



Margaret Good for FL-72

WHY IS THIS RACE IMPORTANT?

Florida is a swing state with [more registered Democrats than Republicans](#), but due to Republican gerrymandering, the state Senate and House are controlled by Republicans, and [only 11 of Florida's 27 Congressional seats are held by Democrats](#). In 2010, Florida voters [passed a constitutional amendment to curb gerrymandering](#). The amendment has survived court challenges and the courts required new maps to be drawn. 2018 is the first year that the new, more fairly drawn maps will be in effect.

Currently, there are [40 Democrats and 76 Republicans in the state house](#), with four vacancies. Winning in Florida District 72 would help Democrats gain momentum for 2018 and begin the process of taking back power under fairer maps.

Democratic candidate Margaret Good won 72% of the votes cast in the special election primary. Democratic turnout for the Special Election primary was [21.18% of eligible voters, indicating a motivated democratic electorate](#). She will run against Republican James Buchanan and Libertarian Alison Foxall in the general election. The District 72 race will be the only legislative contest taking place in Florida in February. Money is likely to come into the race from all over the state. She has been endorsed by Democratic leaders in the House.

ABOUT THE CANDIDATE

Candidate: Margaret Good

SDP ActBlue link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/sd4good>

Her website: <https://margaretgood.com>

Her Facebook: www.facebook.com/goodforFlorida

Her Twitter: <https://twitter.com/GoodforFlorida>



2017 TIMELINE

Deadline for voter registration: January 16, 2018.

[Special election: February 13, 2018](#)

BACKGROUND INFO

Margaret Good is a Sarasota attorney, where she practices civil litigation with the firm Matthews Eastmoore. Margaret has a JD from the University of Florida Levin College of Law, a master's degree from the University of Washington and a bachelor's degree from the University of South Carolina. She and her husband, Richard, and their dog, Barney, are active members of the community. Margaret serves on the board of directors for the Sarasota County Bar Association.

After the Special Election primary, Margaret said that her number one priority, if elected, will be to vote for expanding Medicaid in Florida, which the Republican controlled legislature has blocked. She also stressed her support for environmental protection, public school improvements and strengthening the economy.

ENDORSEMENTS AND RECOGNITION TO DATE

Florida Young Democrats
Florida Conservation Voters
Sierra Club
Equality Florida

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

James Buchanan is the son of the member of US Congress for the surrounding Congressional District. He owns a real estate company and has no previous political experience. He was previously running for District 71, where he had a “well-known and better financed opponent” but switched to District 72 when that seat became open due to Alex Miller’s resignation. Miller herself says that “power politics” played a role and she was forced out in part for voting against a tax incentive bill for businesses and an anti-abortion bill. “Adding to the intrigue, Buchanan and Miller share the same political consultant, Anthony Pedicini.” A previous occupant of seat confirmed he was also forced out by House leadership.

Buchanan was born in Michigan, and he attended Florida on a football scholarship. Buchanan faces questions over “dynasty” (indeed, his branding mimics his father’s), and the fact that he lives outside the district. “Buchanan shrugged off the questions about his residency. He noted that he attended high school in District 72, met his wife there, operates a business there, and currently lives very close to the district. As for the question of whether he is leaning heavily on his father’s reputation rather than his own accomplishments, Buchanan said “my father’s an incredible mentor but I’m my own man.”

HISTORY OF THE SEAT

The 72nd District was left vacant when Republican Alexandra Miller resigned in August of 2017. It has been held by a Republican since at least 2012.

ABOUT THE LIBERTARIAN CANDIDATE

Alison Foxall used to be a Republican. She reported earning \$12,000 last year from her company Gobble Logic LLC. She is a digital marketer. Her firm is part of “Conscious Capitalism Florida.” She has done pro bono work for GMO Free USA. She

supports “gun rights” and she is in favor of de-regulating cannabis.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

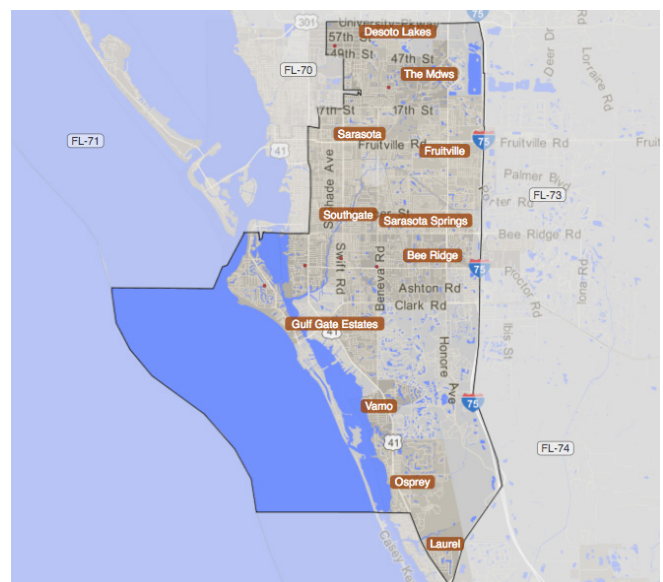
The district has [159,167 people and includes Siesta Key as well as parts of Sarasota and Sarasota County](#). The district is 90.7% white, and 84.2% are age 18 or over. It ranks 25th in total population and 45th in population density for Florida state legislative districts. Voter registration in District 72 is [42.3% Republican; 32.3% Democrat; 25.5% independent or third party](#). The major newspaper is the Sarasota Herald Tribune.

In 2016, the Republican candidate won in District 72 with 58% of the vote to the Democrat’s 41%.

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE

Members of the Florida Senate serve four year terms. Members of the Florida House of Representatives serve two-year terms. Members of the Senate may serve no more than 2 terms (8 years). Member of the House may serve no more than four consecutive terms (8 years).

Each legislative cycle is one year long. It is a part time legislature. The regular session is 60-days long and begins on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in March. The session can be extended by a three-fifths vote of each house. Special sessions may be called by the Governor, or convened by joint proclamation of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House.



CURRENT LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS

The Florida State Legislature consists of 120 House Districts and 40 Senate Districts. As of 2017, Republicans hold the majority of in the State House of Representatives with 76 seats, and Democrats hold 40 seats. In the Senate, Republicans hold 24 seats, Democrats have 15 seats.