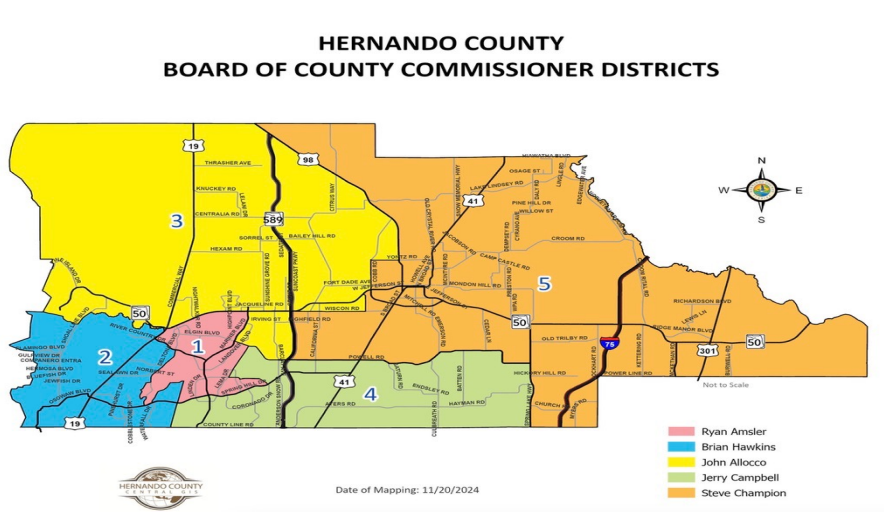


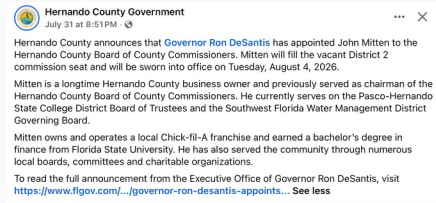


Election Recap

Current Commissioners



DISTRICT 1
Ryan Amsler, Vice Chair



Dist-2 **John Mitten**



DISTRICT 3
John Allocco



DISTRICT 4
Jerry Campbell, Chair
**Not Seeking
Reelection**



DISTRICT 5
Steve Champion, 2nd Vice Chair

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



PLEASE STAND FOR
The Pledge of Allegiance
&
Our Prayer



WellingtonRC.com

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

18 Service Members Killed in Iran Conflict



WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

Roll Call

President: Joe Wolff – *Present*

Vice President: - *Vacant*

Recording Secretary: Sandra Apone – *Present*

Treasurer: Julie Karpovich – *Excused*

Sgt-At-Arms: Charlie De Cosa Jr - *Present*

WellingtonRC.com

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REPUBLICAN CLUB



Recognize



WellingtonRC.com

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REPUBLICAN CLUB



Treasurer's Report



WellingtonRC.com

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REPUBLICAN CLUB



President's Report



WellingtonRC.com

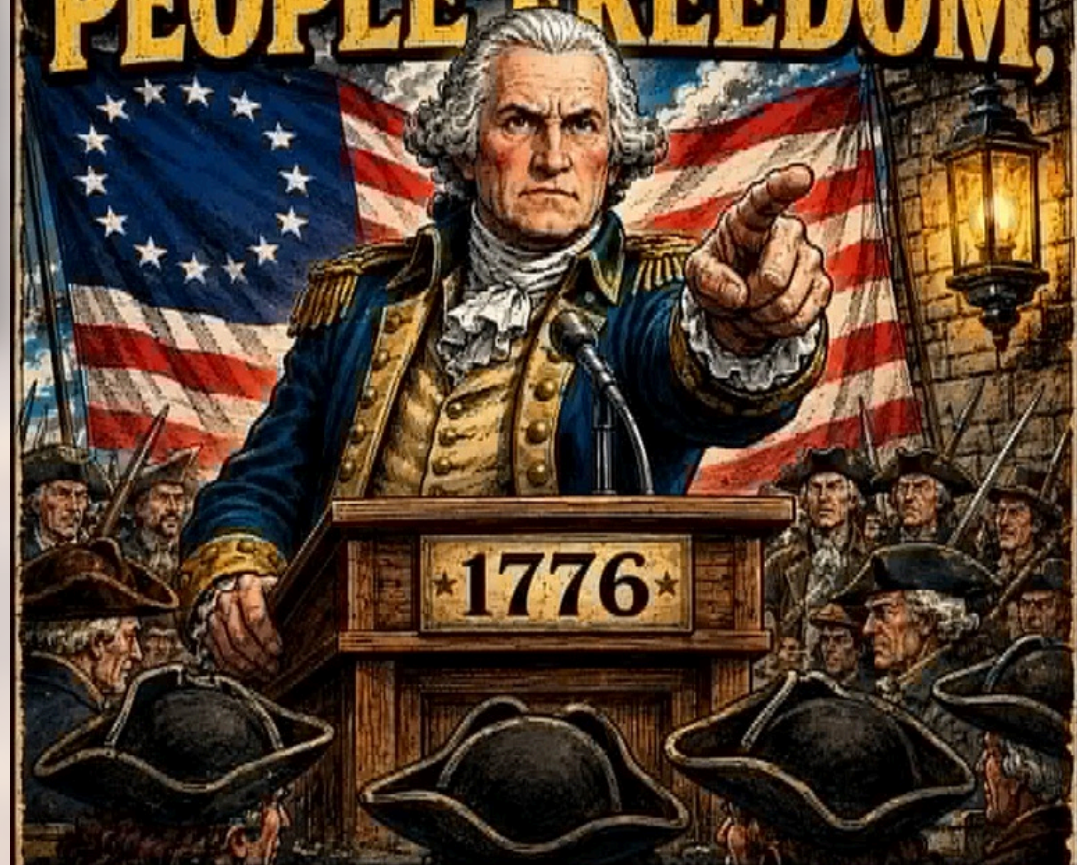
WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



★ WE FOUGHT A REVOLUTION ★
AND WORKED TO GIVE YOU
PEOPLE FREEDOM,



DON'T SIT BACK AND GIVE IT AWAY
TO TERRORISTS POSING
★ = **AS A POLITICAL PARTY** = ★



VOTE!



2026 Primary Election

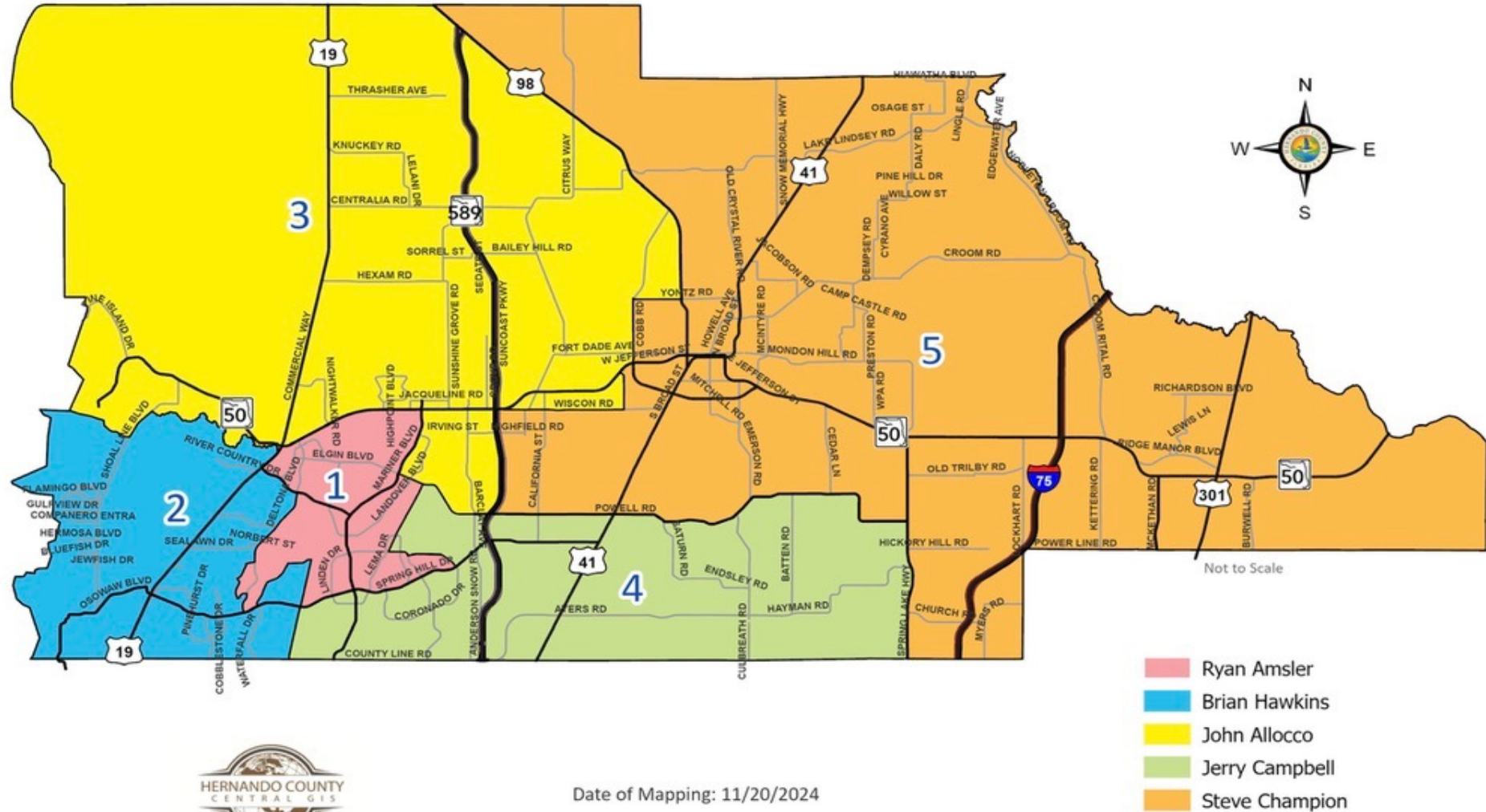
(Website last updated at: 08/21/2026 11:37:57am)

