

# Alton C. Smith

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Dear Registered Voter in Florida House District 64:

This letter is being sent mainly to **Florida House District 64** registered voters. This mailing is **the principle means I will use** to present my candidacy for election to represent you in the **Florida House of Representatives**. I will not spend large sums to be elected. With this letter I plan to **tell you as much as I can about who I am and what I believe**. The attached paper containing my positions on key issues is to tell what I believe. My enclosed resume is to tell you who I am as I would to any prospective employer.

If you want to know more about any issue in (or not in) the position paper or more about my life not in the resume, I invite you to contact me for further details. I want to be as **transparent** as possible in my relationships with my electors.

In office, I see it as my duty to devote myself to in-depth **understanding** of issues about which I must make a decision. I aim to be as **available** as is humanly possible to help resolve issues of my constituents with their government.

Most likely, you will not be in total agreement with all of my positions or like every aspect of my person. **I am counting on being and believing like you** in more ways and on more issues than anyone else running for this office.

**One more vital thing.** I am a **legally registered** candidate for Florida House District 64 as a **write-in candidate**. That means my name will NOT appear on the ballot, only a blank space where, if you want to vote for me, **you can WRITE OR PRINT my name, "ALTON C. SMITH."**

Sincerely yours,

Alton C. Smith, Ph.D.

as

Enclosures: 2



# *Dr. Alton C. Smith*

1413 Hammock Shade Drive  
Lakeland, FL 33809-2315  
Phone: (863) 815-9783

## **POSITIONS ON ISSUES**

CANDIDATE: Alton C. Smith, Ph.D.  
OFFICE SOUGHT Representative, Florida House District 64  
PARTY: Democrat as a write-in candidate  
ELECTION: Tuesday, 4 November 2008

In line with normal, traditional, “bread and butter” Democrat philosophy, I will work for family values representative of the majority of our population, adequate national defense, affordable health care, better education, a strong economy that works for everyone, and real security.<sup>1</sup> While many of these issues go beyond the scope of the Florida Legislature, my positions on these issues would influence my vote as the issue effects the State of Florida. The following declarations set forth my positions on those issues.

## **MORALS**

All legislation embodies moral components in one way or another. If one practiced that “Morality can’t be legislated,” all legislation would cease. I will support legislation that is consonant with traditional, American, family values including the sanctity of life and marriage of one man to one woman. All of the following positions contain other moral components of my views.

## **THE WAR AGAINST MUSLIM EXTREMISM**

The United States of America is in a worldwide, life and death struggle against Muslim extremism and, more broadly, Terrorism. Muslim extremism has unabashedly declared its goal as annihilation of our way of life. We must resist with all means needed any such destructive threat as long as the threat exists and preferably on territory outside the USA.

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<sup>1</sup> This document is a modification of the Polk County Democratic Caucus position paper on important issues. This footnote is to acknowledge that fact and hereby give them credit for whatever I have borrowed. I modified that document so that, as presented herein, it reflects my positions. Clearly, the Polk County Democratic Caucus is not responsible for any position cited herein.

**THE ECONOMY**

**I support small business owners.** Our state's economic policies should address the needs of small businesses and not just the special interests of industrial and financial corporate giants.

Florida's economy is built on the backs of small business owners. I support investments that help small businesses grow and provide assistance to start-up companies.

**I support protection of the public from excesses of giant corporations.** That CSX Transportation would even dare to ask for indemnity for damage it causes to others is an example of one of those excesses I would fight. Such legislation should not be.

**I strongly support that all money collected for social security go to social security.** The national government should reimburse the social security fund for all monies it has borrowed (stolen?) from social security revenues and used for general operations. No taxes should be levied on social security income.

**I support a higher minimum wage.** No one should have to work two jobs just to make ends meet. Persons 19 and under should be free from wage minimums to give them increased opportunity to enter the job market and small businesses advantage in hiring them.

**I support sunshine laws, government integrity & efficiency.** Government should be open and honest with the people. All state contracts should be open to the public. All government business should be conducted efficiently and with integrity. A body of exemptions have arisen over the years that facilitate fairer application of this law.

**I support affordable housing initiatives.** Every American should have the opportunity to live the American Dream of home ownership. Florida's housing assistance fund should be funded and maintained and should not be syphoned off to other projects. All efforts should be made to facilitate home ownership for Florida's veterans, teachers, police officers, seniors and first-time home-buyers who wish to purchase their own home. If the government provides money to help in the loan crisis, that money should not go to giant financial houses exercising foreclosures, but to the desperate home-owner. Laws that eliminate shyster mortgage contracts are needed.

