

2016 VOTER GUIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

Marion County, Florida

Democratic



Welcome to the League of Women Voters of The Villages / Tri-County Area 2016 Primary Election Guide

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization of women and men whose purpose is to engage voters in the political process by promoting informed and active participation in government. The League of Women Voters never supports or opposes candidates or political parties. Through education and advocacy, the League of Women Voters promotes good governance.

The Voter's Guide was created by the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area. The purpose of the Guide is to assist voters in their ballot choices.

All qualified candidates were contacted and asked to complete a questionnaire.

Candidate responses are included as submitted. They have not been edited, nor have spelling and grammar corrections been made.

If a candidate completed the questionnaire, the *What's on My Ballot* section contains a link as well as the page number where the responses are located. If a candidate chose not to respond, "No Response" will appear next to the candidate's name in the *What's on My Ballot* section.

The candidates' views expressed within do not represent those of the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area.

To contact the LWV of The Villages / Tri-County area, go to

www.lwvtrifl.org

WHAT'S ON MY BALLOT

Click on candidates' names to go to their responses.

	Page
REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2 (Vote for One) <i>NOTE: This race will appear on your ballot only if you live in Congressional District 2.</i>	
Steve Crapps	4
Walter Dartland	6
FLORIDA REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT 22 (Vote for One) <i>NOTE: This race will appear on your ballot only if you live in FL House District 22.</i>	
<i>Because these Republican candidates will have no opposition in the General Election, this race will be decided in the Primary and appears on this ballot.</i>	
Al Macri	8
Charlie Stone (<i>Incumbent</i>)	No Response
SHERIFF (Vote for One)	
Ed Dean	9
Dennis Purcell McFatten Jr	11
SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2 (Vote for One)	
Bill Archibald	13
Richard Kevin Evans	No Response
Beth McCall	14
AMENDMENT 4: (Vote "Yes" or "No")	
Tax Exemption On Renewable Energy Devices	16

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2



STEVE CRAPPS (D)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I was born and raised in Live Oak, Fl. I am the son of Claude Crapps III and the former Barbara Crapps. I graduated from Suwannee High School, then North Florida Junior College. I am a father of four wonderful children, two biological and two adopted. I am a tree farmer on the family farm. My family has been involved with tree farming for around the last one hundred years. I also worked at Department of Children and Family Services. My job at DCF was economic services supervisor and it entailed "Protecting the vulnerable and the needy."

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have been an active volunteer with the Lake City Humane Society. I also am a member of Elks Club in Lake City. I have helped out United Way when I was working at the Department of Children and Family Services.

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

I believe that we should protect the Second Amendment however there does need to be legislation enacted that makes it more safe to own guns. I would like a 7 to 10 day wait period to buy an assault rifle unless you have a concealed carry license. I would also like there to be stricter background checks to get a concealed carry license. There should be a federal, state, and local background check done, which all states right now do not require. We also need to do mental health screenings.

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

I oppose the Affordable Care Act as it is currently written, however I do not want to get rid of it, in its entirety. I would like to change some aspects of it. I do feel like the ACA has allowed more citizens to get health insurance and in order to continue to do so some changes need to be made. We need to stop the penalty because it only hurts the average person. We need to also have open enrollment all year in the Health Insurance Marketplace. There needs to be a way to create a fuller coverage insurance plan for less money, because no one should have to pay hundreds of dollars to get minimal health insurance coverage.



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2

STEVE CRAPPS *(continued)*

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

I believe that we should keep the Department of Education. In order to help keep all children who attend school in the United States equally competitive and well taught it is important to have this government agency. I would be fine with the government setting minimum standards for all states to have to meet. I do however want to find a way to start teaching kids real information and not just how to take a standardized test. Education agencies should have a say in what the children are being taught but also in getting arts, music, and other programs back so children become more social and well-rounded again.