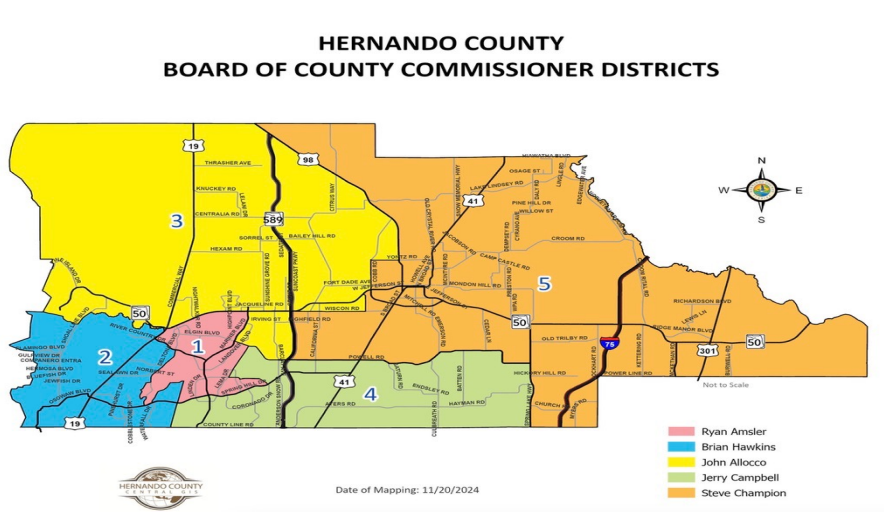
Election Date: 8/18/2026

Registered Voters:	136,139
Ballots Cast:	37,819
Voter Turnout:	27.78%

Precincts Reporting:	32 / 32
Election Day:	Completely Reported
Early Votes:	Completely Reported
Vote By Mail:	Completely Reported

HERNANDO COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS





Current Commissioners



DISTRICT 1

Ryan Amsler, Vice Chair

Hernando County Government
July 31 at 8:51 PM · 🌐

Hernando County announces that Governor Ron DeSantis has appointed John Mitten to the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners. Mitten will fill the vacant District 2 commission seat and will be sworn into office on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

Mitten is a longtime Hernando County business owner and previously served as chairman of the Hernando County Board of County Commissioners. He currently serves on the Pasco-Hernando State College District Board of Trustees and the Southwest Florida Water Management District Governing Board.

Mitten owns and operates a local Chick-fil-A franchise and earned a bachelor's degree in finance from Florida State University. He has also served the community through numerous local boards, committees and charitable organizations.

To read the full announcement from the Executive Office of Governor Ron DeSantis, visit <https://www.flgov.com/.../governor-ron-desantis-appoints...> See less



Dist-2 John Mitten



DISTRICT 3

John Allocco



DISTRICT 4

Jerry Campbell, Chair

Not Seeking
Reelection



DISTRICT 5

Steve Champion, 2nd Vice Chair



June 8th
Write-In Candidate
for District 4 Files

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

RECEIVED

JUN 08 2026

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

OFFICE USE ONLY

I, Donald Bigelow,

candidate for the office of County Commission Dist. 4;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106,
Florida Statutes.

I swear or affirm that I meet, or will meet at the time of election for the office sought or at
the time of assuming the office, as applicable, all statutory and constitutional
qualifications for the office sought.

[Signature] ✓ 6/8/26
Signature of Candidate Date

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Hernando

[Signature]
Signature of Officer Administering Oath
Affix Seal Below or, if judge, provide name, title, and
court (s. 92.50, F.S.)

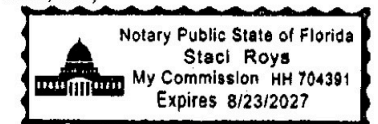
Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of

online notarization ☐ OR physical presence ☒

this 8 day of June, 2026

Personally Known ☐ OR Produced Identification ☒

Type of Identification Produced: FL DL



Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)



OFFICE USE ONLY

I, Kathryn Birren,

candidate for the office of Hernando County Commissioner, District 2;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

I swear or affirm that I meet, or will meet at the time of election for the office sought or at the time of assuming the office, as applicable, all statutory and constitutional qualifications for the office sought.

Kathryn Birren
Signature of Candidate

06/08/2026

Date

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Hernando

Ashley N. Fuller
Signature of Officer Administering Oath
Affix Seal Below or, if judge, provide name, title, and court (s. 92.50, F.S.)

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of

online notarization ☐ OR physical presence ☒

this 08 day of June, 2026

Personally Known ☒ OR Produced Identification ☐ Type of Identification Produced: _____



ASHLEY N. FULLER
Notary Public
State of Florida
Comm# HH802601
Expires 5/13/2030

Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes).

RECEIPT

No. 664591

DATE 6/11/26

FROM Kathryn Birren \$5655.96

five thousand Six Hundred DOLLARS

fifty five dollars and 96/100

ACCT.		☐ CASH
PAID	<u>026003</u>	☒ CHECK
		☐ MONEY ORDER
DUE		☐ CREDIT CARD

Qualifying Fee
FROM _____ TO _____
BY C. Billotte

A-1152
T-4161

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



RECEIPT

No. 664588

DATE 6/10/26

FROM Jeff Holcomb

\$5655.96

five thousand Six hundred
fifty five dollars 96/100

☐ FOR RENT

☐ FOR

ACCT.

PAID

DUE

☒ CASH

☐ CHECK

☐ MONEY ORDER

☐ CREDIT CARD

Qualifying Fee

FROM TO

BY C. Billotte

A-1152
T-4161

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

RECEIVED

26 JUN 10 AM 9:27

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

OFFICE USE ONLY

I, Jeff Holcomb

candidate for the office of Hernando County Commissioner, District 4;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106,
Florida Statutes.

I swear or affirm that I meet, or will meet at the time of election for the office sought or at
the time of assuming the office, as applicable, all statutory and constitutional
qualifications for the office sought.

Signature of Candidate

6/9/2026

Date

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Hernando

Signature of Officer Administering Oath

Affix Seal Below or, if judge, provide name, title, and
court (s. 92.50, F.S.)

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS
REPUBLICAN CLUB



June 10th 9:51 AM
Resigning.....

Brian Hawkins

RECEIVED
26 JUN 10 AM 9:51
SUPERIOR COURT CLERK
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

June 9, 2026

Denise LaVancher
Hernando County Supervisor of Elections
16264 Spring Hill Drive
Brooksville, FL 34604

Dear Ms. LaVancher;

Effective immediately, I am irrevocably resigning as a Hernando County Commissioner. It has been my honor to serve the people of Hernando County, and I look forward to continuing to do that in a different capacity.

Sincerely,



Brian Hawkins

CC: Florida Secretary of State
Secretary of State, Division of Elections
Governor Ron DeSantis
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



June 10th 9:52 AM
Redesignating.....

