



Hillsborough County Democratic Executive Committee 2022 Platform

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SECTION I: Build a Fair and Sustainable Economy

We seek economic justice, fair enterprise, and a living wage for all

- a) We support policy and practices that stimulate and incentivize Quality job creation.
- b) We support incentives that promote the use of local labor and the demand for local products.
- c) We support a living wage (greater or equal to \$15/hour), paid sick and family leave, and unemployment benefits when needed.
- d) We support labor unions and collective bargaining rights that fosters and protects a strong middle class.
- e) We support streamlined licensing processes that still maintain high standards of professional skills training and qualifications.
- f) We support regulations that require safe work environments for public and private employees and adequate protections for consumers.
- g) We support investment in public employees (e.g., teachers, first responders, etc.).
- h) We support investment in small businesses (e.g., retail, service, and manufactures, etc.).
- i) We support special provisions for and consideration of Veterans in local economic development and hiring decisions.
- j) We support “Banning the box” on employment applications.
<https://www.nolo.com/legal-encyclopedia/what-is-a-ban-the-box-law.html>
- k) We oppose policies that foster economic inequity and businesses that exploit low-income Floridians.
- l) We support developing alternatives to predatory payday lending practices and debt collection.
- m) We oppose policies that allow businesses (like developers and polluters) to adversely impact our county without requiring mitigating contributions.
- n) We oppose tax incentives that put an extra burden on small businesses and individuals.
- o) We oppose “right-to-work” laws, because they limit the freedom of employees and employers to enter into voluntary contracts for labor. Further, they diminish the equity in employer/employee relationships.



SECTION II: Enhance The Public Education System of Hillsborough County.

We support the right of every child in Florida to a free high quality, public education as stated in Article IX, Section 1 of the Florida Constitution*

- a) We support full funding levels adequate to meet those high standards.**
- b) We support sufficient funding to meet the constitutional requirements relating to classroom size at different grade levels.**
- c) We support assessment standards developed by educators which embrace the total educational experience and consider the physical, emotional and developmental stages of children.**
- d) We oppose having teacher pay being tied to student performance.**
- e) We support quality teaching and recognize that teachers, as educated and specially-trained professionals, are the most important people serving students in the public school system.**
- f) We support a moratorium on new, privately-managed, for-profit charter schools.**
- g) We support legislation which strengthens the oversight of charter schools and returns control to local school districts, parents, and teachers.**
- h) We support legislation that would require charter schools to meet all standards of public schools, including teacher qualifications.**
- i) We oppose subsidizing for-profit charter schools with public money.**
- j) We oppose using public money to improve private property, as it is now being done in the case of charter schools.**
- k) We support all assets acquired with public funds be returned to the county should the charter school fail or go out of business.**
- l) We oppose non profit Charter Boards hiring for profit organizations to manage the charter schools with public money.**
- m) We oppose school vouchers and for-profit charter schools which divert resources from public schools and are not accountable to the taxpayers.**
- n) We support the full funding of high-quality, free public education for all children that allows parents the choice to give their children the education environment that is safe and nurturing.**

Section II: Continued

o) We oppose bullying which has a negative impact on the academic achievement of children at all ages.

p) We support the prevention of all bullying in our public schools.

q) We support the Civil Citation program and school based mental health services should be the first line of service for behavioral issues and significant emotional episodes.

r) We oppose zero tolerance policies toward student's behavior which feed the schools-to-prison pipeline.

s) We support Head Start, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, and other early childhood programs and call for them to be fully funded.

t) We support the rights of teachers to organize, achieve adequate pay and benefits, and secure their rights to due process (tenure).

**Article IX, Section 1 of the Florida Constitution, states that "the education of children is a fundamental value of the people of the State of Florida. It is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to make adequate provision for the education of all children residing within its borders. Adequate provision shall be made by law for a uniform, efficient, safe, secure, and high-quality system of free public schools that allows students to obtain a high-quality education and for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of institutions of higher learning and other public education programs that the needs of the people may require."*

Continue to Sections III, IV, V, and VI



**SECTION III: Ensure Quality Health and Human Services are
Accessible For All Citizens in Hillsborough County**

**We promote the General Welfare of Florida's Citizens
as required by our State Constitution.**

- a) We support closing the Healthcare gap to qualify for Medicaid (Medicaid Expansion).
- b) We support a single-payer, not-for-profit, universal health care plan for all people (Medicare for all).
- c) We support preventative healthcare for both physical and mental illness.
- d) We support the right of women to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.
- e) We oppose restrictions on methods of marijuana utilization for medical purposes and unreasonable restrictions on locating dispensaries.
- f) We support accessible patient centered treatment for mental health, drug addiction treatment, and recovery.
- g) We oppose the privatization and reduction of health and human services. *See link to the 2020 Platform at bottom for historical reference.
- h) We support local citizen input and planning for child welfare services and local health and human services boards.