PHONE: (386) 466-5623 **EMAIL:** Stevecrapps4congress@gmail.com
WEBSITE: Stevecrappsforcongress.com



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2



WALTER DARTLAND (D)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Walter Dartland was born in Detroit, Michigan, of immigrant parents and graduated from Cass Tech High School. He received a full scholarship to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic (RPI) Institute in Troy, NY where he earned a B.S in Mechanical Engineering. After graduation and Marine Corps Basic School at Quantico, he joined the US Marines as a 2nd Lt. Upon completion of active duty he served in the Marine Corps Reserves and retired as a Major.

Dartland graduated from Law School at the University of Michigan.

He was elected prosecutor in the Upper Peninsula Michigan, and had private law practices in Michigan and Florida. He served as Miami- Dade County Consumer Advocate and as Deputy Attorney General to Bob Butterworth. Dartland is married to Diana Walworth Dartland and has 3 adult children and 3 grandchildren.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Served on the National boards of the Consumer Federation of America, Coalition against Insurance Fraud and Common Cause. He was president of Florida Common Cause and the Consumer Counseling Service of the Southeast and Vice-president of Friends of Lake Jackson. He is a life member of the Marine Corps League.

An estimated 300,000 people, in the United States, have died from gun violence between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you believe the Second Amendment leaves any room for limits on gun rights, such as a ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

The Federal Government does have the right and responsibility to help curb gun violence. An Appeals court has already upheld one states ban on the possession or sale of over 100 types of weapons with military features as well as a ban on high capacity magazines. 40% of all gun sales are made via the gun show loop hole which must be closed. Sales by private parties should include a background check. In 2015, Terror Watch listees applied to buy firearms 244 times. After a background check, 91% were approved. A longer waiting period will allow a thorough, timely and effective review of an applicant's eligibility. Waiting periods are a proven cooling off devise in consumer transactions and will save lives if applied to gun sales. Armor piercing bullets and large capacity magazines, should not be sold to non-military users. Congress is currently being held hostage by a small but vocal set of voters who refuse to allow the Congressmen they hold captive to discuss the facts and evaluate reasonable public policy that respects individual's rights and lowers the staggering death toll attributable to the inappropriate use of guns. This paralysis is occurring in spite of the fact that 90% of US citizens (75% of NRA members) support background checks.



REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 2

WALTER DARTLAND *(continued)*

Some 30 million Americans remain uninsured. Would you support or oppose the Affordable Health Care Act as currently written? Explain why you would support its continuation or what kind of plan, if any, should replace it.

I support the AFC because it has helped millions of families-- about 9 million more in 2014 than in the prior year to obtain health care coverage. AFC like any other insurance policy is a safety net to prevent financial disaster. It is a fact that people with health insurance can better survive illness and injury that could result in loss of employment and an increase in debt default. Complex legislation such as AHC will have flaws that become apparent over time and the flaws should be factually analyzed and fixed. My goal would be to focus on insuring as many people as possible, at affordable rates. I support aggressive prosecutions to stop the epidemic Medical Provider price gouging and fraud that has cost the taxpayer over \$60 Billion. Ultimately, a single payer system is more cost effective providing better care at a lower cost.

Some presidential candidates have said they would favor getting rid of the US Department of Education. Explain what kind of role you believe the Federal Government should play in education and what Federal education policies you would support or oppose.

Quality Education for all students should be a national priority. The better educated our citizens, the more prosperous our Country and better the US is able to compete internationally. That means efforts to provide quality education should be made at all levels of government: Federal, state as well as local school districts. The Federal involvement can best be focused on identifying effective programs around the country and around the world and providing that information to states and the local districts so that successful programs may be emulated. The Federal government is a logical place to establish nationwide goals that are competitive with those of countries with superior educational performance.