Brian Hawkins

RECEIVED

26 JUN 10 AM 9:52

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

June 9, 2026

Denise LaVancher
Hernando County Supervisor of Elections
16264 Spring Hill Drive
Brooksville, Fl 34604

Dear Ms. LaVancher;

Effective immediately, I am redesignating my campaign for Hernando County Commissioner, District 2, to Florida State Representative, District 53.

Per requirements, I will send out a letter to donors.

Sincerely,



Brian Hawkins

CC: Florida Secretary of State
Secretary of State, Division of Elections
Governor Ron DeSantis
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



RECEIPT

No. 664599

DATE

6/12/26

FROM

Diane Greenwell

\$5655.96

FOR RENT

FOR

five thousand six hundred fifty
five dollars and 96/100
Qualifying Fee

ACCT.

PAID

DUE

☐ CASH

☒ CHECK

☐ MONEY ORDER

☐ CREDIT CARD

FROM

TO

BY

C. Billotte

A-1152

T-4161

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

RECEIVED

JUN 11 2026

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

I, Diane M. Greenwell,

candidate for the office of Hernando County Commissioner District 2;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106,
Florida Statutes.

I swear or affirm that I meet, or will meet at the time of election for the office sought or at
the time of assuming the office, as applicable, all statutory and constitutional
qualifications for the office sought.

Signature of Candidate

06-11-2026

Date

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF

Hernando

Signature of Officer Administering Oath

Affix Seal Below or, if judge, provide name, title, and
court (s. 92.50, F.S.)

Sworn to (or affirmed) and subscribed before me by means of

online notarization ☐

OR

physical presence ☒

this

11

day of

June

, 20

26

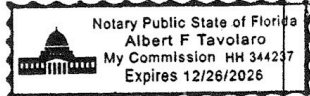
Personally Known ☐

OR

Produced Identification ☒

Type of Identification Produced:

202 6654424 53 58



Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the
Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful
failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign
Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida
Statutes).

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS
REPUBLICAN CLUB



**June 12th 11:30 AM
Withdrawal.....**

Jerry Campbell
13700 Rudi Loop
Spring Hill, FL 34609

RECEIVED
26 JUN 12 AM 11:30
SUPERIOR ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

June 12, 2026,

Denise LaVancher
Hernando County Supervisor of Elections
7443 Forest Oaks Blvd
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Ms. LaVancher;

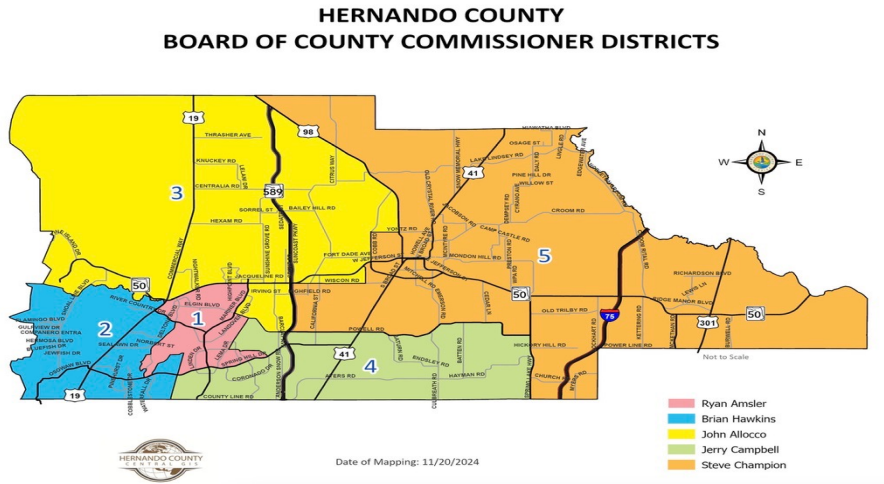
I, **Jerry Campbell**, hereby formally withdraw my candidacy for the office of **Hernando County Commissioner, District 4**, in the 2026 election cycle.

Pursuant to Florida election law and applicable rules, I respectfully request that this withdrawal be accepted and that all appropriate records be updated to reflect that I am no longer a candidate for this office.

Thank you for your assistance and service.

Sincerely,





End Results

Current Commissioners



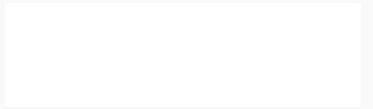
DISTRICT 1
**Ryan Amsler, Vice
Chair**



DISTRICT 2
Vacant



DISTRICT 3
John Allocco



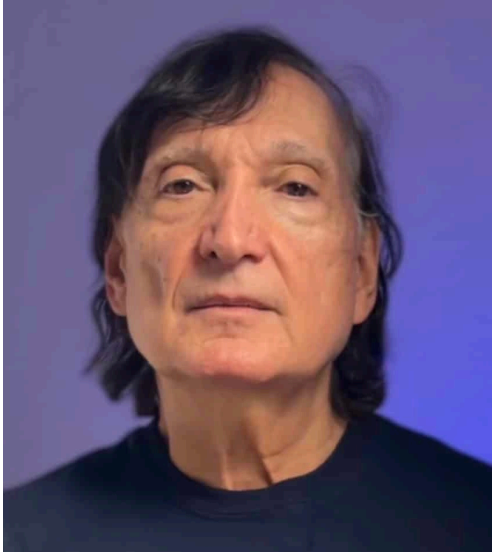
DISTRICT 4
**Jerry Campbell,
Chair**
**Not Seeking
Reelection**



DISTRICT 5
**Steve Champion,
2nd Vice Chair**



BOCC District – 2



Candidates

Candidate Name		Monetary Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total Expenditures & Distributions
Office: County Commission, Dist 2				
Kathryn Birren (REP)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$97,425.00	\$944.76	\$92,570.35
Silvia Dukes (REP)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$26,800.00	\$414.67	\$17,240.56
Maxwell Joseph Glenn (REP)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$22,018.11	\$713.42	\$21,117.34
Diane M. Greenwell (REP)	(INACTIVE-QUALIFIED)	\$28,805.85	\$525.00	\$28,805.85
Brian Hawkins (REP)	(Active- <i>NOW FILES WITH STATE OF FLORIDA</i>)	\$60,675.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
James Scavetta (REP)	(INACTIVE-QUALIFIED)	\$7,412.00	\$0.00	\$7,412.00
Office: County Commission, Dist 4				
Marvin Baynham (REP)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$70,104.46	\$0.00	\$36,819.62
Donald Bigelow (WRI)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jerry Campbell (REP)	(Active- <i>WITHDRAWN</i>)	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Jeff Holcomb (REP)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$104,080.00	\$0.00	\$100,728.78
Jeremy Holmes (REP)	(INACTIVE-DID NOT QUALIFY)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Office: School Board, Dist 1				
Anthony Joseph Arenz (NON)	(Active- <i>DID NOT QUALIFY</i>)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mark Johnson (NON)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$14,310.01	\$0.00	\$12,505.00
Dana Lynne Pearce (NON)	(Active- QUALIFIED)	\$6,467.70	\$885.00	\$6,040.14
Office: School Board, Dist 3				

Candidates

Candidate Name		Monetary Contributions	In-Kind Contributions	Total Expenditures & Distributions
Office: School Board, Dist 1				
Anthony Joseph Arenz (NON)	(Active- <i>DID NOT QUALIFY</i>)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mark Johnson (NON)	(Active- <i>QUALIFIED</i>)	\$14,310.01	\$0.00	\$12,505.00
Dana Lynne Pearce (NON)	(Active- <i>QUALIFIED</i>)	\$6,467.70	\$885.00	\$6,040.14
Office: School Board, Dist 3				
Daniel Dumont (NON)	(Active- <i>DID NOT QUALIFY</i>)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Matthew Frank Impemba (NON)	(<i>INACTIVE-WITHDRAWN</i>)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Shannon Lean Rodriguez (NON)	(Active- <i>QUALIFIED</i>)	\$53,875.00	\$450.00	\$52,379.78
Luciano Stefan Vignali (NON)	(Active- <i>QUALIFIED</i>)	\$5,116.00	\$496.26	\$4,836.79
Office: School Board, Dist 5				
Kara Leigh Champion (NON)	(Active- <i>QUALIFIED</i>)	\$32,435.76	\$3,477.83	\$26,131.02
Amanda Cunningham-Rud (NON)	(Active- <i>QUALIFIED</i>)	\$3,290.00	\$95.00	\$3,171.07
Susan Duval (NON)	(Active- <i>QUALIFIED</i>)	\$3,405.00	\$525.00	\$2,825.43
Pamela Sue Everett (NON)	(<i>INACTIVE-WITHDRAWN</i>)	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$20.00