**I strongly support affordable hurricane insurance.** Insurance companies should be the servants of our people. They should be limited to no more than reasonable profits. Our property insurance system needs reform with a keen focus on availability of affordable insurance. If insurance companies cannot provide adequate insurance and affordable prices, the people's government should provide it. Funding for state-provided insurance should come from premiums charged to policy holders on an actuarially sound basis with no profit. Electing people from the insurance industry to our legislature is questionable regardless of other qualifications.

**I support strong laws to eradicate fraud and corruption in any government program.** No branch or program of government should be exempt from ardent efforts in this regard.

**I support a balanced budget at all levels of government.** The national debt should be reduced systematically. The amount of interest we taxpayers are paying on our national debt is sickening. We should be sickened even more when we consider to whom that interest is being paid. ALL the taxes paid by ALL the individual taxpayers west of the Mississippi river are needed just to pay the interest on the National Debt each year.

**I support the preservation of our environment and our history.** Our environment should be valued highly when it comes into conflict with human expansion. Irreplaceable historical sites should, likewise, be valued when threatened by development.

## **EDUCATION**

**I support smaller class sizes.** Smaller classes mean a better educational environment, increased discipline, and more individual attention for students.

**I support aiding students to receive a college education.** The legislature should divert a larger proportion of lottery income to Bright Futures. Bright Futures should not be reduced when tuition is rising. High schools should be sure seniors are fully aware of all scholarships available to them. All students who can profit from a college education should be able to receive it regardless of economic status.

**I propose positive uses of FCAT.** Standardized testing provides for higher academic standards and increased accountability. FCAT should be an important tool to help parents and teachers work with each individual student to identify areas that need improvement. FCAT should not be used as a hammer to punish students, parents and teachers.

**I support improving low-performing schools.** Every child in Florida should have the opportunity to succeed in a public school in their neighborhood. If parents choose to send their children to private schools or home school them, being tax payers, they should receive money from the taxes they have paid to help defray the costs of their choice. Provision should be made that the quality of education in private schools and home schooling be on a par with public school levels.

**I support better pay for teachers.** Every child deserves an education provided by world-class teachers. Today, Florida's teachers earn \$6,000 less than the national average and less than our neighbors to the north, Georgia and Alabama. Teacher pay should be on a level with other professionals with the same level of education.

## **HEALTH CARE**

**I support funding and expanding health care for children.** Every child in Florida deserves quality health care. Right now, more than 600,000 children in Florida lack basic health insurance.

**I strongly support affordable universal health care.** In a nation such as ours, health care should be more than a privilege, it should be a right. Roughly 3.5 million Floridians live without health insurance. Small businesses should be provided with tax incentives and other options to help provide health insurance at lower cost.

**I support a complete Medicare prescription drug plan.** People should come before drug companies. Pharmaceutical companies sell Americans drugs for outrageous prices while providing them to people outside our country at a fraction of what they charge us. I have lived overseas and I know first hand! Our drug companies should sell us drugs at the same price they sell them overseas. Our Medicare drug plan should completely cover all prescribed drugs to Floridians. For too long, seniors have been waiting for relief from the rising cost of prescription drugs. No more donut holes.

**I strongly support our Medicare and Medicaid programs.** I would oppose any efforts to reduce their benefits or tax those benefits. I deplore use of the term "entitlement programs" in a pejorative manner. These programs help millions of common people avoid bankruptcy while

receiving adequate medical care. Persons or organizations that abuse these programs should be prosecuted very severely.

**I support the right of a person to life from conception.** The unborn *child has the right* that the parents who are contemplating taking that child's life be exposed to every means possible to dissuade them from that immoral, though presently legalized, course of action.

**I support the right to die with dignity.** Our laws should provide that if a person has a living will, that will be followed exactly. If a person does not have a living will or any other instructions as to what to do in the event they are reduced to a permanent, vegetative state as determined by two competent medical persons, the nearest of kin should decide whether life support should be withdrawn. The law should also provide definition of the extent of kinship.

## **SECURITY**

**I support laws that penalize persons who endanger others on the road.** Cameras at signal lights should be legalized to catch red-light runners. Motorcyclists should be required to wear helmets to reduce costs of injuries and, hopefully, insurance rates. Use of cell phones while driving should be prohibited.

**I support adequate funding for the Florida National Guard.** They should be honored for their service and treated with the utmost respect that they deserve. They put their lives on the line every day. I support the Citizen-Soldier Grant program, offering businesses tax credits to help make up the difference between their employee-soldiers' civilian and military pay. I support increasing educational benefits for all soldiers who return to Florida after their service.

**I support improving port and coastline security.** We have no greater role than protecting the homeland. We need protection that is tough, smart and total.

