

GUARDIAN

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Election Day is November 3; Early Voting is October 19-31

HRCNCF Endorses County Charter “Cleanup” Amendment, Queries Candidates for State House, Alachua County Commission and Congress

The Human Rights Council of North Central Florida (HRCNCF) received responses to its candidate questionnaire from State House, Alachua County Commission and Congressional candidates appearing on the November 3 general election ballot.

Questionnaire responses are available online at www.hrcncf.org.

HRCNCF also announced its YES endorsement for six ballot measures and one NO endorsement (for State Constitutional Amendment No. 4).

Election Day is November 3, with early voting running daily from 9 AM to 6 PM on October 19-31 at six voting sites: Alachua County Supervisor of Elections office at 515 N. Main St., Millhopper and Tower Road libraries, Legacy Park Multipurpose Center in Alachua, Orange Heights Baptist Church in Hawthorne, and UF J. Wayne Reitz Union, on the ground floor at the west entrance.

Alachua County Commission, Districts 1 & 3

In the District 1 race, Mary Alford defeated five-term incumbent Commissioner Mike Byerly in the August 18 Democratic primary election. Alford advances to face Republican Raemi Eagle-Glenn on the November 3 general election ballot. Eagle-Glenn achieved some notice for having unsuccessfully challenged the county's face mask requirement in a lawsuit. She did not respond to the HRCNCF candidate questionnaire.

Alford is the first openly lesbian candidate to run for County Commission. “We look forward to having an openly LGBTQ commissioner on the dais,” said HRCNCF President Flo Turcotte, who noted that Alford provided thoughtful responses to the candidate questionnaire.

In the County Commission District 3 race to replace retiring Commissioner Robert Hutchinson, Anna Prizzia won the Democratic primary election against challengers Jason Stanford and Kevin Thorpe. Prizzia now faces Republican Joy Glanzer in the general election.

“Prizzia continues to demonstrate, through her questionnaire responses and involvement in civic life, that she has a clear grasp and understanding of local LGBTQ

HRCNCF endorses:

On the Nov. 3 general election ballot:

No. 2 Constitutional Amendment:

Raising Florida's Minimum Wage – YES

No. 4 Constitutional Amendment:

Voter Approval of Constitutional Amendments – NO

Renewal of the Existing One Mill Ad Valorem Tax for School District Operating Expenses – YES

Identification and Elimination of Racial and Gender Bias in Alachua County Policies – YES

County Charter Amendment Establishing Alachua County Affordable Housing Trust Fund – YES

County Charter Cleanup Amendment Removing Unconstitutional Provisions – YES

City of Gainesville Charter Amendment Creating a Preamble to the Charter – YES

issues,” said Turcotte. She noted that Joy Glanzer also provided good questionnaire responses and has been supportive of the LGBTQ community.

Turcotte noted that she was encouraged by the candidacy of Jason Stanford. “We sincerely hope that we haven't heard the last of openly gay candidate Jason Stanford in the political arena,” she added.

State House, District 21

In the State House District 21 race, which covers western Alachua County as well as Gilchrist and Dixie Counties, Democrat Kayser Enneking is challenging two-term incumbent Republican Chuck Clemons.

“We're confident that Kayser Enneking would be a champion for LGBTQ rights in the State House,” said Turcotte. In her first run for elected office in 2018, Enneking narrowly lost to Republican State Senator Keith Perry.

Enneking has been a consistent and vocal voice of support for passing statewide LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections. Rep. Clemons has signed on as a co-sponsor for the Florida Competitive Workplace Act – which would provide statewide nondiscrimination protections to LGBTQ residents – but he declined to respond to the HRCNCF questionnaire.

“While we're encouraged by Representative Clemons's support for the Act, we are confident that Dr. Enneking will not only sponsor but be an outspoken champion to bring comprehensive civil rights protections to all Floridians,” said Turcotte.

U.S. Congress, FL-03

Democrat Adam Christensen and Republican Kat Cammack were the winners of their respective party primaries on August 18. They will face each other on the November 3 ballot to decide who will replace retiring U.S. Representative Ted Yoho.

“Adam Christensen submitted excellent and well informed responses to the candidate questionnaire,” said Turcotte. She noted he and his volunteers bring along tremendous youthful energy to the campaign, and he clearly excites a large base of young voters.

Cammack did not respond to the questionnaire.

August 18 Primary Election Recap: Candidates Win Outright in Races for State House District 20, Alachua County Sheriff, Property Appraiser and School Board

In the August 18 primary election, Democrat Yvonne Hayes Hinson defeated Democrat Rodney Long for the District 20 open seat, now occupied by Clovis Watson Jr. Also on primary election night, Watson defeated incumbent Sheriff Sadie Darnell to be Alachua County's next Sheriff.

For Alachua County Property Appraiser, Ayesha Solomon handily won over four challengers. In the two nonpartisan School Board races, Diyonne McGraw defeated Khanh-Lien Banko for District 2 while incumbent School Board member Leanetta McNealy defeated challenger Sande Calkins for District 4.

All of the Election Night victors cited above have no partisan or write-in opposition, so they effectively won their seats outright on August 18.

“We're thrilled that LGBTQ-supportive candidates won their seats on August 18. We look forward to their upcoming term in office to continue to make a difference on LGBTQ issues and policies,” said Turcotte.

HRCNCF Announces Ballot Measure Endorsements

The HRCNCF Board of Directors endorsed a YES vote for State Constitutional Amendment No. 2 which gradually increases the minimum wage to \$15 an hour over several years. The Board also endorsed a NO vote for Constitutional Amendment No. 4 which would require any amendments to be approved by voters twice before becoming part of the state constitution.

Three ways to vote:

Vote by Mail: Contact the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections at 352-374-5252 or at www.VoteAlachua.com to have a ballot mailed to you.

Vote Early: Early voting runs from **Monday, October 19, to Saturday, October 31**, at the Supervisor of Elections Office, 515 N. Main St., the Millhopper and Tower Road libraries, Legacy Park Multipurpose Center in Alachua, Orange Heights Baptist Church near Hawthorne, and UF's J. Wayne Reitz Union (ground floor, west entrance). Hours are 9 AM to 6 PM daily.

Vote on Election Day: Vote in your own polling precinct from 7 AM to 7 PM on **November 3**.

Both Alachua County and the city of Gainesville have several charter amendments on the ballot which came from citizen-led charter review commissions.

HRCNCF endorsed a YES vote on a county charter amendment which would “clean up” unconstitutional language from its charter. It includes language that was struck down by a county judge in 1996 which prohibits protections based on “sexual orientation, sexual preference, or similar characteristics.”

The Human Rights Council of North Central Florida was formed in large part back in 1993 to fight against the citizen-led repeal campaign that succeeded in 1994 both to repeal the county's human rights ordinance as well as to pass a charter amendment prohibiting such protections in the future.

Twenty years later, in 2013, the Alachua County Commission passed a comprehensive human rights ordinance to protect against discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

This time, there was no citizen-led effort to repeal the county's human rights ordinance.

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL OF NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA, INC.

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THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2020 AT 7:00 PM

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