Florida Department of State
Division of Elections

2026 General Election
John Carroll (REP)
State Representative

Campaign Finance Activity

the Committee's/Candidate's Campaign Treasurer's Report filed with the Division of Elections. [About the Campaign Finance](#)

	Filing Period	Contributions			Expend	Other
		Monetary	Loans	InKind		
☐	06/11/2026 - 06/12/2026	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	1,781.82	0.0
☐	06/13/2026 - 06/26/2026	7,620.00	0.00	0.00	335.22	0.0
☐	06/27/2026 - 07/10/2026	700.00	0.00	0.00	49.80	0.0
☐	07/11/2026 - 07/17/2026	1,845.00	0.00	1,707.75	1,025.80	0.0
☐	07/18/2026 - 07/24/2026	5,070.00	0.00	0.00	944.20	0.0
☐	07/25/2026 - 07/31/2026	50.00	0.00	466.38	1,343.88	0.0
☐	08/01/2026 - 08/13/2026	5,150.00	0.00	0.00	2,439.70	0.0
☒	All Dates (Totals)	20,435.00	3,000.00	2,174.13	7,920.42	0.0



Florida Department of State
Division of Elections

2026 General Election
Brian Hawkins (REP)
State Representative

Campaign Finance Activity

the Committee's/Candidate's Campaign Treasurer's Report filed with the Division of Elections. [About the Campaign Finance](#)

	Filing Period	Contributions			Expend	Other	Transfers
		Monetary	Loans	InKind			
☐	06/10/2026 - 06/12/2026	60,675.00	0.00	0.00	1,781.82	0.00	0.0
☐	06/13/2026 - 06/26/2026	6,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0
☐	06/27/2026 - 07/10/2026	5,700.00	0.00	0.00	8,644.10	0.00	0.0
☐	07/11/2026 - 07/17/2026	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,237.39	0.00	0.0
☐	07/18/2026 - 07/24/2026	1,750.00	0.00	0.00	13,585.90	0.00	0.0
☐	07/25/2026 - 07/31/2026	8,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,158.05	0.00	0.0
☐	08/01/2026 - 08/13/2026	17,350.00	0.00	0.00	40,355.35	0.00	0.0
☒	All Dates (Totals)	105,075.00	0.00	0.00	89,762.61	0.00	0.0

DON'T LET RADICAL LEFTIST MARVIN BAYNHAM

SELL OUR HERNANDO COUNTY TO DEVELOPERS!

THOUSANDS
IN SPECIAL
INTEREST
MONEY!

(1) hernandovotes.gov, sunbiz

OVER 25% OF MARVIN'S
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS
COME FROM COMPANIES
TIED TO DEVELOPERS¹

MARVIN BAYNHAM
HAS TAKEN **THOUSANDS**
OF DOLLARS TIED TO
DEVELOPERS.

Marvin Baynham:
The Developer's Champion

More than 1 out of every 4 Dollars
tied to DEVELOPERS¹

When a development comes before the county commission,
who will Marvin Baynham be working for?
YOU...OR THE DEVELOPERS WHO FUNDED HIS CAMPAIGN?

(1) hernandovotes.gov, sunbiz.org

by the biggest
developer on the
county commission.





Hernando County Voters

Kelly Dodson · August 17 at 1:15 PM · 🌐



More Developer Donations just this week being donated to Jeff Holcomb!
Wow not good for BOCC District #4 race .

Report Date: P7 (8/1/2026 - 8/13/2026)

Back ◀

Print 🖨

View PDF 📄

Export All 📤

Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Contributions					
Seq# Date	Contributor	Entity	Occupation Amend	Cont. Type	Amount
#1 8/3/2026	Somerset Land LLC 4805 W Laurel Street Suite 100 Tampa, FL 33607	Business	Land Development	Check	\$1,000.00
#2 8/3/2026	Jeffery Grow 2227 East Hampshire Street Inverness, FL 34453	Individual	Retired	Check	\$500.00
#3 8/3/2026	Oak Hill Land LLC 18125 Wayne Road Odessa, FL 33556	Business	Property Sales	Check	\$1,000.00
#4 8/3/2026	Cobblestone Land LLC 18125 Wayne Road Odessa, FL 33556	Business	Land Services	Check	\$1,000.00
#5 8/3/2026	Raptor Transportation Odessa, FL 33556	Business	Consulting Firm	Check	\$1,000.00
#7 8/3/2026	Northwest Land LLC 18125 Wayne Road Odessa, FL 33556	Business	Land Development	Check	\$1,000.00
#8 8/5/2026	Prescription For Florida's Pro 1103 Hays Street Tallahassee, FL 32301	Political Comm. (Federal or State)	Political Committee	Check	\$1,000.00
#9 8/6/2026	Yeager for Florida 4522 W Village Drive Suite 655 Tampa, FL 33624	Political Comm. (Federal or State)	Political Committee	Check	\$1,000.00
#10 8/6/2026	Joseph Mazzuco 10373 Ramble Ridge Ct Weeki Wachee, FL 34613	Individual	Construction	Check	\$500.00
#11 8/6/2026	William C Chaney DC, PA 4056 Commercial Way Spring Hill, FL 34606	Individual	Chiropractor - Chaney Chiropra	Check	\$400.00
#12	Grow Florida's Future	Political Comm.	Political Committee	Check	



26



16



5





Select a county to compare its party turnout with the statewide result.

← [Return to dashboard](#)

[Statewide dashboard](#)

[Interactive primary](#)

REPUBLICAN BALLOTS

1,696,335

57.58%

DEMOCRATIC BALLOTS

1,249,548

42.42%



8:22

55

STATEWIDE ADVANTAGE

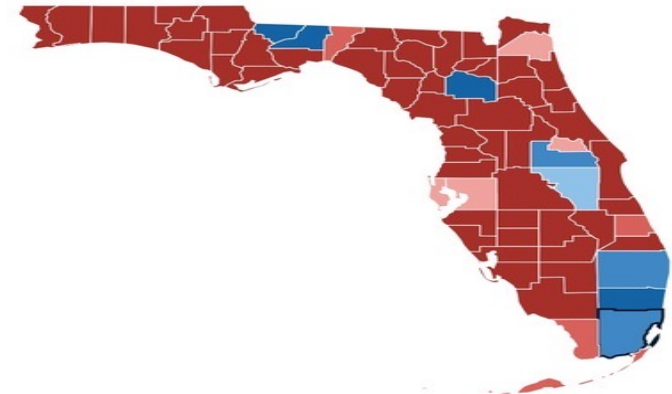
R +446,787

15.17% points

Democratic vs. Republican primary ballots

Blue counties cast more Democratic ballots;
red counties cast more Republican ballots.

■ D advantage ■ R advantage



D +20 ■ ■ R +20

SELECTED COUNTY

workers.dev

17 61 271 153

WELLINGTON

☆ United States Senator (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Chris Gleason (REP)		15.31%	3,493
Ashley Moody (REP)		78.92%	18,008
Neelam Taneja Perry (REP)		1.31%	300
Ernest "Ernie" Rivera (REP)		4.46%	1,017
			22,818

☆ United States Senator (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Angie Nixon (DEM)		50.22%	4,965
Alex Vindman (DEM)		49.78%	4,921
			9,886

WELLINGTON

☆ Governor and Lieutenant Governor (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)

 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Jay Collins (REP)		31.24%	7,273
Byron Donalds (REP)		40.02%	9,317
James Fishback (REP)		11.02%	2,565
Jim Holcomb (REP)		2.03%	472
Arthur Joseph McCaffrey (REP)		0.33%	76
Daniel Nokovich (REP)		0.17%	39
Paul Renner (REP)		5.85%	1,361
Rachel Rodriguez (REP)		1.16%	271
James W. Shaw (REP)		0.35%	82
Caneste Succe (REP)		0.17%	40
Bobby Williams (REP)		7.66%	1,784
			23,280

WELLINGTON

☆ Governor and Lieutenant Governor (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Evelyn Castillo-Bach (DEM)		9.39%	927
Thomas Eloy Fernandez (DEM)		5.33%	526
Dayna Marie Foster (DEM)		14.00%	1,382
David Jolly (DEM)		61.21%	6,042
Dotie Joseph (DEM)		7.47%	737
Stephann Norman (DEM)		2.60%	257
			9,871

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Jay Collins (REP)		23.84%	123
Byron Donalds (REP)		57.75%	298
James Fishback (REP)		4.46%	23
Jim Holcomb (REP)		3.10%	16
Arthur Joseph McCaffrey (REP)		0.39%	2
Daniel Nokovich (REP)		0.00%	0
Paul Renner (REP)		7.95%	41
Rachel Rodriguez (REP)		0.39%	2
James W. Shaw (REP)		0.00%	0
Caneste Succe (REP)		0.19%	1
Bobby Williams (REP)		1.94%	10
			516