**I support passage and enforcement of responsible, comprehensive immigration laws.** Our national and economic security is damaged by the government's consistent refusal to act legally. We need a wall from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean to stop the wave of illegal aliens and terrorists just walking into our country. We need to support our border patrol people and not imprison them for doing their job. We must punish employers who hire illegal persons. Jobs drew the illegal persons here. No person who entered the USA illegally should be allowed legal entry until all persons who have tried to enter legally have been considered. Legal work permits should be available to persons who can find legal employment in this country.

**I support all efforts to eliminate our dependency on foreign oil.** I support the Democratic proposal to tax the obscene profits of oil companies. The income from that tax should be used to encourage companies *other than oil companies* to research alternative sources of oil. That tax revenue should also be channeled to the building of new oil refineries (after 40 years, it's about time). All oil deposits in and around the USA should be exploited with emphasis on the vast reserves in Alaska. Our very existence as a nation is hanging in the balance on this item. Partisan and lobbyists' interests must be brushed aside.

OBJECTIVE

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To invest my years of education and experience in the best interests of my church, my community and my country.

**EXPERIENCE**

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ACTIVITIES	TIME FRAME (2002 - PRESENT)
<i>Adult Ministries, Assemblies of God, local church director, Polk County representative, Pen-Florida Executive Committee 2003-Present</i>	
<i>Consultant, Kosovo Education Project</i>	2003
OVERSEAS EDUCATOR	TIME FRAME (1976-2002)
<i>Chairman, Global Missions Dept, instructor, Trinity Bible College</i>	
	<i>Ellendale, ND, 2001-2002</i>
<i>President, A/G Bible Institute</i>	<i>Belize, 1992-2001</i>
<i>Directeur, Institut Biblique</i>	<i>Haiti, 1986-1992</i>
<i>Member, Accrediting Council for Theological Education</i>	<i>Africa, 1980-1986</i>
<i>Acad. Dean, W. Africa Advanced School of Theology</i>	<i>Togo, West Africa 1976-1986</i>
STATE-SIDE EDUCATOR	TIME FRAME 1962-1976
<i>Principal, Byron High School</i>	<i>Byron, MI, 1971-1976</i>
<i>Instructor, Central Michigan University</i>	<i>Mt. Pleasant, MI, 1970-1971</i>
<i>Teacher, el, JH, SH, Flint Schools</i>	<i>Flint, MI, 1962-1970</i>
<i>Minister of Education, Riverside Tabernacle</i>	<i>Flint, MI 1957-1962</i>
EIGHTH WARD COMMISSIONER (Elected office for city of 210,000 population)	City of Flint, MI 1964-1968
ADMINISTRATOR, IBM CORP, <i>Headed up the accounts receivable section of the IBM office in Flint, MI.</i>	TIME FRAME 1956-1960
PASTOR	TIME FRAME (1952-1956)

**EDUCATION**

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DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY	TIME OF STUDIES 1981-1985
<i>Michigan State University</i>	<i>Lansing, MI</i>
MASTERS OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION (DONE WHILE SUPPORTING FAMILY)	TIME OF STUDIES 1961-1963
<i>The University of Michigan</i>	<i>Ann Arbor, MI</i>
BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY (DONE WHILE SUPPORTING FAMILY)	TIME OF STUDIES 1959-1961
<i>The University of Michigan</i>	<i>Flint, MI</i>
ASSOCIATE IN EARTH AND LIFE SCIENCES (DONE WHILE SUPPORTING FAMILY)	TIME OF STUDIES 1957-1959
<i>Mott Community College</i>	<i>Flint, MI</i>
DIPLOMA IN MINISTRY/MISSIONS (WORKED MY WAY THROUGH)	TIME OF STUDIES 1949-1952
<i>Eastern Bible Institute (Today Valley Forge Christian College)</i>	<i>Green Lane, PA</i>

**SKILLS**

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- Teaching
- Curriculum development
- Computer work: systems analysis, user
- Management
- Government: legislative, executive, elective and appointed functions
- Small business - Owner-Manager, Ice Cream store
- Hobbies: Trim carpentry, wood-working, barbershop singing

**CONCURRENT ACTIVITIES**

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- City Commissioner (Councilman)
- Chairman, Legislative Committee, Flint City Commission
- Chairman, Finance Committee, Flint City Commission
- Inspector, Genesee County Drain Commission
- Owner, CEO, Smitty's Dairyland Drive-In small business
- Member, Fenton Township Zoning Board of Appeals
- Barbershop quartet singing (Polk County Citrus Lakes Chorus)

**FAMILY**

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- Wife: Norma O. Smith, grown daughters: 5, son: 1