2020 Candidate Questionnaire

Submitted by: Javier Estevez Candidate State Representative District 105

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1. What diversity of perspective, attributes, knowledge or skills would you bring to the office that differentiates you or that the other candidates don't have?

Something we lack in Tallahassee is a working person's perspective. I have lived, and still deal, with many of the issues that my constituents deal with on a daily basis. It is important to send a representative to Tallahassee that can speak on those issues with personal experience and that is willing to speak up when necessary for their constituents. I have also been the Legislative Liaison for my local Democratic Executive Committee, I have studied and learned bills and have learned the process of how to pass one. We need a representative that is ready to lead when they arrive in Tallahassee and is focused on our communities issues. With my experience as a community activist and organizer for the last 17 years I know what my constituents need, they have told me, and I plan on fighting for them and those issues everyday.

2. What are three things you want to accomplish if you are elected to this office?

1. Fix the District Cost Differential formula that decides the amount allocated to schools across the state. Many big school districts like Miami-Dade, Broward and Collier County lose out money that could help better schools and education standards.

2. Pass legislation that holds polluters accountable for their actions. We need to protect our environment and water sources, but also make sure those that are damaging them don't get away with it.

3. Ensure that we are using the money in the Sandosky Fund (Affordable Housing Trust Fund) properly and that we are working with local governments to make sure we start

building more affordable housing for low income families and workforce housing to ensure that nurses, firefighters and teachers can live in the communities where they serve.

3. Name one current public policy position you disagree with that you could change if elected. Why do you disagree?

The Anti-Sanctuary Cities bill passed in the 2019 Legislative Session. This was a piece of legislation seeking to ban something that never existed in Florida. It was a targeted attack on undocumented and immigrant families, and was only done to score political points. We should never use any community as a punching bag for our own political successes. These are families like mine, coming to Florida and working to make a better future for themselves and their families, what the legislature did was cruel and heartless. We need to focus on helping families across Florida build a better life, not scare them.

4. What is the most important thing voters should know about you before making their decision in this race?

This is one of the most important and flippable districts in the state of Florida. We ran in 2018 and against all expectations came within 417 votes of winning. That is because we knocked on doors and spoke to our neighbors, of all parties, about what they needed. We need a representative that is ready to do the work and fight for us every single day, because in Tallahassee everyday is a new fight. I have proven that I am ready to do the work, I don't quit and I will never stop fighting for us and our futures.

Please email your responses to Sandy Parker, sandy@sparkers-soapbox.com , no later than June 15, 2020.