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

230 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Jay Collins (REP)		25.92%	269
Byron Donalds (REP)		54.72%	568
James Fishback (REP)		1.25%	13
Jim Holcomb (REP)		3.56%	37
Arthur Joseph McCaffrey (REP)		0.19%	2
Daniel Nokovich (REP)		0.48%	5
Paul Renner (REP)		10.98%	114
Rachel Rodriguez (REP)		0.96%	10
James W. Shaw (REP)		0.19%	2
Caneste Succe (REP)		0.67%	7
Bobby Williams (REP)		1.06%	11
			1,038



Governor

Governor

Republican

[Contest Results by County](#)

[Compare State to County](#)

Candidate	Party	Votes Received	
Jay Collins	REP	427,000	25.16%
Byron Donalds	REP	811,101	47.79%
James Fishback	REP	177,796	10.48%
Jim Holcomb	REP	13,183	0.78%
Arthur Joseph McCaffrey	REP	7,048	0.42%
Daniel Nokovich	REP	5,192	0.31%
Paul Renner	REP	145,055	8.55%
Rachel Rodriguez	REP	27,623	1.63%
James W. Shaw	REP	7,888	0.46%
Caneste Succe	REP	6,275	0.37%
Bobby Williams	REP	69,101	4.07%
		Total	1,697,262

Governor

Democrat

[Contest Results by County](#)

[Compare State to County](#)

Candidate	Party	Votes Received	
Evelyn Castillo-Bach	DEM	96,695	7.73%
Thomas Eloy Fernandez	DEM	47,320	3.78%
Dayna Marie Foster	DEM	189,393	15.15%
David Jolly and Gwen Graham	DEM	762,109	60.95%
Dotie Joseph	DEM	119,950	9.59%
Stephann Norman	DEM	34,964	2.8%
		Total	1,250,431

WELLINGTON

☆ Chief Financial Officer (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Frank William Collige (REP)		34.53%	7,775
Blaise Ingoglia (REP)		65.47%	14,740
			22,515

☆ Chief Financial Officer (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Earle Ford (DEM)		32.50%	3,121
Annette Taddeo (DEM)		67.50%	6,481
			9,602

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Frank William Collige (REP)		21.33%	106
Blaise Ingoglia (REP)		78.67%	391
			497

WELLINGTON

Chief Financial Officer

Chief Financial Officer

Republican

[Contest Results by County](#)
[Compare State to County](#)

Candidate	Party	Votes Received	
Frank William Collige	REP	610,837	38.68%
Blaise Ingoglia	REP	968,183	61.32%
		Total	1,579,020

Chief Financial Officer

Democrat

[Contest Results by County](#)
[Compare State to County](#)

Candidate	Party	Votes Received	
Earle Ford	DEM	416,960	34.36%
Annette Taddeo	DEM	796,647	65.64%
		Total	1,213,607

WELLINGTON

☆ Commissioner of Agriculture (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Wilton Simpson (REP)		65.58%	14,971
Matt Taylor (REP)		34.42%	7,857
			22,828

☆ Commissioner of Agriculture (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Joey Mendoza Atkins (DEM)		62.73%	5,936
Donald A. "Don" Prichard (DEM)		37.27%	3,527
			9,463

WELLINGTON

Commissioner of Agriculture

Commissioner of Agriculture

Republican

[Contest Results by County](#)

[Compare State to County](#)

Candidate	Party	Votes Received	
Wilton Simpson	REP	1,111,494	68.91%
Matt Taylor	REP	501,482	31.09%
		Total	1,612,976

Commissioner of Agriculture

Democrat

[Contest Results by County](#)

[Compare State to County](#)

Candidate	Party	Votes Received	
Joey Mendoza Atkins	DEM	717,162	60.29%
Donald A. "Don" Prichard	DEM	472,449	39.71%
		Total	1,189,611

**Salaries of Elected County Constitutional Officers and School District Officials for Fiscal Year 2025-26
Pursuant to the Salary Formula in Chapter 145, Florida Statutes**

See Table Notes for Additional Clarification

**Florida House of Representatives
District 53**

Tenure

2022 - Present

Term ends

2026

Years in position

3

Predecessor: [Randy Fine](#) (R)

Compensation

Base salary \$29,697

Per diem \$175/day (up to 60 days)

Elected County Constitutional Officers

County Commissioners

Elected School District Officials

School Superintendent

School Board Members

Property appraiser	Supervisor of Elections	Tax Collector	Sheriff	County Commissioners	School Superintendent	School Board Members
179,334	\$ 179,334	\$ 207,628	\$ 247,804	\$ 104,543	\$ 207,628	\$ 49,454
133,125	\$ 133,125	\$ 161,418	\$ 201,595	\$ 41,973	\$ 161,418	\$ 35,235
170,173	\$ 170,173	\$ 198,466	\$ 238,643	\$ 92,378	\$ 198,466	\$ 46,970
132,428	\$ 132,428	\$ 160,721	\$ 200,898	\$ 41,309	\$ 160,721	\$ 35,050
196,112	\$ 196,112	\$ 224,406	\$ 264,582	\$ 117,522	\$ 224,406	\$ 53,863
228,625	\$ 228,625	\$ 256,918	\$ 297,095	\$ 127,320	\$ 256,918	\$ 56,587
126,352	\$ 126,352	\$ 154,645	\$ 194,822	\$ 35,522	\$ 154,645	\$ 33,443
171,699	\$ 171,699	\$ 199,993	\$ 240,169	\$ 94,272	\$ 199,993	\$ 47,405
165,723	\$ 165,723	\$ 194,016	\$ 234,193	\$ 84,749	\$ 194,016	\$ 45,558
173,991	\$ 173,991	\$ 202,285	\$ 242,461	\$ 96,455	\$ 202,285	\$ 48,011
188,824	\$ 188,824	\$ 217,118	\$ 257,294	\$ 110,581	\$ 217,118	\$ 51,933
145,970	\$ 145,970	\$ 174,263	\$ 214,440	\$ 58,450	\$ 174,263	\$ 39,812
136,061	\$ 136,061	\$ 164,354	\$ 204,531	\$ 44,769	\$ 164,354	\$ 36,011
128,070	\$ 128,070	\$ 156,363	\$ 196,540	\$ 37,158	\$ 156,363	\$ 33,898
207,817	\$ 207,817	\$ 236,110	\$ 276,287	\$ 127,320	\$ 236,110	\$ 56,587
182,903	\$ 182,903	\$ 211,197	\$ 251,373	\$ 104,942	\$ 211,197	\$ 50,367
161,290	\$ 161,290	\$ 189,583	\$ 229,760	\$ 77,150	\$ 189,583	\$ 44,152
126,183	\$ 126,183	\$ 154,476	\$ 194,653	\$ 35,361	\$ 154,476	\$ 33,398
140,234	\$ 140,234	\$ 168,528	\$ 208,704	\$ 48,744	\$ 168,528	\$ 37,115
128,938	\$ 128,938	\$ 157,231	\$ 197,408	\$ 37,985	\$ 157,231	\$ 34,127
125,957	\$ 125,957	\$ 154,251	\$ 194,427	\$ 35,147	\$ 154,251	\$ 33,339
127,799	\$ 127,799	\$ 156,092	\$ 196,269	\$ 36,900	\$ 156,092	\$ 33,826
126,587	\$ 126,587	\$ 154,880	\$ 195,057	\$ 35,746	\$ 154,880	\$ 33,505
131,781	\$ 131,781	\$ 160,074	\$ 200,251	\$ 40,693	\$ 160,074	\$ 34,879
140,484	\$ 140,484	\$ 168,777	\$ 208,954	\$ 48,984	\$ 168,777	\$ 37,181
171,693	\$ 171,693	\$ 199,987	\$ 240,163	\$ 94,266	\$ 199,987	\$ 47,403

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



☆ State Representative District 53 (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 24 / 24

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
John Carroll (REP)		44.02%	6,905
Brian Hawkins (REP)		55.98%	8,781
			15,686

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
John Carroll (REP)		39.52%	196
Brian Hawkins (REP)		60.48%	300
			496

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



☆ County Commissioner District 2 (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Kathryn Birren (REP)		30.96%	10,334
Silvia Dukes (REP)		14.36%	4,792
Maxwell Joseph Glenn (REP)		25.97%	8,668
Diane M. Greenwell (REP)		15.29%	5,103
James Scavetta (REP)		13.43%	4,483
			33,380

