

THE DOLPHIN DEMOCRATS 2016 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

NOTE TO CANDIDATES: The information you provide on this questionnaire will be posted on the Dolphin Democrats website and social media. Please include a recent photo of yourself to be posted with your questionnaire

Candidate Name: [Brenda C. Snipes, Ed. D.](#)

Office Sought: [Broward County Supervisor of Elections](#)

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Please answer the following questions:

Are you a member of the Dolphin Democrats? [No](#)

Are you a member of the Florida LGBT Democratic Caucus? [No](#)

Do you identify as LGBT? [No](#)

Are you a member of the Broward Democratic Executive Committee? [No](#)

Would you condemn instances of hate speech in Broward County? [Yes](#)

Do you believe that a woman has the right to terminate her unwanted pregnancy? Please Explain.
[On a personal level, yes, but question is unrelated to supervisor duties.](#)

As a constitutional officer, would you voluntarily comply with the Broward County Ethics Ordinance?
Yes

Do you feel the Supervisor of Elections should be elected in a non-partisan election? Please explain. It is imperative that the Supervisor's duties are performed in a non-partisan manner. Unless there is a breach of this responsibility, I believe the position should remain as is.

Do you feel the Supervisor of Elections should be a position appointed by the County Commission? Please explain. No. I believe this is the one position in the electoral arena that is equally accessible to all of the people. I do not believe the position should be governed by anyone except the voters.

Do you support all absentee ballots having return postage paid? Broward SOE entered the realm of pre-paid vote-by-mail ballots in the March Presidential Preference Primary. The voters responded positively to this convenient method of voting. We will have a better sense of the impact after reviewing data from the upcoming August Primary and General Election.

Do you support the current County ordinance providing LGBT people protection in employment, housing, and public service? I believe that all people should be treated fairly and equally. The time has passed for discriminatory actions against people.

Would you include gender confirmation surgery as a healthcare benefit for transgender Supervisor of Elections employees? This office does not select the medical procedures that employees receive.

Do you support a county ordinance providing Supervisor of Elections employees the same employee benefits to registered Domestic Partners as to married couples? This office currently provides the same coverage to Domestic Partners as to all other couples.

Have you ever registered to participate in a LGBT Pride parade (e.g. The Wilton Manors Stonewall Pride Parade)? If so, how many, when were they, and where were they held? Because I have several staff members who are a part of the LBGt community, we have always been kept abreast of events where we could participate and distribute information and materials about the voting process. I have participated in several LGBT parades, the most recent in the Stonewall parade held on June 18 in Wilton Manors. I also had staff present at a booth distributing voting information to parade goers. This office has supported many of the activities held in the LGBT community since I assumed the leadership of the office in 2003.

Would you support state legislation or a state referendum on a constitutional amendment creating a vote-by-mail only system in Florida? Voters seem to enjoy having voting options: early voting, vote by mail, and precinct voting. I think the options make the voter feel empowered over this very important process. If this significant change were to become law, I would encourage a phase-in so that the change is gradual. I think it is necessary to spend time and resources in clearly identifying the benefits and challenges prior to making such a change.

Would you support state legislation or a state referendum on a constitutional amendment allowing online electronic voting in all elections in Florida? **Yes, with the caveat that adequate research and testing are put in place to ensure the sanctity of the process.**

Would you support state legislation or a state referendum on a constitutional amendment to automatically register every Floridian who is also a U.S. Citizen to vote? **Yes, provided that they meet any additional requirements such as age.**

Would you support state legislation or a state referendum on a constitutional amendment to automatically update any voter's registration address whenever address changes are made to their Florida Drivers License or State ID? **Yes, as long as the automatic change is thoroughly explained to the voter. It would be necessary to have a secondary form of updating as all voters do not have a driver's license.**

Would you support state legislation or a state referendum on a constitutional amendment to restore the voting rights of non-violent felons who have completed their sentence? **Yes, for anyone who did not create a heinous crime and who have served their time and any other requirements of their sentence.**

Would you support state legislation or a state referendum on a constitutional amendment to elect a secretary of state as a state cabinet position? **Yes.**

Would you support state legislation or a state referendum on a constitutional amendment allowing same day voters registration at the polls? **Yes, however, other changes need to be made in voting laws so that the laws are congruent.**

Would you support state legislation creating a secure online voter's registration process? **Yes. This will go into effect for all Florida counties in 2017.**

Do you support the creation of an ethics policy for Supervisor of Elections employees and contractors prohibiting their involvement in any campaigns in which Broward voters cast ballots? Please Explain. **Such a policy must be created in a way that it assures the integrity of the voting process, and does not abridge the freedom of speech of the employees or contractors.**

Do you support the current county ordinance requiring a living wage? **Yes.**

Do you support all Supervisor of Elections employee's rights to freedom from employment discrimination, fair pay, job safety, secure retirements and affordable health care? **Yes**

Have you ever crossed a union picket line or violated a union boycott? If so, explain: **No**

Do you consider yourself an LGBT ally? Why or why not? So far. **Yes. I am proud to serve as the leader of a very diverse, staff consisting of gender, racial, ethnic and language minorities.**

Please state in 125 words or less what you feel are the strengths you bring, the primary goals you have for the Broward Clerk of Courts office, and why you feel the LGBT Community should support your candidacy.

I am honored to have the opportunity to serve the voters of Broward County-all 1 million plus. It has been my goal since taking on this position to create a work environment for all staff based upon integrity, professional knowledge and skills, interpersonal skills, and customer service that reflects the highest standards. These core principles undergird our daily work and involvement with the public who require our services- all one million plus.

I have an earned doctorate in Educational Leadership that served me well in my many leadership roles in the Broward County School System. I was selected to serve as program coordinator, training director, elementary principal, and area director where I supervised principals in sixteen schools and centers. I transferred the appropriate leadership skills to the challenges of this position of supervising the staff and functions of this office.

Since assuming the duties of Supervisor of Elections, I organized the staff into teams responsible for certain areas of specialty. I created traditional office structures such as policies and procedures, job descriptions, organizational charts, staff development, and systems for cross- training. I have increased and enhanced the community communication systems, partnerships, maintaining currency in the application of election laws of Florida. Members of my leadership team have earned certification as Master Florida Certified Election Professionals (MFCEP). I had the honor of serving on the team which created this state-wide, and nationally recognized program to create the best election professionals in the country.

I am seeking your support in helping me to continue serving as the Supervisor of Elections for all of Broward voters.

By signing this questionnaire, you are stating that if selected you would accept the Dolphin Democrats public support and endorsement.

Signature _____ Date: _____