

FRANCESCA CESTI-BROWNE

FLORIDA | HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 115



Miami has been Francesca's home since she immigrated from Peru with her family at age 8. She has spent most of her life in District 115, and is a proud graduate of Miami-Dade Public Schools. Francesca earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and a Masters in Public Administration from Florida International University, becoming the first in her family to earn a college degree.

Helping her community has always been at the heart of Francesca's professional and personal life. She turned her master's in public administration into a career advising nonprofits on the business strategies they need to strengthen communities. She has over 14 years of experience, working with community based organizations, international development organizations (NGOs) and institutions of higher education that specialize in education, family planning, domestic violence and other social services. She currently works as a Director of Finance and Operations for a Georgetown University department.

A committed community servant, Francesca serves as a leader and mentor for a range of organizations and is a member and the former Chair of the Miami-Dade Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board. She also volunteers as a Troop Leader for her two daughters' Girl Scouts Troop.

WEBSITE

francescaforflorida.com

INSTAGRAM

[@francescaforflorida](https://www.instagram.com/francescaforflorida)

FACEBOOK

[@FrancescaHD115](https://www.facebook.com/FrancescaHD115)

TWITTER

[@Francesca4FL](https://twitter.com/Francesca4FL)

ACTBLUE DONATE LINK

secure.actblue.com/donate/sdp-fl-cesti-browne

ON THE ISSUES

EDUCATION

As a Board Member at [Be Strong International](#), Francesca is passionate about education. Be Strong International delivers educational programming "centered around healthy relationships, financial literacy and educational and career success" to students in Miami-Dade and Broward counties. Francesca believes that Florida's legislature must fully fund its education system in order to give Florida's kids the education they deserve.

CLIMATE CHANGE

As a result of Climate Change, Florida has seen a significant increase in extreme weather events in recent years. Francesca believes that the state of Florida should do more to combat the effects of Climate Change and protect the state's water supply.

A LEGISLATURE THAT LISTENS TO THE PEOPLE

Florida politicians have been prioritizing their party over the people for too long. This includes their refusal to adopt Amendment 4, the Florida referendum that gave formerly incarcerated individuals the right to vote. Following the passage of the amendment, the Republican-led legislature instituted rules to disenfranchise these formerly incarcerated citizens and voted to make it harder for Florida residents to pass referendums in the future. Francesca is running for Florida House to be a legislator who listens to her constituents and fights for their needs.

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

NESTED CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

25: R+4, 26: D+6, 27: D+5

Florida's 115th state house district includes the cities of Doral, Miami, and South Miami in Miami-Dade County.



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PAST RESULTS IN THE DISTRICT

2018 STATE LEG

Democrat: 30,973 - 49.54%
Republican: 31,552 - 50.46%

2018 GUBERNATORIAL

Democrat: 32,220; 50.4%
Republican: 31,056; 48.6%

2018 U.S. SENATE

Democrat: 33,423; 52.3%
Republican: 30,455; 47.7%

2016 PRESIDENTIAL

Clinton: 40,088; 54.08%
Trump: 32,148; 43.37%

2012 PRESIDENTIAL

Obama: 33,741; 49.45%
Romney: 34,134; 50.03%

ABOUT THE OPPONENT

Vance Arthur Aloupis, Jr. has served as a Republican member of the Florida Legislature representing the state's 115th House district since 2018. Aloupis votes in lockstep with Florida's Republican majority. He has a strong pro-life voting record, earning a 100% rating from Florida Right to Life.

Aloupis also voted for bills passed by the Florida Legislature to undermine the state's adoption of Amendment 4, which returned the right to vote to formerly incarcerated individuals. One of these bills effectively institutes a poll tax on formerly incarcerated citizens by requiring them to pay court fees before their right to vote can be returned to them.

WHY THIS RACE IS IMPORTANT

Florida's state legislature is poised for Democratic gains. In 2018, Democrat Andrew Gillum narrowly lost the Governor's race to Republican Ron DeSantis by less than half a point, and Democrats flipped two Congressional and 7 State Senate seats.

GOP state legislators drew the state's Congressional and state legislative district lines in their favor after the last round of redistricting in 2010. Following successful legal challenges, the Florida Senate district lines were redrawn in 2015 to be less gerrymandered, but the House remains badly gerrymandered in favor of Republicans.

Nonetheless, there are some great opportunities for Democrats in both chambers, particularly after 2018's successful citizen-initiated ballot initiative (Amendment 4), whose passage means that more than a million formerly incarcerated people can now register to vote in Florida, offering an opportunity for Democrats to expand the electorate.

These are 'last chance' races: whoever is elected to the state legislature in 2020 will draw the next round of district lines. It is our last chance to build power in FL's legislature ahead of redistricting, which has implications for the next entire decade.

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Population	Households	Over 65	White	Black	Latinx	Asian	Other	Median Income	% Poverty	% Unemployment	% College	%HS Grad	%No HS
164,474	53,079	16.6%	22.4%	4%	68.5%	3.8%	.1%	\$65,996	10.7%	4%	51.1%	37.6%	11.3%

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WHY FLORIDA IS IMPORTANT

FLORIDA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Republican Trifecta (since 2011)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** Not up in 2020
- **Length of State Senate Terms:** 4 years
- **Length of State House Terms:** 2 years
- **Candidate Filing Deadline:** June 12, 2020
- **State Legislative Primary Date:** August 18, 2020
- **Redistricting:** State legislature controls Congressional redistricting, and the Governor has a veto over these maps; state legislature controls state legislative redistricting, subject to State Supreme Court approval, and Governor has no veto over these maps
- **Electoral College Votes:** 29

BROADER 2020 OPPORTUNITIES

- Florida is a critical, perennial battleground presidential state. Floridians voted for Obama in '08 and '12 before Trump won the state by about 1 point. Florida is one of the "Big Four" states that are likely to control the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. Democrats have a tremendous opportunity to claim FL's 29 Electoral College votes this year, with smart organizing, expanding the electorate through voter registration, and turnout efforts.
- There are also several competitive Congressional races in FL this year (including FL-26, FL-27, FL-15 and FL-16).
- Working to support FL state legislative candidates will be instrumental in helping drive turnout up and down the ticket in this historic election year.