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Kathryn Birren (REP)		38.90%	291
Silvia Dukes (REP)		10.03%	75
Maxwell Joseph Glenn (REP)		21.26%	159
Diane M. Greenwell (REP)		15.37%	115
James Scavetta (REP)		14.44%	108
			748

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice	Election Day	Early Votes	Vote By Mail	Total Votes	Percentage
Kathryn Birren (REP) 	149	50	92	291	38.90%
Silvia Dukes (REP) 	-	-	-	75	10.03%
Maxwell Joseph Glenn (REP) 	-	-	-	159	21.26%
Diane M. Greenwell (REP) 	-	-	-	115	15.37%
James Scavetta (REP) 	-	-	-	108	14.44%

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED

FEB 13 2026

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

I, Maxwell Glenn,

candidate for the office of Hernando Board of County Commssioners District 2 ;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of
Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

x Maxwell Glenn

Signature of Candidate

2/13/2026

Date

RECEIPT

No. **664587**

DATE 6/9/26

FROM Maxwell Glenn

\$ 5655.96

five thousand six hundred
fifty five dollars and 96/100 DOLLARS

☐ FOR RENT

☐ FOR

ACCT.	
PAID	<u>101</u>
DUE	

- ☐ CASH
☒ CHECK
☐ MONEY ORDER
☐ CREDIT CARD

Qualifying Fee

FROM _____ TO _____

BY C. Billotte

A-1152
T-4161

Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes).

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JUL 14 2025

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

I, Silvia Dukes

candidate for the office of Hernando County Board of Commissioners, District 2 ;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of

Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

RECEIPT

No. 664586

DATE 6/9/26

FROM Silvia Dukes

\$ 5655.96

Five thousand Six hundred DOLLARS
fifty five dollars and 96/100

☐ FOR RENT

☐ FOR

ACCT.

PAID

DUE

☐ CASH

☒ CHECK

☐ MONEY ORDER

☐ CREDIT CARD

Qualifying Fee

FROM _____ TO _____

BY C. Billotte

A-1152

T-4161

X

Silvia Dukes

Signature of Candidate

7/14/2025

Date

Each candidate must file a statement with the qualifying officer within 10 days after the appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository is filed. Willful failure to file this form is a first degree misdemeanor and a civil violation of the Campaign Financing Act which may result in a fine of up to \$1,000, (ss. 106.19(1)(c), 106.265(1), Florida Statutes).

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



☆ County Commissioner District 4 (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)

 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice

Percent

Votes

Marvin Baynham (REP)



40.93%

9,106

Jeff Holcomb (REP)



59.07%

13,141

22,247

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

Petition Certificate

I, Denise LaVancher, Supervisor of Elections for Hernando County, Florida, do hereby certify that

MARVIN BAYNHAM

has met the petition requirement and is entitled to have his name on the ballot for the office of

HERNANDO COUNTY COMMISSION, DISTRICT 4

I further certify that of 1,709 signatures submitted to the
Hernando County Supervisor of Elections, 1,465 were valid and acceptable signatures.

May 13, 2026

Date



Denise LaVancher

Denise LaVancher
Supervisor of Elections.

OFFICE USE ONLY

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

RECEIVED

JUN 16 2025

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FLORIDA

I, Marvin Baynham,
candidate for the office of County Commission District 4;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of
Chapter 106, Florida Statutes.

X *MR Baynham*
Signature of Candidate

6-16-25
Date

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



RECEIPT

No. 664588

DATE 6/10/26

FROM Jeff Holcomb

\$5655.96

five thousand Six hundred
fifty five dollars 96/100

☐ FOR RENT

☐ FOR

ACCT.

PAID

DUE

☒ CASH

☐ CHECK

☐ MONEY ORDER

☐ CREDIT CARD

Qualifying Fee

FROM TO

BY C. Billotte

A-1152

T-4161

STATEMENT OF CANDIDATE

(Section 106.023, F.S.)

(Please print or type)

RECEIVED

26 JUN 10 AM 9:27

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS
HERNANDO COUNTY, FL

OFFICE USE ONLY

I, Jeff Holcomb

candidate for the office of Hernando County Commissioner, District 4;

have been provided access to read and understand the requirements of Chapter 106,
Florida Statutes.

I swear or affirm that I meet, or will meet at the time of election for the office sought or at
the time of assuming the office, as applicable, all statutory and constitutional
qualifications for the office sought.

Signature of Candidate

6/9/2026

Date

STATE OF FLORIDA

COUNTY OF Hernando

Signature of Officer Administering Oath

Affix Seal Below or, if judge, provide name, title, and
court (s. 92.50, F.S.)

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Marvin Baynham (REP)		31.92%	158
Jeff Holcomb (REP)		68.08%	337
			495

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice	Election Day	Early Votes	Vote By Mail	Total Votes	Percentage
Marvin Baynham (REP) 	90	30	38	158	31.92%
Jeff Holcomb (REP) 	204	45	88	337	68.08%

420 [Show Detailed View](#)

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



☆ School Board District 1 (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



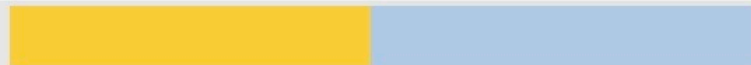
[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice

Percent

Votes

Mark C. Johnson



47.78%

16,530

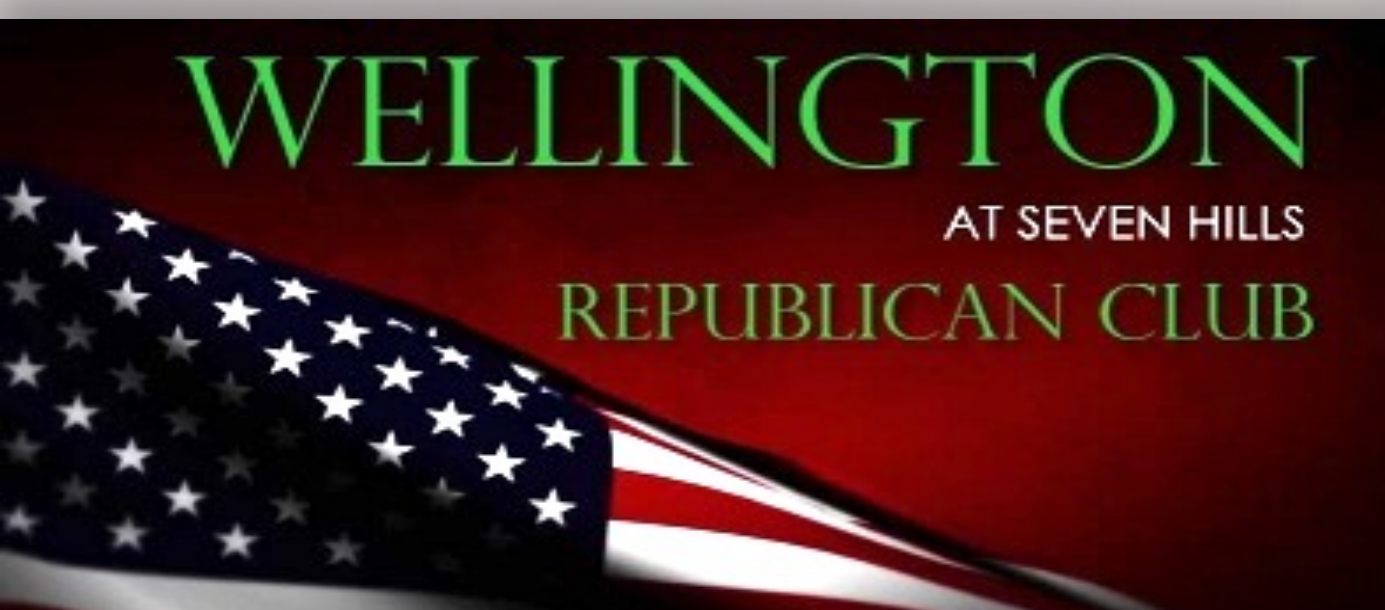
Dana Pearce



52.22%

18,066

34,596



☆ **School Board District 1 (Vote For 1)**

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 **Precinct Details**

 [Show Graphical View](#)

Choice	Election Day	Early Votes	Vote By Mail	Total Votes	Percentage
Mark C. Johnson	7,816	3,677	5,037	16,530	47.78%
Dana Pearce	6,576	3,525	7,965	18,066	52.22%

