TPM 2018 General Election Candidate Endorsements Summary

Introduction

Hi, I'm Stephen Guffanti. My wife and I are TPMs speaker coordinators and I headed up TPMs vetting process. We are happy to present to you tonight TPMs Endorsements and Recommendations for the November 2018 General Election.

Our Process _____

A Tea Party endorsement reflects what the Tea Party stands for. Basically, we want politicians to treat our tax money like they treat their own money: Cut costs, cut waste, spend within your means. If our politicians do this then they need to use the Constitution to set priorities and allow business to take over those items they can't afford.

Accordingly, this slide shows the 3 Tea Party categories we used to vet candidates. Near the candidate's name we tell you their party, even if it is a non-partisan race. If the race is non-partisan, we say that too. We list the office on top. Then we organize our issues under 3 main areas. So under Constitutionally Limited Government we put their views on the 2nd Amendment, pro-life issues, and immigration. Under Fiscal Responsibility we put their actions and positions on taxes and spending. And under Free Market Solutions we look at their position on Educational Choice, Healthcare and Business—we want fewer regulations, reduced taxes and tort reform. In each box the candidate could score 0 – 5, 5 being the best score.

Office: US Senate_____

Rick Scott has a NRA rating of A, a NARAL Pro-choice rating of 0 (That's GREAT!), and opposes funding sanctuary cities. He also cut $10 billion in taxes, supported more parental choice (Center for Education Reform in 2014 rating: 100%), he opposes Obamacare, and is endorsed by NFIB.

Ballotpedia says, "Based on analysis of multiple outside rankings, Bill Nelson is an average Democratic member of Congress, meaning he will vote with the Democratic Party on the majority of bills." https://ballotpedia.org/Bill_Nelson_(Florida)
Nelson votes against business so consistently the Club for Growth gave Nelson a 0; yet he says creating jobs is one of his top issues.

Contrasting Nelson's ratings from the groups listed to Scott's ratings, the choice couldn't be clearer. Scott will protect our freedoms and tax dollars. Nelson will reduce our freedoms and grab more tax dollars. **TPM strongly endorses Rick Scott for US Senate.**

US Representative Dist 16 _____

Vern Buchanan votes to support the Constitution, cut taxes and promote business. His total score of 34 shows this. Vern Buchanan is consistently pro-life and pro-educational choice

saying, "Give parents more choices and less bureaucracy." Vern voted for the tax cuts and supports reforms to save Social Security.http://www.ontheissues.org/FL/Vern_Buchanan.htm

David Shapiro, with a total score of 2, says he wants jobs, but he also wants to raise the minimum wage, which kills entry-level jobs. Shapiro says he wants tax cuts for the middle class, but his friends in the House voted against tax cuts. Shapiro says he wants to protect Social Security, but he doesn't mention that they are going broke or any solution. In essence, Shapiro says what we want to hear, but he doesn't mean it.

A political insider "shadowy group" with ties to the Democrat party is targeting Vern Buchanan, who has a long history of promoting Florida's economy, jobs, and individual rights. They are resorting to lying attack ads that claim, for example, Americans will pay more in taxes under Buchanan legislation; **BUT the report they cite** found "the legislation will REDUCE taxes for the vast majority of taxpayers." http://www.heraldtribune.com/news/20180707/political-insider-shadowy-group-targeting-vern-buchanan**We endorse Vern Buchanan for US Congress Dist 16.**

Governor _____

Ron DeSantis is an extraordinary candidate with the highest level of documentation – how he votes! NumbersUSA gave him a 98% on immigration. The National Tax Payers Union rated him an A for reducing taxes. He voted for vouchers for the DC kids, to repeal Obamacare and co-sponsored the Death Tax repeal Act of 2015. He clearly deserves our support and our vote.

In contrast, his opponent, Andrew Gillum, wants to open our borders, make Florida a sanctuary state, abolish ICE, and put thousands of criminals back on the streets, all while taking power and money away from the very people he claims to want to represent. He wants $33 Trillion for his healthcare plan alone. His plan of free healthcare for all alone will cost $33 Trillion. He opposes school choice. And his plan to pay for all this is to raise taxes. https://www.miamiherald.com/news/politics-government/state-politics/article218630695.html

Our Revolution, the Socialist/Fascist group claiming to pick up where Bernie Sanders left off, endorses Gillum and a slew of radical far left candidates.

Radicals that want to redefine the traditional view of the family support Gillum…George Soros supports Gillum. Radical billionaires love Andy Gillum. See: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n-uCwPtbZfc

See: Andy "Anti-Israel" Gillum video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FECWbusuyDg&t=2s

Also DeSantis voted for vouchers for the DC kids, to repeal Obamacare and co-sponsored the Death Tax repeal Act of 2015. **Ron DeSantis clearly deserves our support and our vote. For governor we strongly endorse Ron DeSantis.**

Attorney General _____

Sean Shaw wants to sue Trump over ICE and Muslim immigration and he wants to sue the state legislature. He sued his opponent in the primary race! http://www.tampabay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2018/05/18/democrat-sean-shaw-says-hell-be-activist-florida-attorney-general/ .