PHONE: (850) 562-2086 **EMAIL:** wdart35@gmail.com
WEBSITE: waltdartland2016.com



SHERIFF



AL MACRI (R)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I Was born in Brooklyn N.Y., Graduated William E. Grady High School with a degree of electronic servicing, I have served in the Air Force and have an honorable discharge from the regular Air Force and Reserve, I moved to South Florida in 1973 and worked in the field of electronic servicing, and then purchased an electronics business about 1977, and since sold that and moved to Williston Fl. 1981 and then to Morriston, Fl. in 1994, which both are in Levy County. I have been self employed in the electronics field here since 1981, servicing county and city agencies in communications servicing and the general public, also I was on the Williston Fire Dept as a Firemen for 15 years, and also served on the Levy County board of Adjustment for 4 years.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

I have been a member of the following the past few years, Williston Changer, Williston Jaycees, Williston Lions Club.

An estimated 300,000 people in the United States have died from gun violence, between 2004 and 2014. Here, at home in Orlando, the June 12 nightclub shooting saw 49 people killed, and 50 more wounded. Do you support or oppose a state ban on assault weapons and/or more thorough background checks? Please explain your position.

First to let you know i am for the right to who firearms as i do carry a State of Florida Concealed Firearm License, I am sadden what is going on in this Country with these tragedies. I don't support a ban on assault weapons as the people who purchased them that go through the proper background checks should be able to own them. AS for more of a thorough background check and I am for that. But with that said with all that is going on with these checks the agencies still let people purchase them with a questionable background, also gus are not the only way people get harmed.

Since over 500,000 working poor Florida citizens remain without health insurance, would you support tapping Federal dollars to cover these people? If not, what kind of plan do you support?

On this subject which has been a problem for many years, something has to be done, and my honest opinion is the government has to support this and stop wasiting funds on their pork or pet projects.

What is your view on the State vs. Local community responsibility for funding public education?

All agencies in the Federal, State, Counties, and Cities should all work together to get the proper funding for the public education system as these children will be the future who work and run our system.

PHONE: (352) 812-2697 **EMAIL:** almacriforstatehouse22@gmail.com

[BACK](#)



SHERIFF



ED DEAN (D)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

EDUCATION:

BA - Michigan State University, with Honors - 1967
JD - University of Florida, College of Law, with Honors - 1970
Graduate of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement Executive Institute - 1999
Graduate of the FBI Academy Executive Program - 2000
Graduate of Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program entitled "Driving Government

Performance" - 2012

Received Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from St. Leo University in 2010

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Appointed Sheriff of Marion County in November 1998. Elected as Marion County's Sheriff in November 2000, 2004 and 2008. Did not seek re-election in 2012.

RECENT WORK HISTORY:

Since 2012, volunteer Interim Executive Director of Marion County Hospital District from June, 2013 to March, 2014. Consultant to Marion County Hospital District from March, 2014 to February 2016. Volunteer Interim Executive Director of Marion County Health Alliance from November 2015 to May 2016. Manager and owner of Daystar Professionals Group, LLC, 2013 to present, a servant leadership training organization. Serving "Of Counsel" with 2 sons who formed Dean Law Firm, LLC. President of Voice of the Servant, a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization whose purpose is to spread the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ through the support of Christian organizations around the world. Author of 8 books.

PERSONAL: Health: Excellent

Married: Sarah Townley Dean

CHURCH: Attends St. John's Lutheran Church

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Ocala-Marion Economic Development Council 1990-95
Rotarian Service Above Self Award - 1996
Chairman, Marion County Indigent Health Care Council 1991-96
Florida Angus Association, 1991-1999; President 1995-98
Marion Regional Manufacturer's Association 1995-98
Co-Chair, March of Dimes 2002-03
United Way of Marion County 2001-08 (Chairman 2008)
Salvation Army Advisory Board; 1986-2012 (Chairman in 1989)
Children's Advocacy Center 1999-2012
Chairman, Marion County Children's Alliance 2001-12
Marion County Health Alliance Interim Executive Director 2015-16

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

MY LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATED EXPERIENCE

Served 14 years as Sheriff of Marion County, Florida (1998-2012) which has prepared me for this office.

Served as Chairman of the Northeast Florida Investigative Support Center.

Served as Chairman of Region 3, Florida Domestic Security Task Force.