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

Hernando County School Board Member District

Local 

1

Choose one



Mark C. Johnson

Incumbent, Nonpartisan

Registered Republican ^[1]



Dana Pearce

Nonpartisan

Registered Republican; Recommended by the Pasco-Hernando Democratic
Socialists of America ^[1] ^[2]

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice	Election Day	Early Votes	Vote By Mail	Total Votes	Percentage
Mark C. Johnson	231	58	131	420	54.12%
Dana Pearce	143	45	168	356	45.88%

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



230 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Mark C. Johnson		55.22%	851
Dana Pearce		44.78%	690
			1,541

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



☆ School Board District 3 (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Shannon Rodriguez		65.31%	22,804
Luciano Stefan Vignali		34.69%	12,110
			34,914

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

Hernando County School Board Member District

Local



3

Choose one



Shannon Rodriguez

Incumbent, Nonpartisan

Endorsed by a local conservative group which has her listed on the "MAGA Voting Guide" [1]



Luciano Stefan Vignali

Nonpartisan

Registered Democrat; Recommended by the Pasco-Hernando Democratic Socialists of America [1] [2]

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Shannon Rodriguez		70.85%	547
Luciano Stefan Vignali		29.15%	225
			772

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



☆ School Board District 5 (Vote For 1)

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)



[Show Detailed View](#)

Choice

Percent

Votes

Kara Champion



38.96%

13,724

Amanda Cunningham-Rud



22.09%

7,781

Susan Duval



38.94%

13,717

35,222



☆ **School Board District 5 (Vote For 1)**

Participating Precincts Reporting: 32 / 32

 [Precinct Details](#)

 [Show Graphical View](#)

Choice	Election Day	Early Votes	Vote By Mail	Total Votes	Percentage
Kara Champion	6,323	2,928	4,473	13,724	38.96%
Amanda Cunningham-Rud	3,238	1,750	2,793	7,781	22.09%
Susan Duval	5,106	2,669	5,942	13,717	38.94%

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



HC School Board Dist-5

RECEIPT

No. 664^F76

DATE

6/1/26

FROM

Kara Champion

\$ 1896.12

One thousand eight hundred ninety DOLLARS

☐ FOR RENT

Six dollars and 12/100

☐ FOR

CASH

Qualifying Fee

RECEIPT

DATE

5/27/26

No. 610174

RECEIVED FROM

Susan Duval

\$ 1896.12

One thousand eight hundred ninety DOLLARS

☐ FOR RENT

☐ FOR Qualifying Fee Six and 12/100

ACCOUNT

PAYMENT

BAL. DUE

☐ CASH

☒ CHECK

☐ MONEY ORDER

☐ CREDIT CARD

School Board

FROM

Dist 5

BY

C. Blithe

Petition Certificate

I, Denise LaVancher, Supervisor of Elections for Hernando County, Florida, do hereby certify that

AMANDA CUNNINGHAM—RUD

has met the petition requirement and is entitled to have her name on the ballot for the office of

HERNANDO COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 5

I further certify that of 1,745 signatures submitted to the
Hernando County Supervisor of Elections, 1,450 were valid and acceptable signatures.

May 11, 2026

Date



Denise LaVancher
Denise LaVancher

Supervisor of Elections.

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS



[About](#) [Endorsers](#) [Volunteer](#) [Partner](#) [Donate](#)

of America ^[1] ^[2]

Hernando County School Board Member District

5

Local

Choose one



Susan Duval

Incumbent, Nonpartisan

Recommended by the Pasco-Hernando Democratic Socialists of America ^[1]

Endorsed by



[Florida Education Association](#)



Amanda Cunningham-Rud

Nonpartisan

Registered Republican ^[1]



Kara Champion

Nonpartisan

Registered Republican ^[1]



WellingtonRC.com

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



410 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Kara Champion		41.34%	322
Amanda Cunningham-Rud		25.03%	195
Susan Duval		33.63%	262
			779

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



230 [Show Detailed View](#)

Choice		Percent	Votes
Kara Champion		42.23%	636
Amanda Cunningham-Rud		17.53%	264
Susan Duval		40.24%	606
			1,506

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



**Things
that
Happened!**



WellingtonRC.com

WELLINGTON

AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB

A4 | NATION

China Stirs Disinformation in AI Dominance Race

AI is enabling Chinese influence campaigns at scale, sowing division in America, an expert says

Continued from A1

Energy availability and water depletion are both real issues, Cleo Paskal, a senior fellow at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, told *The Epoch Times*. "But it's also a real issue that the Chinese Communist Party is perfectly happy to exacerbate to create even more division with the goal not of leading to any solution, but of paralyzing the United States," she said.

'Data Center Bandwagon'

Part of the regime's effort is about harnessing U.S. artificial intelligence against itself. Using virtual private networks, Chinese operators tapped into artificial intelligence chatbot ChatGPT, which is not accessible in China. They instructed it to create English-language comic strips and comments that suggested AI center construction was hiking up electricity costs for average American households.

One comic features a family of three saying "This is unfair!" while glaring at a man in a suit puffing a cigar and clutching bags full of cash, a June OpenAI report found. A set of likely fake accounts then amplified such materials on social media.

OpenAI dubbed the effort the "Data Center Bandwagon" campaign.

Chinese influence operators are "testing narratives against AI infrastructure—a foundation of U.S. technological leadership, economic growth, and the broader democratic AI ecosystem," the company said in its report.

Keeping an edge on AI has been imperative for the Chinese regime. Its 15th five-year plan, adopted in March, pushes to integrate AI in all sectors of the economy. In a speech on July 17, Chinese leader Xi Jinping laid out another global AI order, in which China will take the lead in training and collaborating on the technology for developing countries.

The Chinese authorities see AI as a "battle," said retired U.S. Marine Col. Grant Newsham, who authored the book "When China Attacks" to warn about the Chinese regime's gray zone tactics.

"They want to win it, and they want to defeat us," Newsham told *The Epoch Times*. And defeating means ensuring the United States falls behind China, and ideally, as a case study.

Newsham pointed to green energy as a case study. The world's shift to clean energy has led to heavy dependence on China, which produces about 80 percent of the world's solar modules and batteries and 70 percent of wind turbine equipment. The refining process for several key electric vehicle batteries largely takes place in China.

Now, the Chinese regime wants to achieve the same thing with AI, Newsham said.

Chinese actors appear to still be experimenting with their fake social media accounts, but analysts and OpenAI warn that they are getting better.

Beijing is not looking for quick results, said Scott McGregor, a former intelligence adviser to Canadian federal law enforcement.

"It's very incremental," he told *The Epoch Times*.

Volume matters, and AI is enabling Chinese influence campaigns at scale, said Nicolas Chaillan, a cybersecurity expert and former Air Force chief software officer.

"If you become the noise and you have the narrative, and then you can control your thoughts into people's minds," he told *The Epoch Times*. "The more volume it has, the more it's repeated, the more people are going to believe it."

Sowing Discord
Running alongside the covert cyberoperations is a more overt propaganda push.



\$ THE COST SHIFTED TO THE PEOPLE! \$

▲ Screenshots of an English-language comic strip generated by ChatGPT suggesting that AI data center construction is driving up electricity costs for average U.S. households, posted on X by a network of likely inauthentic accounts.

In recent months, Chinese state media have carried dozens of articles—in English and while boasting China's successful AI expansion. Many of them echo the same talking points as the fake social media accounts.

This pattern appears to have caught the attention of Washington. Interior Secretary Doug Burgum, at a May policy event, suggested that some of the activism against data centers is driven by "foreign source dark money coming in."

"It's not organic or local," he said.

Several Republican lawmakers have pointed to a network funded by Neville Roy Singham, an American businessman living in Shanghai who has parroted Beijing's talking points. Singham is now under federal grand jury investigation over potential unlawful money funneling.

The groups linked to him have been under congressional scrutiny previously for fueling protests in the country. Several interests, denouncing the United States through Chinese state media and organizing courses that praise Chinese socialism.

Their role in mobilizing anti-data center protests is a chief focus of Rep. Jason Smith (R-Mo.).

"China would like to dominate the future of artificial intelligence, and it is clear that they are actively seeking to exploit America's legitimate concerns and sow discord that is to seize this technological advantage for themselves," Smith, who chairs the House Ways and Means Committee,

said in a June congressional hearing on Chinese influence.

He vowed to "follow the money and get to the bottom of the dark web of funding sources."

In late July, Smith subpoenaed three Singham-associated nonprofits, citing tens of millions of dollars funneled through Singham.

Some of the opposition voices said their core issue is a lack of transparency from the government.