Continue to Sections IV, V, and VI



SECTION IV: Promote Justice and Freedom for All

We support the equal and fair treatment of all people by all levels of government and society, without bias based on race, ethnicity, color, religion, creed, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, or family status.

- a) We support the State and local government's responsibility to protect abandoned and/or abused children and also disabled persons of all ages.
- b) We oppose persistent institutional racism that exists in the USA, the targeting and the disproportionate punishment of certain minorities.
- c) We support movements like Black Lives Matter that are aimed at calling attention to and purposefully dismantling this racism.
- d) We support passage of the Equality Act to protect LGBTQ+ Americans from discrimination in employment, housing, education, credit, jury service, etc.
- e) We support passage of laws banning so-called “conversion therapy” for minors.
- f) We oppose all attempts to ban transgender Americans from joining athletic teams.
- g) We support ending gun violence by promoting gun safety, responsible gun ownership, and common-sense gun control in the state of Florida.
- h) We support a civilian police review board empowered with the authority to set police policy as well as investigative and subpoena power.
- i) We support a fully funded, independent citizen's review board unrelated to law enforcement or other government officials to assure accountability and credibility of police forces within the communities they serve.
- j) We support public hearings being a part of the citizens review board agenda to achieve and maintain credibility with the community.
- k) We support demilitarization of our police departments and promoting more community-based policing, while giving necessary funding to protect and defend the community in a manner which respects diversity, personal freedom and safety.
- l) We support advocating for Florida veterans and military families.

Section IV: Continued

- m)** We support providing comprehensive social services, now and in the future, to our veterans.
- n)** We support ensuring that veterans who have given of their physical and mental wellbeing for our nation receive the care they need.
- o)** We support the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).
- p)** We support strengthening and fully funding policies against human trafficking and holding the traffickers accountable.
- q)** We oppose the use and/or funding of all private detention facilities.

Continue for Sections V and VI



SECTION V: Develop a Strong Physical and Social Infrastructure for All Hillsborough County Residents

We support continuous and pre-emptive public investment in our infrastructure (especially transportation and transit) and conversion to renewable energy.

- a) We support Climate Action within Hillsborough County and all its municipalities, with a just and equitable transition to carbon-free electrification by 2035.
- b) We support publicly accessible, no fee facilities that serve all people.
- c) We support the full maintenance and rebuilding of public roads, bridges, and buildings that have deteriorated during years of neglect.
- d) We support energy-efficient and cost saving measures being applied in the restoration of physical infrastructure.
- e) We support governmental buildings being solar powered in order to sustain that building's electrical needs and provide excess power to the community.
- f) We support more cost effective governmental operating expenses that reduce the burden on Hillsborough County taxpayers.
- g) We support home rule.
- h) We oppose privatization of public projects and services.
- i) We support environmentally safe and sustainable systems of agriculture.
- j) We oppose fracking and offshore drilling.
- k) We support citizen-driven coordinated planning for meeting the many needs of our communities.
- l) We support all modes of public transportation accessible to all.
- m) We oppose over dependence on automobile transportation that leads to environmental harm, and excessive time traveling to and from work, reducing valuable family time.



SECTION VI. Create Fair, Transparent, and Accessible Local Governments That Works for All

We support a moral and ethically humane society and government that operates for the general welfare and common good of all.

- a) We support providing equal access and opportunities to all citizens to participate fully in the political process.**
- b) We oppose all efforts to suppress any rights to vote.**
- c) We support automatic and universal voter registration, and legislation to make elections a national holiday.**
- d) We support efforts to increase voter participation by all sectors of the population.**
- e) We support Vote by Mail, extended hours, and early voting times including weekends, and having an auditable paper trail.**
- f) We support independent, nonpartisan administration of elections with no interference from a partisan legislature.**
- g) We support the Sadowski fund being used only for affordable housing and for no other purpose and replenishing what has been taken out.**
- h) We support abiding by the constitutional requirement that the government operate in the sunshine as required by Article I, Section 24 of the Florida Constitution.**
- i) We support re-establishment of the Fairness Doctrine in the media and fairness in communications especially in regards to local elections.**
- j) We support Home Rule because self-governing local counties and cities are best suited to address local issues.**
- k) We oppose right-wing extremism.**
- l) We support legislation and efforts by law enforcement to reverse the steady rise of right-wing extremism.**
- m) We oppose the fundamentalist Dominionist ideology of society and government.**