SHERIFF

ED DEAN (continued)

Served as the Florida Sheriff's Association representative and Chairman on the Statewide Self-Inflicted Crimes Task Force.

Served as Chairman of the Statewide Cargo Theft Task Force.

Served as Co-Chairman of the National Cargo Theft Prevention Task Force.

Served as Co-Chairman of the Northeast Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force.

Served as a member of the Florida Domestic Security Oversight Board.

Served as Chairman of the Northeast Florida High Intensity Drug Trafficking Agency (HIDTA).

Served as Member of the Florida Corrections Accreditation Commission.

Served as Chairman of the Florida Model Jail Standards Committee.

Served as Chaplain and Board member of the Florida Sheriff's Association.

Graduate of Florida Department of Law Enforcement Executive Institute.

Graduate of the FBI Academy Executive Program.

Graduate of Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government Executive Program entitled "Driving Government Performance".

First Sheriff in the United States to have Agency receive an award for performance excellence from Florida Sterling Council based upon the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award Criteria.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

There are actually 4 issues which must be addressed in order to put the Sheriff's Office "Back on the Right Track" to quality public safety now and in the future for everyone:

- 1) Restoring public trust;
- 2) Reestablishing agency core values;
- 3) Reinstating strategic planning; and
- 4) Recommitting to accurate reports.

My approach to solving these 4 issues would include:

- 1) Public trust: Restore public trust and employee pride and contentment through implementation of servant leadership practices and principles.
- 2) Core values: Reestablish a citizens-focused, core value-centered, agency culture of accountability, caring and peace.
- 3) Strategic planning: Reconstitute decentralized, staff-driven, strategic action planning to reduce crime through community policing.
- 4) Accuracy: Recommit to accurately recording and measuring Sheriff's Office operational activities and enforcement actions for effectiveness, fairness, stewardship and performance comparison.

I believe with God's help, the Sheriff's Office can regain its respected, premier law enforcement agency status it previously enjoyed under my administration. The dedicated men and women of the Sheriff's Office will be able to overcome all of the negativity which has surrounded the office. What is necessary is the seasoned experience from a Sheriff with 14 years of experience as Sheriff, who genuinely cares. If elected, we will develop a culture of caring which will restore the public's confidence in the Sheriff's office.

PHONE: (352) 843-4507 **EMAIL:** electeddeanforsheriff@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.electeddeanforsheriff.com



SHERIFF



DENNIS P. MCFATTEN JR. (D)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Dennis McFatten attended the Marion County Public School System and graduated from Vanguard High School in 1985. He enlisted in the Army and after completing his required commitment, joined the U.S. Army Reserve 351st Military Police Company where he was deployed to the Persian Gulf as part of Operation Desert Storm. He later was hired as a Corrections Officer with the Florida Dept. of Corrections. Dennis was then employed with the Marion County

Sheriff's Office for 21 years, starting in June of 1994.

Dennis McFatten retired from the Marion County Sheriff's Office as a Captain in June of 2015. Prior to his promotion, he served as an Administrative Lieutenant for 11 years, as a District Commander. He was appointed as the Commander of the Rapid Response Team (Mobile Field Force) and took this team of dedicated men and women to represent Marion County during the 2012 Republican National Convention.

Over his career, he's served in several positions within the agency, too include Corrections Officer, Patrol Deputy, DARE Officer, Patrol Sergeant, District Lieutenant, Watch Commander, Reserve Commander, Commander of the Mobile Field Force/Search and Rescue, and Commander of the Emergency Squad.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Past-President, Past Vice-President and current Board Member of the Rotary Club of Belleview, Belleview Chamber of Commerce, Vice-Chair of the Governor's West Ocala Neighborhood Revitalization Council, Little league football and baseball coach, Belleview-Santos Historical Society, Deacon and Sunday School Teacher at Progressive Union Church, Leadership Ocala/Marion Board of Regents, The Community Network and Crime Stoppers Board Member.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My years of experience from all my previous positions makes me qualified to lead the men and women of the Sheriff's Office as it's next Sheriff. The common sense approach to making decisions based on ethical principles and what's best for the agency and the citizens of this county is what makes me qualified. Entrusting those around me with the ability to perform their jobs and not micromanage their work, will allow them to develop into the leaders we need to help lead and guide the agency in the future.