Residents "want to feel heard in decisions that will impact their lives for decades to come," Elizabeth Hutchings, communications manager of Alliance for a Better Utah, told *The Epoch Times*. The group has fought a major data center project in its state and denies any foreign hand in the work.

Lawmakers and experts say true community-led opposition and the Chinese influence campaigns are two distinct issues.

"There's a place for legitimate concerns about data centers and AI, but let's have that debate separate from the malign influence by the Chinese Communist Party," David Sheidt, former acting director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, told *The Epoch Times*.

The Chinese regime, he said, has "every vested interest" in sowing discord.

McGregor agreed, saying that the regime is trying to catch up in AI and that it will want to slow the United States down in any way it can.

Singham couldn't be reached for comment.

"Tell Half a Story"
Exploiting friction points in open societies is a familiar tactic for the Chinese regime.

When the United States grappled with anti-Asian hate crimes in 2021, Beijing saw an opportunity to divert attention away from human rights abuses in its own country. Its diplomats and state media accused the United States of hypocrisy and boasted that the Chinese version of governance was better.

They tell half a story, or they change the story enough so that it corrodes the ties and international studies at Tokyo's International Christian University, told *The Epoch Times*. "These are patterns that are only accentuated and put on steroids with AI."

Edward Tu's Taiwan AI Labs has used AI to track coordinated influence operations. In most cases, he said, the operators aim to wear down public trust and push both sides to the extreme until there's no room for objective conversation.

When democratic functions become paralyzed, people might think democracy is really chaos, it's no better than China," he told *The Epoch Times*.

In the case of AI, the regime is running the campaign on top of a litany of efforts to gain the coveted AI edge. Where the technology has fallen short, it makes up the difference by stealing American trade secrets, smuggling chips through third countries, and leveraging supply chain dependencies to impede U.S. AI infrastructure growth.

Beijing—by far the most capable competitor in this space—is running a "multifaceted, national-level strategy" to displace the United States as the world's most influential AI power, the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence said in a 2025 report.

A number of lawmakers said they were concerned.

Rep. Brian Mast (R-Fla.), chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the United States is "absolutely dealing with Chinese influence" on the AI front.

"At a local level in the United States of America, we're not run by Washington, D.C. Each community gets to go out there and make their own decision about what they see as fits well within their communities," he told *The Epoch Times*.

"That's our system of governance at the lowest possible level. But yes, we are absolutely dealing with Chinese influence on that front, because it benefits them for us to not have compute."

Sen. Jim Banks (R-Ind.), like Smith, backed the grand jury investigation of Singham. He said the regime doesn't "belong anywhere in... American political debates."

These are "important local political debates that often involve local and state laws and policies, and the Chinese shouldn't meddle in those debates," he told *The Epoch Times*. "So we should crack down on them for it, and be fully aware of their motivations."

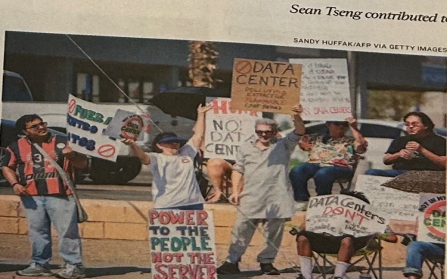
If China achieves its goal, the threat to the United States and other democracies will be "existential," said Kerry Gershaneck, a National Chengchi University professor who has closely studied Chinese political warfare operations.

"already far ahead of any other country in weaponizing AI," he told *The Epoch Times*. Combine that with a "massive data-collection ecosystem," he said, and the regime would have the ultimate tool to export its totalitarian model and "destroy us from within."

Sean Tseng contributed to this report.



NATHAN HOWARD/GETTY IMAGES



SANDY HUFFAK/AFR VIA GETTY IMAGES

▲ Demonstrators wave signs during a protest against AI data center expansion in Imperial, Calif., on July 18, 2025.

FLORIDA HOMEOWNERS AMENDMENT 3

— 2026 PROPERTY TAXES —

Florida voters will decide on Amendment 3
on November 3, 2026.

Here's what you need to know.



HOMESTEADED PRIMARY RESIDENCES

Increases the exemption from non-school property taxes for qualifying Florida residents:

- Up to **\$150,000** of assessed value beginning Jan. 1, 2027
- Up to **\$250,000** beginning Jan. 1, 2028
- Beginning in 2029, the exemption will be adjusted for positive inflation growth.



RENTALS, SECOND HOMES & OTHER NON-HOMESTEAD PROPERTY

The current constitutional limit allowing assessed values on non-homestead property to increase by as much as **10%** per year would be reduced to **5%** per year.



NEW FLORIDA RESIDENTS

People establishing permanent Florida residency on or after Jan. 1, 2027, would initially receive a smaller exemption. Generally, they would become eligible for the larger exemption after five years, with a mechanism beginning in 2030 that may allow certain local governments to reduce this waiting period for a critical local need.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVENUE

The amendment would place constitutional restrictions on how counties and municipalities use property-tax revenue, covering areas such as public safety, schools and education, infrastructure, natural resources, debt obligations, employee retirement obligations and government operations.



WHAT DOES YOU VOTE MEAN?

- ✓ **YES** = Approve these constitutional property-tax changes.
- ✗ **NO** = Do not approve them; the current constitutional property-tax system remains in place.



IMPORTANT:

This does **NOT** mean the first \$250,000 is exempt from every property tax. School district property taxes would still apply. The exemption applies to non-school ad valorem taxes.



Because this is a Florida constitutional amendment, it needs at least **60%** of the vote to pass. If approved, the changes begin **January 1, 2027**.



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SEPTEMBER 11, 2002

25th ANNIVERSARY
YOUR INVITED

TIME 8:30

PLACE: VFW 10209

14726 Edward R. Noll Road
Spring Hill, Florida

Sponsored by the 343 Retired FDNY, the 1013 NYPD and the VFW Post

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9-11 Remembrance 10:30 AM

**Hernando County NYPD 10-13 & HCSO
Honor Guard Will Be Present**



WELLINGTON

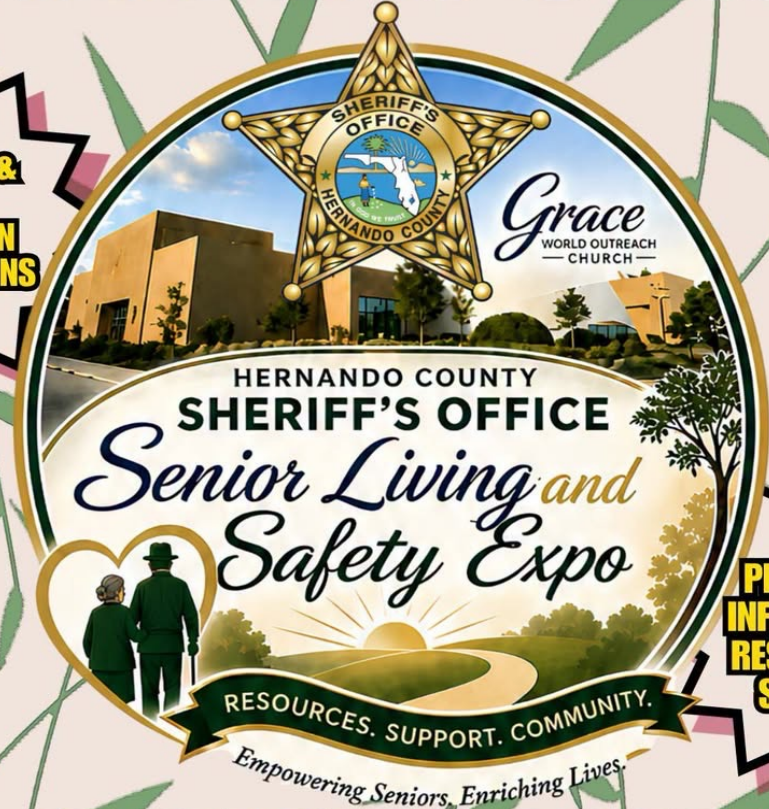
AT SEVEN HILLS

REPUBLICAN CLUB



**ATTENTION SENIORS:
JOIN US ON
SEPTEMBER 19 @ NOON**

**CAR FIT
PROGRAM &
FRAUD
PREVENTION
PRESENTATIONS**



**CRIME
PREVENTION
INFORMATION,
RESOURCES &
SUPPORT!**

**GRACE WORLD OUTREACH
CHURCH, 12 PM - 5 PM**

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**Next Meeting Oct 19th
6 PM in the Oak Room**

**100 Men that Care
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