



ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE 2022

Daisy Morales

**Running for
Florida House of Representatives
District 44**

Candidate Information

Website: <https://daisyforflorida.com>
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1. What motivated you to run for this position?

I'm actually an incumbent running for my second term in the Florida House, this time for the new House District 44 (which is part of my current district, District 48). It's been my ongoing passion to serve the people. I've been doing that in an elected capacity for the last 8 years, ever since I was first elected as an Orange Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor in 2014 and served six years (including a re-election). I've had the honor of serving Floridians as State Representative for House District 48 for the past two.

2. What does being an ally or advocate for the LGBTQ+ community mean to you?

I'm an ally to the LGBTQ+ community, because I believe everyone, regardless of how they identify or who they love, deserves a seat at the table.

3. Please summarize your history of community involvement. This may include city boards, civic associations, non-profits, etc.

Florida House – Education & Employment Committee
Florida House - Post-Secondary Education & Lifelong Learning Subcommittee
Florida House - Agriculture & Natural Resources Appropriations Subcommittee
Florida House - Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee
Florida House - Finance & Facilities Subcommittee
Florida House - Select Subcommittee on the Seminole Gaming Compact
Orange Soil & Water Conservation District Board
Orange County Disability Advisory Board, Vice-Chair
Orange County Commission on Aging, Elder Ambassador
Orange County 4-H Advisory Board

4. **Please summarize any work you have performed in the past five years to further LGBTQ+ rights. This may include paid positions, volunteer work, and donations.**

I've lent my support by standing and marching side by side with some of the most vocal LGBTQ+ champions such as State Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith. I've also opposed harmful legislation, I've spoken with advocacy groups such as Equality Florida while in Tallahassee, and I've participated in activities at The Center Orlando and at Stonewall nightclub in Orlando.

Questions

5. **The rise in anti-LGBTQ+ legislation barreling down from Tallahassee has caused a sharp increase in discrimination and violence against the LGBTQ+ community in Orange County. How would you go about reducing discrimination in your district or local community? How would you measure your progress?**

I would reduce LGBTQ+ discrimination by continuing to collaborate with other likeminded organizations, and measure my progress by speaking with the LGBTQ+ community on a regular basis to hear their concerns and find out what's working and not working.

6. **Elected officials and office staff are still woefully under-educated on the transgender community. This means that the services their offices provide are often ignorant of the needs of the transgender community. What actions would you take to ensure that the services your office will provide will be educated on and cognizant of the needs of the transgender community?**

As I mentioned in Question 11, my office would continue to collaborate with other likeminded organizations, and measure my progress by speaking with the LGBTQ+ community on a regular basis to hear their concerns and find out what's working and not working.

7. **The Florida Republican Party is leading the country in stripping away LGBTQ+ rights, starting with our children. Students are having their lives and livelihoods placed at risk by laws such as the Transgender Sports Ban, the so-called Parental Bill of Rights, and now Don't Say Gay. These shamelessly discriminatory bills are forcing LGBTQ+ families to reconsider their future in Florida. What would you tell the parents of LGBTQ+ children in your district who feel they need to leave Florida in order to protect their children?**

I would tell them that we're fighting to elect a Democratic governor that will veto any harmful legislation to the LGBTQ+ community, and encourage those families to get out vote blue during the primary and the general election.

- 8. The Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health found that 45% of LGBTQ+ students seriously considered attempting suicide and 1-in-5 LGBTQ+ attempt it. How would you lead on this issue and work to decrease these statistics over the course of your term in office?**

I would work with my colleagues who are already leading the charge in the Florida House and continue to support their efforts.

- 9. The same survey by The Trevor Project found that nearly all transgender and non-binary students have had to worry about their access to gender-affirming healthcare, bathrooms, and sports teams being taken away from them. How would you work to take this fear off their shoulders so that they can go back to just being kids?**

I would immediately point them to the resources available to them, including advocacy groups and safe spaces like Equality Florida, The Center Orlando, and many others.

- 10. Far-right groups are pushing to ban books on any topic they find disagreeable, such as books on Black history and experiences, immigration, the LGBTQ+ community, climate change, etc. Do you support these book bans? If not, what is your plan to counter them and ensure students have access to a full array of age-appropriate knowledge and experiences?**

Going forward, I would work with my colleagues in the legislature to repeal the book bans.

- 11. During a town hall in your district, a constituent describes being gay or transgender as a "lifestyle choice." What is incorrect about their description? How would you constructively respond in this situation?**

I would inform or remind the constituent that many in the LGBTQ+ community have experienced unique circumstances that he or she may not understand, and calling it a lifestyle choice may be the wrong assumption.

- 12. During a board meeting, the board chair purposely refers to a transgender woman as "he" and "him" as the woman attempts to give her public comment. The woman corrects the board chair each time, insisting that her pronouns are "she" and "her." The board chair continues to misgender the woman until she eventually leaves the chamber in tears. How would you respond in this situation?**

I would first speak with the woman and acknowledge her identity, then go back and address the board chair, letting him know to simply acknowledge any person as they wish to be called. It's not rocket science.

13. A parent approaches you at an event, insisting that her son's teachers have "groomed" him into liking boys. Her son is at her side when she says this. How do respond to the parent's statement such that the young boy leaves feeling better about himself?

I would inform the parent that while a teacher can influence a child, teachers alone cannot groom a child into one sexual preference or another and that it is important to discuss her son's feelings and experiences to better understand him.

14. Orange County continues to embrace urban sprawl, despite a plethora of data that links urban sprawl to severe strains on our housing, employment, healthcare, and public transit systems (to name a few). What are your thoughts on Orange County's growth? What could Orange County in terms of development that would better serve the communities in your district?

I personally believe we do have a housing crisis, and that the answer isn't necessarily to build out any further, because there's still precious green space that must be protected. If more people continue to move to Central Florida, developers must go vertical (build up, not out).

15. Do you support the idea of constructing more multi-family homes in neighborhoods traditionally zoned for single-family homes? What impact would this have on your district?

Yes, I support that idea (see my previous answer). I personally feel the impact would be a reduction in homelessness.

16. Homeowner Associations often prevent homeowners from transitioning their lawns away from non-functional grasses such as turf and towards sustainable options such as native Florida plants and edible landscapes. HOAs insist that moving away from the traditional pristine green lawn would lower housing prices. What is your opinion on this issue?

I strongly disagree. Native plants and edible landscapes beautify a community (thereby actually increasing property value, I would think). Plus it's important that we have environmentally friendly communities with edible landscapes, or else we'll be unable to supply ourselves with necessary resources like fruits and vegetables (and we're already experiencing shortages).

17. What are the top environmental concerns you are seeing in your District and what are the solutions you plan to bring forward if you were elected?

The biggest environmental concern is the massive developments happening in several parts of the district, which will consume a lot of land and displace people as well as animals from

their natural habitats. If re-elected, I would sponsor or co-sponsor environmentally friendly legislation that limits reckless expansion.

18. Contributions are typically linked to poor environmental policies being passed. Are you pledging to stay away from any particular contributions?

I've always done and will continue to do my due diligence in making contributions.

19. Understanding our economic position, how do you plan to localize and strengthen our food system?

I've previously taken steps in this direction. As an elected Orange Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisor, I strongly supported the formation of community gardens. As State Representative, I've ensured agricultural appropriations projects were included in the state budget both years in Tallahassee. I will continue working in collaboration with the public and private sectors to increase our agricultural footprint, especially in our food deserts.