I've worked my way up through the ranks and have held positions both in corrections and patrol, too include supervisor positions. I know the needs of the agency, since I retired in June of 2015. I truly believe that I'm a candidate that is seeking the position to truly bring about positive change and a better quality of life for all people. I'm not looking for power or political influence over others.

I'm the only sheriff candidate who served in the military, too include being a combat veteran. During my deployment, I was shot by friendly fire and by God's grace, I was wearing my flak jacket. This life experience opened my eyes to honoring God and respecting all human life. I'm dedicated to public service and commit to serving all people regardless of race, religion, gender, or social status, over several terms as long as the employees and citizens would have me.



SHERIFF

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Three most important issues are: Ethical Leadership, Protecting and Serving, and the Budget.

From an Ethical Leadership standpoint, no organization can truly function without having a set of standards and morals that are in-line with the simple premise of treating others as you would want to be treated. For the last 8 years or so, the intimidating and numbers driven administrations have sanctioned a selfish and non-caring attitude that has been forced on its people. However, the men and women of the MCSO should be able to perform their duties knowing they have the support of the administration when they're doing the right thing. Therefore, I must provide them with a stable and non-threatening work environment.

Protecting and serving internally and externally is the job of the Sheriff. Not only am I tasked with keeping the citizen safe, but I also have to provide the men and women with a safe work environment. Meeting both of those goals will help to re-establish the trust we once had between the community and law enforcement. If the administration work hard for the employees, the employees will work hard for the people.

Finally, we have to work with the County Commissioners so that they will trust that we're being fiscally responsible with the tax payer money. By eliminating any non-essential positions and finding waste, we can begin to move towards providing competitive pay to our employees.

PHONE: (352) 454-9687 **EMAIL:** dennismcfatten4sheriff@gmail.com
WEBSITE: WWW.DENNISMCFATTEN4SHERIFF.COM



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2



BILL ARCHIBALD (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

I am a life long resident of Marion County, a Veteran, teacher, school administrator, and local businessman.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Former member: Ocala/Silver Springs Rotary Club, Marion County Veteran's Council.

As the former director of Francis Marion Military Academy, I have coordinated volunteer efforts to support Vet's Helping Vet's, Habitat for Humanity, Marion County Road Builders.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I hold a BA in Elementary Education, and MS in Educational Leadership. I am an experienced school teacher and administrator. My unique experience as a Charter School Director allowed me to write policy, collaborate with boards, build budgets and promote volunteerism within the program I administered.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

- 1) School discipline: Our district must address discipline in terms of policy. I will meet with school level personnel to ensure that discipline data is accurate and support efforts to improve discipline on the bus and in the classroom.
- 2) Long term Budget: Our district must continue to work on solutions that support a continued growth in reserve funds, and find viable solutions to support the Arts and Vocational Education. I will communicate with stakeholders and our local businesses to assist in identifying needs in our work force and support the implementation of curriculum that meets local needs. Additionally, I will support efforts to allow site based administration to have more oversight and control of their budgets.
- 3) Testing: Currently Marion County Students are over tested. I will work with the board, teachers and administration to identify solutions. I will support lobbying efforts that support a fair system in grading schools and rewarding teachers.

