and gay marriage are very important to me."

— Maranela Sotillo
Social sciences, West



"I still haven't voted yet, but I plan on voting in the future."

— Devon Lizzoli
Business management, West



"I'm not voting, but anything that has to do with students is important to me."

— Oniel Gordon
Engineering, West



"I haven't been keeping up with the coverage. I can't make adequate vote if I'm uninformed."

— Euracan Claude
Arts, West



"I'm not sure who to vote for, but raising taxes and more support for schools are big deals."

— Rachael Preston
Culinary management, West



"I haven't really been interested. I just wish ads were different. Not always so mean."

— Adrianna Perrault
Arts, West



"Well, working on Bill Segal's campaign, I appreciate his public forum and his pledge to increase jobs. Unlike Teresa Jacobs."

— Monet Montgomery
Political science, West



"I'm too young to vote in this election, but I will vote in 2012. Wages and job availability are important factors for me."

— Michael Precourt
Dual-enrollment, West

Jacobs' community bond

Teresa Jacobs' constituents voluntarily give back for much valued influence

By Jared Winn
Special to Valencia Voice

We all know the annoyance of high sales taxes, so why did our elected politicians vote to increase these taxes to build more toll roads? I volunteer for a candidate, running for Orange County Mayor, who has represented the community in numerous ways, when politicians have failed to uphold our representative government.

Teresa Jacobs is an individual that has our interests in mind. A lot of people ask me, "Why did you choose to work for her, and not someone running for Congress or something higher?" This question has a lot of answers.

Teresa Jacobs was Orange County Commissioner for eight years. I found out about her through how she helped my community. We live in a rural neighborhood, and have had many issues with builders trying to take that away from us. They wanted to build a race track, a large 5,000 home community, and most recently, an airport. Teresa helped us and stopped a lot of these things from coming to pass.

We have now what is called a Rural Settlement, which will prevent these things from happening again, and Teresa Jacobs is the one who helped us achieve this. She helped preserve what my parents worked hard to make for my brother and me; a rural atmosphere without being crowded by homes.

My dad said a few years ago, "She needs to run for Mayor!" Obviously she and a number of others thought the same thing, because she is now running for Orange County Mayor, one of the most powerful positions in the county.

When I found out, I signed up right away to be a



C/O facebook.com/teresafornmayor

Teresa Jacobs, candidate for Orange County mayor.

volunteer. She gave to us, so I wanted to give back to her. I have participated in getting petitions signed, attending political events informing people about Jacobs and what she stands for, sign waving to get her name out, and phone banking to the voters.

It's been a lot of fun to work for someone that has made a difference and has impacted me. I have never met any candidate that is more "for the people" than Teresa. She was a citizen fed up with her local government not adhering to the needs of the people, when that is the purpose of their job.

Jacobs has never strayed from her stance. She was the only voice on the commission board to speak out against higher property taxes, and an ethics reform for all commissioners, making it so they must release their financial records, to prevent backroom deals.

Teresa's love for public service has strengthened my goals to become like her in my career and possibly future political life. Because to her it isn't about power, it's about responsibility to serve the public interest.

Political ink-fluence

Obama Barricades for oncoming Republican horde



Cartoon by Carl Theramond and Victor Ocasio

Taxes, wages, and GDP

Rubio runs on fiscally conservative platform

By Daniel Payne
Special to Valencia Voice

Marco Rubio is a conservative and Republican, terms that used to mean policies and legislation for the taxpayer's wallet, which is why I will be voting for him this coming election.

Over the past 10 years, Americans have seen government spending increase to a phenomenal rate, upwards of \$13 trillion, with each American owing some \$43 thousand to the national debt. Both of the major parties are to blame for this.

Rubio supports issues such as requiring congress to pass a balanced national budget, ending earmarks on bills, reallocating both the TARP program (which is the bank bailout). He also supports the Stimulus program, to reduce the government bureaucracy, to freeze government spending, and reform of the Social Security system. These programs will help cut the spending and help pay off the national debt. With the national debt and spending in check, stability in our country is likely to follow.

Rubio has outlined 12 ways in which the economy, and thus my paycheck, can be improved. He is for tax reform, extending the Bush tax cuts permanently, reducing the double and triple taxation through the capital gains, death,

and taxing dividends, and against the creation of new taxes such as the cap and trade bill, as well as the value added tax.

Rubio's positions are classic Republican ideals of the trickle down approach to economics. With the tax situation more appealing to businesses, more companies will be likely to move their current opera-



Joe Burbank/MCTcampus

Marco Rubio, Democrat for senate.

tions from overseas, to our shores. In short, lowering the taxes on corporations will ideally make the United States a more competitive environment.

He also favors a more simplified tax code, which will put more money back into the American people's pocket in a fair manner. This money will hopefully stimulate the

economy and bring our debt down. This will bring jobs and work back to our people, lowering unemployment, raising the GDP and hopefully lowering the national debt.

Marco Rubio's other stands on issues, such as illegal immigration, health care, and same sex marriage are of little concern to me. What matters to me is the money in my pocket in these times of hardship. Once we as a nation have averted the unemployment and debt crisis, we are free to focus on our more humanitarian issues.

Both of Rubio's opponents are a worse choice for the country, as well as the people of Florida. Charlie Crist is completely vague on the important issues; he flip-flops and doesn't take a stand on important issues. I don't want to wait and see approach to our government and elected officials. Kendrick Meek's, on the other hand, is a typical democrat; he agrees with the big spending bills and disagrees with the lowering of various taxes, including capital gains and the bush tax cuts.