Who supports Shaw is telling: the AFL-CIO, SEIU, the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida, LGBTA Democratic Caucus, Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida and Indivisible Broward make the choice clear.

Attorneys and sheriffs overwhelmingly support Moody. As an attorney and judge, her experience is strong for the position. For many reasons, including Moody's NRA A rating (vs. Shaw's 0%), her pro-life position, her support by groups supporting ICE, as well as her view that the Affordable Care Act is unconstitutional, **we strongly endorse Ashley Moody for Attorney General**.

Chief Financial Officer _____

Jimmy Patronis was a legislator before he became CFO and has a well-documented conservative voting record. The big news about Jeremy Ring is he hired Jake Wagman to steal Jimmy's identity to obtain personal information, according to Florida Department of Law Enforcement's (FDLE) findings. https://joinjimmy.com/news/

Jeremy Ring is a former Yahoo executive. There is a slippery slope when the government starts paying innovative companies to innovate. Before you know it, our tax dollars are being laundered by the favorite few into the coffers of the politicians.

Ring's top priority is ensuring government unions' pensions are funded; and the unions show their support of him for that.

Jeremy Ring's strength is his mediocre score on Free Market Solutions; his weakness is his awful score on Constitutionally Limited Government. He is barely fiscally responsible and mildly pro-business.

Jimmy Patronis scores high in key areas: NRA, 100%; he's endorsed by Florida Right to Life the socialist union AFL-CIO gives him a 0%; and he is endorsed by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB). In contrast, here are some ratings of Jeremy Ring: NRA, 21%; Planned Parenthood, 100%; and he has a poor score of 63% from the NFIB. **We strongly endorse Jimmy Patronis for Chief Financial Officer.**

Agriculture Commissioner _____

Matt Caldwell scored 32.5 out of 35 because he consistently votes to protect the voters rights. **Matt Caldwell** has strong conservative positions, and also has broad support and many endorsements. A key point for the tea party is the NRA rated Caldwell an A (the Ag Commissioner gives out concealed carry permits.)

Nikki Fried views her job as a lobbyist to the legislature on medical marijuana, carbon emissions or the farm-to-school program. She is endorsed by Planned Parenthood. She seems to be a single-issue candidate with a total score of 2!

We strongly endorse Matt Caldwell for Ag Commissioner.

State Rep Dist 71 _____

Will Robinson is a dynamic, consistent conservative who will protect our freedoms, our Constitution and our tax dollars.

Tracy Pratt received a 0 total score. According to the fascist group Our Revolution, Pratt is a social justice warrior. Social justice is not about justice.

Today Socialists/Fascists work with Communists, but often call themselves Progressives. Here is the group supporting Tracy Pratt: "Our Revolution will revitalize American democracy by unifying the millions of people who got involved over the course of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign in support of progressive causes." Our Revolution - https://ourrevolution.com/about/

TPM strongly endorses Will Robinson for State Rep Dist 71.

State Rep Dist 73 _____

Radical Indivisible groups and Progressive groups are linking with Democrats to support Dem candidates, including Liv Coleman.

As a member of the Florida House, Tommy Gregory would work hard to protect our tax dollars and protect our freedoms and follow Constitutionally limited government.

In contrast, his opponent, Liv Coleman, wants to limit gun rights, supports tuition-free college for at least two years, and supports affordable universal healthcare. She wants to spend more of our tax dollars and limit our Constitutional freedoms.

We strongly endorse Tommy Gregory for House Dist 73.

Manatee Co Board of Commissioners Dist 2 _____
Dimitrie Denis is well-educated, soft-spoken, personable and religious. Political philosophy is definitely smaller government oriented with business involvement.

Bellamy is pleasant, well-spoken, personable and religious, but political philosophy is definitely big government oriented with taxes funding all. **We endorse Dimitrie Denis for Manatee Co Commissioner Dist 2.**

Manatee Co Board of Commissioners Dist 4 _____

Misty Servia has a long record of community service and was endorsed by Robin DiSabatino, and is heavily supported by developers. Accordingly she supports projects like Aqua by the Bay.

Melton Little also has long served in the community. It's difficult for our vetters to find positions he holds but we can look at the party positions for a likely clue. So he looks unlikely to protect our freedoms or our tax dollars.

Plus, it is alarming to see that "(a) grievance committee of the Florida Bar…found "probable cause" that Lakin, and Palmetto attorneys **Melton Little** and Scott Kallins **violated rules of professional conduct**." http://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20170709/attorney-asks-to-withdraw-from-frank-bybee-case

TPM makes no endorsement in this race.

