



2016 Florida Voter Information Guide

Candidate Positions on Marijuana Policy Issues

Save Our Society From Drugs (S.O.S) is a national nonprofit drug policy organization based in St. Petersburg, Florida. S.O.S. has over fifteen years of experience in monitoring and making policy recommendations on drug policy issues. S.O.S. takes a comprehensive approach to promote sound drug policy that includes education, prevention, abstinence-based treatment, scientific research, and community awareness. Our members include doctors, researchers, law enforcement officials, business leaders, lawyers and parents.

Marijuana policy is at the forefront of issues that many Florida voters are thinking about as they decide who will represent their voice in Congress and in the state legislature. With that in mind, questionnaires were sent to candidates in contested races. The questionnaires consisted of three questions related to “medical” marijuana and the US Food and Drug Administration’s process of determining medicine. The Voter Information Guide only lists candidates who replied to one or more of our three questions.

Questions

1). In November, Floridians will vote on Amendment 2, a constitutional amendment that would legalize marijuana as a medicine, establish approximately 2,000 marijuana dispensaries throughout the state and set up a commercialized marijuana industry in the state. The amendment is supported by trial attorney John Morgan and is opposed by the Florida Drug Free Committee, Florida Medical Association, Florida Chamber of Commerce, Florida Sheriffs Association, and substance abuse prevention and treatment groups.

Do you oppose or support Amendment 2?

U.S. Representative Candidate	District	Oppose	Support	No Response
Lapham, Rob (LPF)	2		X	
Bruderly, David E. (DEM)	4		X	
Mica, John (REP)	7	X		
Bilirakis, Gus Michael (REP)	12	X		
Jolly, David W. (REP)	13	X		
Quinn, Christine (REP)	14	X		
Spain, Paul (REP)	21	X		
FL State Senate Candidate	District	Oppose	Support	No Response
Rouson, Darryl Ervin (DEM)	19	X		
Peralta, Anabella Grohoski (DEM)	36		X	
FL State Representative Candidate	District	Oppose	Support	No Response
White, Frank (REP)	2	X		
Willey, Ken (LPF)	18		X	
Payne, Bobby (REP)	19	X		
McClain, Stan (REP)	23	X		
Renner, Paul (REP) *Incumbent	24	X		
Valentin, Benny (DEM)	42	X		
Ashby, Sean (DEM)	50	X		
Plasencia, Rene "Coach P" (REP)	50		X	
Fine, Randy (REP)	53	X		
Ahern, Larry (REP) *Incumbent	66	X		
Scott, John W. (DEM)	79		X	
Roth, Rick (REP)	85	X		
Bennett, Laurel (REP)	86	X		
Miyar, Sevi (DEM)	111		X	

2). Before a medication is approved for use in the United States it must go through a rigorous approval process regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Simplified, the process includes extensive research, laboratory and animal testing, and finally human testing to see if the drug is safe and effective when used to treat or diagnose a specific condition or disease. After tests, including clinical trials, have shown the medication to be effective and safe, the company seeking approval sends the FDA an application that includes the drug's test results. The application must include information to demonstrate the company can properly manufacture the drug and the company's proposed label for the drug that provides necessary information such as uses for which the drug has been shown to be effective, possible risks, proper dosage amounts, and how to use it. If a review by the FDA concludes that the drug's benefits outweigh its known risks and the drug can be manufactured in a way that ensures a quality product, the drug is approved and can be marketed in the United States.

Do you support or oppose the FDA regulation and scientific investigation of what constitutes medicine?

U.S. Representative Candidate	District	Oppose	Support	No Response
Lapham, Rob (LPF)	2	X		
Bruderly, David E. (DEM)	4		X	
Mica, John (REP)	7		X	
Jolly, David W. (REP)	13		X	
Bilirakis, Gus Michael (REP)	12		X	
Quinn, Christine (REP)	14		X	
Spain, Paul (REP)	21		X	
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Willey, Ken (LPF)	18	X		
Payne, Bobby (REP)	19		X	
McClain, Stan (REP)	23		X	
Renner, Paul (REP) *Incumbent	24		X	
Valentin, Benny (DEM)	42		X	
Ashby, Sean (DEM)	50		X	
Plasencia, Rene "Coach P" (REP)	50			X
Fine, Randy (REP)	53			X
Ahern, Larry (REP) *Incumbent	66		X	
Scott, John W. (DEM)	79		X	
Roth, Rick (REP)	85		X	
Bennett, Laurel	86	X		
Miyar, Sevi (DEM)	111		X	

3). Crude plant marijuana is being marketed as a medicine to be recommended by doctors for individuals with many different conditions and diseases with no specific dosing amounts or guidance on how it should be administered.

Do you support or oppose the status of marijuana as medicine being determined by the FDA using the same scientific analysis as other medications?

U.S. Representative Candidate	District	Oppose	Support	No Response
Lapham, Rob (LPF)	2	X		
Bruderly, David E. (DEM)	4		X	
Mica, John (REP)	7		X	
Jolly, David W. (REP)	13		X	
Bilirakis, Gus Michael (REP)	12		X	
Quinn, Christine (REP)	14	X		
Spain, Paul (REP)	21		X	
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Plasencia, Rene "Coach P" (REP)	50			X
Fine, Randy (REP)	53			X
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Roth, Rick (REP)	85		X	
Bennett, Laurel (REP)	86		X	
Miyar, Sevi (DEM)	111		X	