

More Ballot Input – Items that we have left up to the voters

Judge 4th District Court of Appeals

Judge Burton Connor

Judge Jeffrey Kuntz

Both of these judges were brought in by Rick Scott. Both obviously Republican and conservative.

It's easy to vote NO on retaining them, but then DeSantis would be able to pick replacements for them, and they could be even more extreme. So it's a catch-22 situation. Voters should make their own choices.

Amendment 5 – Adjustments in Homestead Exemption

The Florida Democratic Party recommends a NO vote. Many note, however, that a YES vote would increase the homestead exemption amount each year if the Consumer Price Index increases, thereby reducing the amount of property taxes on primary residences – which is a good thing for the homeowner. However, doing this would have the effect of reducing the tax income available for county and city government. Voters should make their own choice.

School Board Ad Valorem Tax

This item is about continuing the one-half mill Ad Valorem Tax for Schools.

Voters should make their own choice. On one hand, it's easy to support this because it means more money for education. However, with our extremely conservative school board in Martin County, funds raised here could well be used to further support of charter schools or other more conservative initiatives.