



## ST JOHNS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY ABOUT YOUR VOTING GUIDE

- The St. Johns County Democratic Party VOTING GUIDE is available on the home page of our website: [StJohnsDemocrats.org](http://StJohnsDemocrats.org)
- PLEASE NOTE: ANY CANDIDATES ON YOUR BALLOT WHO DO **NOT** APPEAR ON OUR DEMOCRATIC VOTING GUIDE ARE NOT REGISTERED DEMOCRATS!

Below is the rationale for our recommendations for amendments, referendums, and judges:

### St. Johns County Sales Tax Increase

#### “St. Johns County Ten Year Sales Surtax to Fund Countywide Public Infrastructure and Improvements”

Recommendation: Vote “**NO**”

Reason: The St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners has allowed overdevelopment to run rampant and should be requiring developers to bear the cost of infrastructure and improvements instead of passing this cost along to taxpayers.

### Constitutional Amendment #1

#### “Limitation on the Assessment of Real Property Used for Residential Purposes”

Recommendation: Vote “**NO**”

Reason: This amendment would create a tax exemption for home improvements made to prevent flooding. This provision is likely to mostly benefit wealthy beachfront homeowners.

## **Constitutional Amendment #2**

### **“Abolishing the Constitution Revision Commission”**

Recommendation: Vote “**NO**”

Reason: Eliminating the commission will remove an opportunity for citizens to update their Florida constitution. Instead of abolishing the commission, it should be revised to have bipartisan appointees and require that ballot amendments each address only one issue.

## **Constitutional Amendment #3**

### **“Additional Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Specified Critical Public Services Workforce”**

Recommendation: Vote “**YES**”

Reason: Teachers and first responders are foundational to our communities’ safety and well-being and deserving of this property tax exemption.

## **Justices of the Supreme Court**

Recommendations: Vote “**NO**” on retaining Canady, Couriel, Grosshans, and Polston. Vote “**YES**” to retain Labarga.

Reason: Florida’s Supreme Court judicial retention elections will determine if abortion remains legal in Florida. Based on their past rulings, public statements, and membership in the Federalist Society, four of these justices will vote to take away legal abortion. Only Justice Labarga has demonstrated moderate views on this and other important issues that have come before the court.

## **District Court of Appeal**

Recommendations: Vote “**NO**” on Edwards, Lambert, Nardella, Traver, and Wozniak. Vote “**YES**” on Cohen.

Reason: All appellate court judges on the ballot were appointed by Ron DeSantis or Rick Scott, except one. Judge Cohen was appointed by Charlie Crist. Voting out four of the judges will make room for a Democratic governor to appoint less politically biased judges.