

# League of Women Voters of Florida Education Fund

## candidate survey

### CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Full Name: Calen Fretts  
Age: 27  
Residence: Valparaiso, FL  
Birthplace: Pittsburgh, PA  
Education: Virginia Tech, Bachelor of Science, Computer science, 2008  
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### QUESTIONS FOR FLORIDA CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES

(Responses should be no more than 150 words each):

1. The fiscal health of the country will be in your hands. What changes to current economic policies would you support to reduce deficits, stimulate job creation, protect the most vulnerable among us and provide a secure future for the next generation?

**Refuse to incur *any* new debt, as opposed to my incumbent opponent, a so-called “conservative” who has voted for over \$5 trillion in new debt. Repeal government intervention in the economy. End all corporate welfare and all foreign aid. Cut spending. Replace federal taxes with the FairTax. Term limit Congress. Fix the underlying problem with bloated, failing federal programs like Medicare; anti-competitive laws in the health system itself. Audit and reign in the Federal Reserve. Pass a balanced budget amendment. Turn back civil liberties violations like the Patriot Act, TSA, and NDAA. *Restore the Constitution!***

2. The United States spends more on defense than any other country in the world. With the changes in the nature of combat we have observed in Iraq and Afghanistan, what changes, if any, would you support in defense funding or procurement?

**The most critical element of a strong national defense is a strong and sustainable economy. We simply cannot afford to spend \$700 billion per year, forever, on defense. In order to secure our economy we must cut back on all aspects of government, including military adventurism overseas. We must bring our troops home to defend our own borders. This must be coupled with energy independence as our need for foreign oil has driven much of our military spending over the last 40 years. Our current policy leads to constant war, which is a cancer on the Republic. Just ask yourself: what veteran fought for massive debt, less freedom, and endless war?**

3. Experts predict that the 2012 election will be the most money-driven in our history. What steps would you support to protect the integrity of the elections process such that ordinary voters continue to have faith that democracy can work for them?

**The status quo two-party system has institutionalized and monopolized the structure of money-driven politics. While this hurts non-major-party candidates such as myself the most, the reality is that citizens have the freedom to use their own money as they see fit. The best method of counterbalancing any inherent unfair advantages is by ensuring that all candidates have ballot access and a level playing field with regard to other campaign laws, and by demanding transparency to the utmost extent possible.**

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4. Florida now has the second-highest percentage of uninsured citizens in the United States. What policy changes would you support to ensure access to quality health care for all citizens while managing costs?

**Unfortunately, the prevailing reaction to our current healthcare fiasco is to beg for more government involvement. This leads to disaster and is in fact the primary reason we have arrived at this precarious situation. Before government became so heavily involved in this industry (as in most or all others), the U.S. system was the best in the world. But the more influence government has, the more influence government lobbyists have; this leads to regulations that prop up and secure monopolies, high prices, and poor quality of service. The *only* solution is to remove *all* government intervention, aside from prosecution of force and fraud, and let private individuals, churches, and charities solve these extremely complex issues, as they have always done best.**

5. Florida is repeatedly identified as the most vulnerable state in the country to the effects of sea-level rise and increased hurricane activity. What policies would you propose or support to address this urgent issue?

**Citizens of Florida are aware of the atypical and sometimes-dangerous natural issues and weather patterns they may face, but still choose to live here because we inhabit the best and most beautiful state in the nation. Government insurance skews the markets by artificially lowering and subsidizing dangerous, high-risk construction for a few, at the expense of the many other more fastidious taxpayers. We have seen time and again the ineffectualness and often times deleterious effects of federal response agencies such as FEMA. Must like healthcare, federal involvement in this area only serves to inflate consumer insurance costs, negatively affecting affordability at the cost of billions in waste, fraud, and abuse. We must let states, localities, and most importantly individuals and voluntary institutions, decide for themselves how best to handle their property - and keep the federal government confined to DC.**