In the polls, it seems a majority of Florida voters agree with me on the issue of who should be the Junior senator from Florida in the Congress of the United States, with Marco Rubio polling at nearly 45% of the polled individuals.

Flip-flop state of mind

Charlie Crist changes his mind as issues evolve, reflecting people's sentiment for the right reasons

By Dawn Ginnetti
Special to Valencia Voice

I used to be against government health care but now that I've quit my job, gone back to school, and no longer have health care as a result, I support government health care. Yes, I'll admit I've flip-flopped on more than one thing in my life. My position has changed because of changing circumstances in my life.

Where you stand, depends upon where you sit. Which is why Charlie Crist is getting my vote in the upcoming Senate race. I want a real person in office. I'm tired of plastic politicians who defend a position they don't support in order to appease their political party's ideology.

I consider them to be cowards, afraid of a possible YouTube video or attack ad that will represent them from one position on an issue to the opposite. Just like the infamous John Kerry ad of the 2004 Presidential campaign in which he said "I voted for it before I voted against it."

As a normal person who has been known to change her mind on more than one occasion, I appreciate someone who is willing to admit that they were wrong. Charlie Crist has ad-

mitted that he was wrong many times. There are those pesky attack ads that show video of Crist taking one position and then another on the same issue.

However, has anyone ever thought that Crist has changed his position on an issue because the issue in question has evolved? Crist was once the Republican governor of Florida. He is no longer with the Republican party and is instead an Independent.

Crist no longer wants to be held to the ideology of one specific political party, but rather Crist wants to "take the best ideas of both parties." Crist wants to represent the state of Florida in the U.S. Senate as neither a Republican nor a Democrat, but as an Independent, who can rise above the fighting in Washington.

If elected, he is not looking to a specific party leader for his position on an issue. He is beholden to Floridians alone. It's true he may have changed his mind a few times, but that's the very reason I like him. It makes him like the people he wants to represent. So on election day, I'm going to be in a flip-flop state of mind as I cast my vote for Charlie Crist.



Joe Burbank/MCTcampus

Charlie Crist independently seeks the Fla. senate seat.

Your Voice

By Rofkins Petithomme
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A sample election ballot has made its way into my life. If you do not know by now, 2010 is an election year. This means senseless bickering between politicians and citizens wearing suits. The amount of pointless and “This message is supported by the Brent Freedman for Senate Foundation” will be almost unbearable in the later days of October.

In Washington D.C. the political party in favor, the Democrats have a total of 255 members in the House of Representatives and 59 in the Senate. The Republicans have 178 members in the House of Representatives and 41 in the Senate.

Even though the information above has been displayed, there is a certain percentage of people reading this that do not know a word of what has just been written. Not to add insult to injury, the amount of people my age, which is 21, who actually care about politics are not too numerous. To quote a friend of mine: “Their are three things I do not talk about, religion,

What is an election?

politics, and abortion.”

Reading the current generation, from TV shows, style, music, and individual personalities, I have come to a certain predicament. If politics were somehow integrated into a digital format and displayed to a likable format, then younger generations can become interested more easily. I wonder, what sort of digital format can involve many different types of generations. Basically what I am trying to say is, “In a world basically immersed in technology why can we not involve it in politics? Is it too old fashioned, or maybe it is just plain boring.”

To future politicians: If you want to succeed and be a visionary today, all you have to do is... Yeah, as if I were to tell you. This piece of journalism is for my generation; even though the politicians have become corrupt and to a certain extent very biased on certain issues, we should definitely focus on the future.

The main reason is, we are the ones who will be in these predicaments twenty years from now. As time moves forward, we should not be the ones to pay for our predecessor’s mistakes. The point is, we should go out and vote on November 2, but before we do, find out

Church equals state

By Rofkins Petithomme
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To a certain extent, people consider religion to be a very sacred topic. Even the thought of talking about ideology is very sensitive.

The United States government has ruled on the issue multiple times; “Reynolds vs. United States” (1879) a case to basically challenge polygamy, in certain religions is considered to be immoral.

The most recent that I can think of is “Religion in Schools” (1999.) These are just a few of the important issues that have forced the Supreme Court to try and create a wall between church and state.

A colleague of mine actually believes that there is no separation of church and state. This almost initiated a debate in the middle of our Journalism class.

Here are a number of decisions made by the Supreme Court in regards to the “New Jersey v. Everson” case.

It was a New Jersey statue which actually reimbursed parents that sent their children to religious institutions using public transportation.

The first decision was, “Neither the state or federal government can set up a church.”

A second decision stated, “Neither can pass laws which aid one religion, aid all religions or prefer one religion over another.” This of course put us today at a certain predicament.

Even though religion is not only used as a state of well being, and a certain view of after life, it is mostly significant as a determination of moral values. In today’s political world some individuals in the population favor that individual that meets their religious views or outlooks.

Religion is separate from the state, it just depends on which way you look at it. On one side, there are individuals that consider the word “God” to be associated with one religion. On the other hand, our countries important documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, and The Constitution, is a traditional term that emphasizes our country’s past and culture, kind of like our liberty bell, or our first flag.

The concept of the separation of church and state to some people seems like it does not exist, but it does. Just the idea that something is wrong according to a certain religion does not hold up court as well as it used to; coincidentally they removed the bible out of the court system when giving an oath.

As our generation becomes more volatile, in a positive sense, we will eventually settle into becoming productive and complacent with the relationship between church and state. We will probably be a chapter in a history book located in a religious private school.