

ALACHUA COUNTY LABOR COALITION

2024 Florida House District 22 Questionnaire

INSTRUCTIONS:

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this questionnaire.

This questionnaire is divided into eight sections covering issues important to Alachua County Labor Coalition members and Alachua county's working class. Each section contains multiple questions (which are bulleted). Be sure to respond to each question, but please limit your responses in each section to 750 words (or less).

We will be hosting a public candidate forum to provide coalition members and the general public an opportunity to follow up on your responses. Separate forums will be held for commission and mayoral candidates.

The forum is scheduled for Thursday, August 1st at 6:00 PM (location TBD).

Candidates must return a completed questionnaire by Monday, July 22nd at 11:59 PM in order to receive an invitation to the forum.

Completed questionnaires should be returned to Coordinator@LaborCoalition.org.

NOTE: The Labor Coalition does not endorse any candidates, and the inclusion of these questionnaire responses to our website should not be taken as an endorsement.

Wages

- Do you support or oppose increasing the Florida minimum wage, which will be \$13.00 an hour as of September 30th, to a living wage? If so, what amount do you think this should be?
 - *Yes, I believe Florida should increase the minimum wage to \$15 because families working full time jobs are struggling to afford basic necessities and home goods for a normal sized family.*
 - How do you define a living wage?
 - *I believe that we should use federal poverty guidelines to require that folks wages provide for a comfortable living take home pay with average cost of living 30% or less.*
 - Under the current state constitution, the minimum wage must be pegged to the Consumer Price Index beginning on September 30th, 2027. However, the constitutional amendment requiring this was passed in 2020, before anyone expected the persistently high rates of inflation we've experienced since 2021. Would you support a constitutional amendment referendum on immediately and retroactively pegging the state's minimum wage to the Consumer Price Index?
 - *Yes, our minimum wages are insufficient to address the rise in the consumer price index compared to the rising cost of living.*
 - Would you introduce or co-sponsor the joint resolution required to propose such a referendum legislatively?
 - *Yes*
- Do you support or oppose the repeal of FL Statute 218.077, which preempts local governments from enacting a living wage that isn't solely for their workers or entities receiving tax incentives?
 - *Yes*
- Do you support or oppose the repeal of FL Statute 448.106, which preempts local governments from requiring employers to provide heat protections to workers?
 - *Yes*

Home Rule

- Do you personally support or oppose local initiatives/ordinances that benefit working families such as: family sick leave requirements, wage recovery ordinances, living wage ordinances, and project-labor agreements?
 - *Yes, I support these initiatives and have a voting record on the Gainesville City Commission demonstrating my support for these ordinances and agreements.*

- Regardless of your personal support or opposition to the types of local initiatives/ordinances mentioned above, do you support or oppose *state preemption* of local communities (counties or cities) to decide these matters for themselves?
 - *I generally oppose state preemption of local ordinances.*
- Florida is facing a housing crisis. There are numerous causes of this crisis, and the degree of importance of each cause is likely to vary according to the local rental and housing market. Do you support or oppose local governments having the ability to enact regulations addressing each of the following market/government failures (i.e. oppose preemption)?
 - Short-term vacation rentals (e.g. Airbnb, Vbro, etc.) in residential neighborhoods, including outright bans?
 - *I don't support outright bans on short-term vacation rentals, but I generally don't support restrictive housing measures that exacerbate the cost of housing in residential areas.*
 - Lack of proactive enforcement of basic maintenance standards (i.e. **landlord licensure programs**), which may lead to existing affordable rental stock aging more quickly than necessary?
 - *I support proactive enforcement of basic health, safety, and energy efficiency standards and I have a record on the Gainesville City Commission of passing and maintaining such ordinances.*

Healthcare

- Do you support or oppose Medicaid expansion so that almost 600,000 Florida residents can get health care at less than 10 percent of the cost Florida taxpayers currently pay to hospitals to treat the uninsured?
 - *Yes I support Medicaid expansion for 600,000 then 800,000 additional Florida residents.*

Labor

- Do you support or oppose raising average, statewide teacher pay to the point where we are no longer ranked 48th nationally?
 - *I commit to support a Florida teacher's payrise to be competitive with the largest states in the country.*
- Federal laws give most workers the right to form and join unions. Do you support or oppose the right of all private and public sector workers to organize a union?
 - *Yes, I fully support the right to unionize in the public and private sector.*

- Would you publicly support workers in our state who are seeking workplace rights, including the right to form a union?
 - *Yes and I have the public track record of supporting the SEIU Santa Fe Adjunct union vote. As well as various unions in Gainesville, Alachua County, and the University of Florida.*
- Would you support legislation revoking union-busting laws, such as the requirement that public-sector unions ensure dues-paying membership rates remain above 60 percent to avoid being decertified as collective bargaining agents?
 - *Yes, I oppose union busting legislation and commit to voting to repeal them.*
- Would you support a legislatively proposed constitutional amendment referendum on repealing the state's "right to work" law?
 - *Yes, right to work has become a misnomer and leads to workers being taken advantage of without their consent.*
- A new state law requires public universities to review, and possibly revoke, a professor's tenure every 5 years. Would you support legislation revoking this law?
 - *Yes I oppose the ending of faculty tenure as it is commonly known. I supported UF Faculty Senate efforts to protect tenure.*

Criminal Justice

- The ability of prison inmates to communicate freely with their loved ones is not only humane, but also reduces recidivism. Would you work on legislation improving the ease and frequency of Florida prison inmates' communication with loved ones? If so, what policies would you include?
 - *Yes, I support free and equitable communication for incarcerated persons in Florida. I also support basic health care needs for residents.*
- Would you support legislation guaranteeing Florida's prison inmates receive free phone calls?
 - *Yes*

Miscellaneous

- If elected, what would be your top three priorities, and how would you go about addressing them?
 - *I will protect Floridian's right to choose by opposing extreme abortion bans and campaigning for Amendment 4. I will work to pass bipartisan gun safety legislation such as secure storage, strengthening red flag laws preventing weapons from being accessed by domestic abusers, and I want to address the home insurance crisis by protecting the rights of Floridians to access affordable home insurance and cost of living.*

- What role do you think the representative for District 22 should play in addressing community concerns about GRU and its future? What actions would you take, if any, on the issue of GRU?
 - *A State Representative should be a good faith mediator in disputes, if any, between local government and the State. I'm unequivocally supporting the City of Gainesville's ballot initiative to repeal the GRU Authority authorization language placed into the City Charter per the act of the legislature under the sponsorship of the current lame duck representative for HD-22. I have every confidence that the people of Gainesville will vote to take back local control of GRU just as they voted to keep local control when the previous question of a GRU Authority was considered on the ballot.*
- If elected, what policies would you pursue to alleviate the home insurance crisis, if any?

I would pursue bipartisan policies of strengthening risk pools for insurers selling policies in Florida by allowing them to access national risk pools. I would require a higher level of risk pool financial guarantees to match the policies sold to Floridians to avoid insolvency issues leading to mass layoffs and dropped coverage. Furthermore I want to protect Floridians' right to accessible, safe, and meaningful home insurance by making it illegal for insurance companies to drop policyholders after they file a claim or right before hurricane season. I also support an annual insurance rate hike cap and within 60 days of hurricane season.