

2016 VOTER GUIDE PRIMARY ELECTION

Sumter County, Florida

No Party Affiliation
(Independent)



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.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4



JENNIFER BOYETT (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

Jennifer Boyett and her husband live close to Webster. Her husband, Shane Boyett, is a cowboy. They love ranching and being a part of the agriculture world here in Sumter County.

Jennifer Boyett is a tenured Mathematics & Statistics professor at Hillsborough Community College. She serves on the college's Budget Committee. Jennifer also provides consulting services for the National Math and Science Initiative and is a statistics grader for the

AP College Board. A proud University of Florida alumni, Jennifer earned degrees in both Mathematics and Statistics.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Online Learning Consortium
Networking and Telecommunications Taskforce
Distance Learning Steering Committee
Cattlemen's Association

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

To help voters in their decision making process, let's clarify the role of the school board. The school board exists to manage the district's resources - this includes the district's budget. A candidate with budgeting experience is important. Jennifer Boyett feels that tax dollars should be honored as a long term investment in producing the next generation's workforce.

Jennifer Boyett brings over half a decade of budgeting experience. She serves on the Budget Committee at Hillsborough Community College. She has a strong history of negotiating compromises and wisely allocating funds. Jennifer understands how to help manage our district's resources. We can count on Jennifer for fair and conservative budgeting when elected to the Sumter County School Board.

Florida Statute 1001.42 (18)(b) requires school boards to publish an annual, easy-to-read report card that the public can use to assess how well each school in the District is performing. What will you do to ensure all residents of Sumter County have ready access to this report?

The Report Card should be made available at two levels. Listed below are the two levels and the means of access.

(1). State Level: A School Accountability Report will be made available on the Florida Department of Education's website <<http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org/default.asp>>.

(2). District Level: The Report Card will be made available on the Sumter County School District's website. <<http://www.sumter.k12.fl.us/>>. Board members will push for the posting to be made by the Fall



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4

JENNIFER BOYETT *(continued)*

of each year. Additionally, a Report Card synopsis will be sent to the parents through the parent guide or other sources, such as student report cards.

Please note that for the 2016-2017 academic year, a new process for distributing the Report Card will be developed to meet the state guidelines.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

Jennifer Boyett believes that all schools within the district should be treated fairly with respect to funding so that each school may accomplish the task of educating our students at an exceptional level, and meet or exceed both state and federal accountability standards. Variation in funding within the district can be addressed through an examination of aggregated data that compares the district's average expenditure for each student-need group.

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SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4



ROZANNE P. GRADY (N)

PERSONAL BACKGROUND:

The greatest experiences of my life include my marriage of over 26 years to my husband Patrick and being the mother of our three children, Brittani (20) and twins, Ashley & Brandon (18), all of which are honor graduates of the Sumter County School system and continuing their education at Saint Leo University, Santa Fe State College and The University of Florida.

After graduating from Lees McRae College and Florida Atlantic University, I've spent over 31 years in public education as a middle & high school Business Educator, Student Advisor and 5 time Volunteer of The Year.

The skills gained from these combined experiences and as a member of the Sumter County Schools educational community, I've learned invaluable lessons on the needs of our students, families, staff and communities.

I've discovered that children are diverse and understand that every child has certain learning levels and needs. As a school board we must continue to meet and exceed the highest of standards to prepare our graduates for higher education, job readiness and to become responsible and self-supporting citizens of our county, state and nation.

We need to continue preparing our children for higher education and the opportunity to be employed at a level that they can become self-supporting, responsible individuals with the ability to provide for their families.

I believe that the children, parents and citizens of Sumter County deserve a full-time school board member. I will be that person.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS:

Community organizations I've been involved with include, but are not limited to:

- St. Lawrence Catholic Church
- Lake Panasoffkee Elementary School
- South Sumter Middle School
- South Sumter High School
- Sumter County 4-H
- Sumter County FBLA
- Sumter County FFA
- Project Graduation
- The Sumter County Fair
- Sumter County Girls Softball League
- Sumter County Dixie Youth Baseball
- Sumter County United Soccer League
- Pop Warner Football
- Sumter County Community Action Partnership (C.A.P.)



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4

ROZANNE P. GRADY *(continued)*

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

My combined experiences as a middle school and high school classroom teacher, parent, school volunteer at every grade level, and community leader have provided a unique opportunity to see our educational system from various viewpoints.

I've discovered that children are diverse and I understand that every child has certain learning levels and needs.

We must increase opportunities for young people to participate in our Dual Enrollment program. This provides students a chance to gain college credits while still in high school whether the classes take place at the high school on local college campuses.

I also understand that every child deserves access to educational opportunities that prepare them for the "real" world of work after high school.

Here in Sumter County, we must expand our Vocational Training and opportunities in Career and Technical Education for our young people who are interested in various trades. Studies have shown that students involved in Career & Technical Education are more engaged in their educational path. They perform better, graduate at higher rates, are highly skilled and are employable in high demand, high wage occupations.

The combination of a lifetime of learning, over 31 years experience in public school education as a Career & Technical Business Educator and as a parent have provided the necessary leadership skills to prepare me to serve as your District 4 Sumter County School Board Member.

Florida Statute 1001.42 (18)(b) requires school boards to publish an annual, easy-to-read report card that the public can use to assess how well each school in the District is performing. What will you do to ensure all residents of Sumter County have ready access to this report?

It will be my duty, responsibility and honor to represent all the citizens of Sumter County on our local school board. As your full-time representative it will be my job to insure that our taxpayers clearly understand the criteria by which each individual school performance is determined.

I'll begin with educating constituents and providing the standards used to determine performance grades on the "report card" for each school.

There are numerous ways in which I plan to educate and inform the general public, including:

1. Making all report cards available to the citizens of Sumter County
2. Creating an easily accessible, user friendly website that details the activities, actions, decisions and topics of discussion taking place in the Sumter County School system and the rating of each individual school
3. Attend county-wide and local organizational meetings, presenting information and answering questions that voters have concerning education.



SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT 4

ROZANNE P. GRADY *(continued)*

4. Be available to constituents via phone, email and personal visits
5. Provide monthly reports and updates containing information relevant to Sumter County Schools via email to those citizens wishing to receive them

I will also compare our performance within local schools, surrounding counties and statewide to determine what others are doing to make children more successful and diligently work to implement those programs locally.

How would you accomplish equity and fairness in the distribution of resources among the schools in the District?

Every child, in every school, in every classroom in Sumter County deserves to be provided with an exemplary education and opportunity to become the person they dream to be!

There are numerous facets to accomplish this mission including:

Budget - we begin by examining our local budget to insure that funds are distributed fairly to our schools regardless of their geographic location. The budget must be transparent. Taxpayer dollars, controlled by the school board and school system, must be used efficiently, in order to keep performance high and taxes low while operating at maximum efficiency.

Human Resources - I will continue my tradition of listening to and working with those involved with the Sumter County School system as they work tirelessly to provide the best education possible for our children. It is of utmost importance to listen to the ideas and concerns of school district employees, local administrators, teachers, support staff, students, parents and taxpayers.

Volunteers - we must capitalize on the talents, skills and abilities of those who wish to volunteer in our schools and utilize their skills to make a brighter future for our children.

I pledge to continue to be in our schools on a weekly basis and to be accessible to any and all who have questions or concerns with our educational environment.

As your full-time school board member, I will represent and serve every child and citizen of Sumter County.

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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.