Manatee Co Board of Commissioners Dist 6 _____

Whitmore votes to raise taxes. For example "Whitmore **voted to impose (the controversial half-cent sales tax**) (2014). According to a 2014 news article, Whitmore has **voted to unleash a flood of spending destined to fatten the wallets of special interests"**

Whitmore was a **Democrat well into her adult life**, and while she served as Holmes Beach mayor: "Activist Donna Hayes said of Whitmore, (T)hat's back when she was a Democrat. She didn't understand Republican politics at the time, though in my opinion, she doesn't understand them any better today."

But of herself, Whitmore wrote, "I am for free enterprise, low taxes and don't support government intrusion and this is what out tea party founders platform started on." She has difficulty holding on to her values.

Admirably, Carol Whitmore has served many years in many civic roles. However, she has a record that marks her as a RINO, despite her insistence she is conservative (see her email, at the end of her documented sheet). Conservative Donna Hayes' calling her out for lying ("it's second nature to her") is alarming, too.

Unfortunately, Whitmore's opponent, Candace Luther, is a self-described "environmentalist, an animal advocate, and a citizen activist," with limited information available online, so most of her positions are unknown. But she doesn't look likely to Constitutionally limit our government.

TPM is not endorsing in this race.

Manatee County School Board Dist 4 _____

School district community activists Linda Schaich and Peg Martin strongly endorse Gov. Rick Scott-appointee Scott Hopes and we couldn't agree more.

Dr. Scott Hopes, the incumbent candidate for Manatee Co School Board Dist 4, comes with a wide range of experience in management, finance, administration, health care and more. He is a take-action man who, the day after the Parkland shooting, walked five Manatee school campuses and found several not able to be secured. As this document shows, Manatee County School District has operational issues. Scott Hopes will provide the leadership to insulate the classroom from those issues and ensure Manatee students truly get a quality education.

In contrast, Joe Stokes, a former principal and director of elementary education for Manatee County schools, was given a choice by then Supt. Rick Mills to retire or be fired. Moreover, when Stokes was in charge of the elementary schools he started with 18 A-rated schools and ended with nine.
Based on his results Joe Stokes just doesn't have the skill set to bring Manatee's schools to an A rating.

We strongly endorse Scott Hopes for Manatee County School Board Dist 4.

Supreme Court Justice Lawson: Retain? _____

We recommend YES—a switch from our first thoughts. Why?

Here is an excerpt from the analysis of one of our vetting team:

(Gov. Rick) Scott, a Republican, has appointed one justice, ==Alan Lawson, who is generally aligned with what is viewed as the conservative minority== on the court.

Scott said he asked the Supreme Court Judicial Nominating Commission to begin a process that includes accepting and reviewing applications, interviewing candidates and making nominations for appointment. The process will lead to replacements for longtime justices Barbara Pariente, R. Fred Lewis and Peggy Quince, who are required to leave the court in January because of reaching a mandatory retirement age.

Appointments of Supreme Court justices are always important, but ==Pariente, Lewis and Quince — along with Justice Jorge Labarga — are widely considered a left-leaning majority on the seven-member court==. That has led to the possibility that their replacements could spur a rightward shift of the court…

We recommend you vote YES to retain Justice Alan Lawson.

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We are not vetting the small area races like Fire District, Mosquito District, etc.

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Bonus Races: (Sarasota County)

US Representative Dist 17 _____

Greg Steube has a NRA rating of A, PPH Pro-choice rating of 0, and opposes sanctuary cities. He has cut taxes, FEN rates him a 0, Opposes Obamacare, and AFP rated him 140 out of 100. His opponent died and a new one will appear soon.
TPM endorses Greg Steube for US House.

State Senate Dist 23 _____

Joe Gruters votes consistently for the people; whether it is to turn over criminals who are here illegally to ICE, or stop feeding red tide with pollutants, his votes are for the people. Joe's top three issues are Illegal Immigration, Clean Water, and Jobs.

Olivia Babis scored a total of 2.5 out of 35. Her stance on parental educational choice shows that she believes that your money belongs to the government. Her statement that Healthcare is a right indicates that she believes that doctors have no right to their minds and bodies. Beyond all this she has positions, but no solutions. And she is supported by the fascist organization Indivisible. **We strongly endorse Joe Gruters for State Senate Dist 23.**

State Rep Dist 72 _____

In the category of Constitutionally-Limited Government, Ray Pilon scored a total of 10 out of a possible 15. His opponent, Margaret Good, scored a 0 out of 15 for the same category.

There are two kinds of politicians; those who would be our masters and those who would be our servants. Margaret Good, who has no children, thinks the government knows best where children should go to school and what they should learn. She thinks the government should chose which companies they should help and that doctors should be slaves to the insurance company.

Pilon, her opponent, knows his own strengths, which are law enforcement and water quality. He is willing to let parents decide on their child's school and let the market decide on which companies succeed. He is opposed to expanding Medicaid any more than it already is. In essence, with his total score of 27 contrasted to Good's total score of 5, Ray is much more willing to be a servant. **We endorse Ray Pilon.**