PHONE: (352) 537-1833 **EMAIL:** archibaldwb@gmail.com



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2



BETH McCALL (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

- Bachelor of Science Degree in Education
- Master Degree in Management and Leadership
- Certified Fund Raising Executive
- President – Beth McCall, LLC
- Executive Director of the Munroe Regional Medical Center Foundation 2005-2013
- Executive Director of the Public Education Foundation of Marion County 1999-2005
- Golden Apple Teacher Selection Chairman – 2014 & 2015
- Leadership Ocala/Marion Board of Regents Chairman – 2008-2009
- Immediate Past Chairman of Ocala Women’s Network
- Founder of St. Paul’s United Methodist Pre-School

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Current activities

- Ocala Symphony Orchestra Board of Directors
- Central Florida Master Choir Board of Directors
- Florida Public Relations Association Ocala Chapter Board of Directors

Past activities

- Take Stock in Children Mentor
- Past President of the Consortium of Florida Education Foundations
- Marion County Public Policy Institute Board of Directors
- Marion County Children’s Alliance
- Past President of the University of Florida Lady Gator Booster Club
- Chairman of Student Advisory

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My organizational and management skills are excellent. I have proven to be a consensus builder and collaborator to turn a failing organization into a successful organization. I am known for surrounding myself with outstanding people to help bring success to an organization. The Munroe Regional Medical Center Foundation was a failing organization when I was hired in 2005 as the Executive Director. Within a 3 year period of time, I had hired an exceptional staff to help with fundraising, had recruited an outstanding and committed board of directors comprised of business and community leaders, and we were raising over \$1,000,000 annually. Controversy surrounded Munroe Regional Medical Center the entire 6 years I was the Executive Director and by the time the Munroe Foundation was dissolved, due to the hospital becoming a private for profit entity, we had raised over \$8,000,000.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 2

BETH McCALL *(continued)*

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. I believe we need to make education relevant for those students who choose not to go to college. Working with our business community, we need to identify the jobs needed for our workforce and provide classroom training and internships for those students. If they understand that they will have the skills necessary to enter the workforce than education becomes relevant.
2. I am a strong advocate for music and art. Music and art teaches discipline, precision, and teamwork. It provides students another avenue to succeed. Research shows that students involved in music have higher test scores. Music helps with language development and math skills.
3. Marion County's test scores have been falling for the last 4 years. We must find ways to improve. Education is the one industry who continues to do things the way it has always been done despite the technology age. Students have knowledge at their fingertips and we must find better ways to facilitate learning. STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) must be a focus in every school and we must provide the resources needed to facilitate STEAM.

PHONE: (352) 427-4713 **EMAIL:** bmccall51@gmail.com
WEBSITE: votebethmccall.com



AMENDMENT 4

TAX EXEMPTION ON RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVICES

Source: The Florida Legislature

Synopsis:

Amendment 4 expands tax breaks on renewable energy devices to include businesses. Current state law restricts property-tax breaks on solar power and other renewable energy devices to residential property. The amendment would authorize (but not require) the state Legislature to pass laws exempting businesses from two different taxes when those businesses purchase renewable energy devices. One exemption would prohibit local governments from considering renewable energy devices when determining the value of real estate used for business purposes. The other would exempt renewable energy devices from the state's tax on a business' "tangible personal property," which includes such items as computers and furniture. The amendment would take effect on Jan. 1, 2018, and would sunset on Dec. 31, 2037. This amendment, which will appear on the Aug. 30 primary ballot, should not be confused with a solar-power amendment that will appear on the general election ballot Nov. 8. The two are very different. Read the full text of the Aug. 30 amendment question [here](#) and a legislative analysis of it [here](#).

A YES vote on Amendment 4 would:

- Change the [state Constitution](#) by allowing the Legislature to exempt renewable energy devices from a tax imposed on business-owned personal property.
- Allows the Legislature to prohibit local [property appraisers](#) from including renewable energy devices when determining the value of business-owned real estate, which means property tax bills would not increase because a business purchased those devices.
- Potentially encourage businesses to invest in renewable energy devices, such as solar-power cells and wind turbines that generate electricity.

A NO vote on Amendment 4 would:

- Maintain the status quo, which currently subjects businesses that buy renewable energy devices to the state's tax on personal property.
- Continue allowing local property appraisers to include renewable energy devices when deciding how much real estate is worth, which means the value of those devices shows up on a business' tax bill.
- Have no effect on the current law that grants a tax exemption on renewable energy devices used on residential property.