



ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE 2022

Victor Torres

**Running for
Florida Senate
District 25**

Candidate Information

Website: www.victorres.com

Facebook:

Twitter:

Instagram:

1. What motivated you to run for this position?

I have served as a State Representative for four years and a State Senator for six years and I am running for reelection to my final term in the Florida Senate.

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

I have been a long-time supporter of LGBTQ+ issues and have family members who are LGBTQ+

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

During my time in both public service and private political and community organizations I have been a proponent for the LGBTQ+ community.

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 have voted in support of LGBTQ+ legislative issues and attended events and press conferences supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

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?**

My voting record is clear on support of LGBTQ+ issues and we need more elected officials like me in Tallahassee to vote in favor of those issues.

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?**

I have a transgendered granddaughter and my office staff are well versed on this issue.

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?**

Vote Democratic

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 support more funding for mental health services and suicide prevention.

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?**

By voting against legislation that is exclusionary and not inclusive.

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?

No

Hopefully, have Democrats retake the majority of the Legislature and repeal these bad laws.

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 advise them that it is not a lifestyle choice and they should respect everyone's right to live their truth.

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 support recognizing people as they present themselves to you, not as you perceive them.

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?

There is no such thing as "grooming" and children should be allowed the ability to express themselves however they feel comfortable.

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?

There are tools available to the County to encourage more sustainable growth and development and they should use those measures.

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, the lack of affordable housing has become a crisis for our state.

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?

HOA laws in Florida need to be reformed to allow for more individual property rights and less HOA control.

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?

I support water conservation efforts, reducing storm water runoff and public land preservation .

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

I accept donations from nearly any entity that is willing to support me but I offer no guarantee of my vote on any issue in exchange for that support.

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

I need more information about the alternative solutions to address this issue.