

# Election Guide – Tampa, Hillsborough County & Florida

[Sunshine Citizens](#) is committed to: better transportation, transit solutions, smart growth and positive economic development for our area.

As such, our major special action committee for the last 2 years has been halting the \$6-9 billion boondoggle Tampa Bay Express (TBX) and advocating for comprehensive, multi-modal transportation with an emphasis on TRANSIT, first.

As a 501c4, we have compiled this informational guide so that voters are aware of candidates' positions on TBX and transportation in general. Where responses were provided, they are included; as are non-responses from candidates.

## ENDORSEMENTS

These candidates support our [mission and principles](#)- we support them:

Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 1  
Jeff Zampitella

Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 6  
Patricia "Pat" Kemp

Hillsborough County Commissioner, District 3  
Lesley "Les" Miller

## Where the Candidates Stand on TBX:

Hillsborough County Commission, District 1

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Sandra Murman	No response; Ms. Murman voted for TBX as an MPO board member			
Jeff Zampitella		X		

Hillsborough County Commission, District 6

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Patricia "Pat" Kemp		X		
Tim Schock	No response	No response	No response	No response

City of Tampa City Council, District 7

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Jim Davison	No response	No response	No response	No response
Orlando Gudes	No response	No response	No response	No response

Avis Simone Harrison		X		
Gene Siudut		X	TBX is an insult to our intelligence. Its Lexus Lanes are proven to not alleviate congestion problems, it tears apart neighborhoods and will charge a toll in lanes that were originally dedicated as HOV when the property was sold, which is essentially a multi-billion dollar bait and switch. Time and time again, FDOT proves it does not serve the best interests of the citizens of Florida. This boondoggle is yet another example.	
Cyril Spiro	Undecided	Undecided	<p>I have several concerns with TBX, highest of which is the removal of about 110 properties at or near the I275-I4 interchange. In addition, I feel that FDOT has lost their credibility, as shown with the Frankland Bridge lane reduction surprise, and that makes it difficult to trust that future plans will be described accurately.</p> <p>However, I recognize that we cannot pave our way out of our rush-hour transportation problem. And, if we do not have at least one toll lane, then there will never be at least one lane that is available in times of need for speedy transport by vehicles.</p>	<p>Also, my district – District 7 – relies heavily on interstate travel to get in and around the city. A survey that I am conducting with residents of District 7 indicates, preliminarily, that most respondents will use the toll road. As a future representative of the District, I am responsible to assist my constituents with their transportation needs.</p> <p>At the moment, FDOT is still revising the TBX plan. They are supposedly taking into account the need to reduce the amount of eminent domain property purchases and reassessing their plans with the HF bridge. To make a decision about TBX today would be a philosophical debate and not an actual decision. I will wait until there is an actual plan that can be examined before making up my mind, all the while working to influence the process to reduce the negative aspects of the project.</p>
Luis Viera	Undecided	Undecided	We need to encourage decongestion to North Tampa traffic while respecting neighborhoods and communities that will be adversely affected. I	

			favor an approach to TBX which will bring its benefits to our community while giving communities a voice to improve TBX. We are still early in this process and can achieve this balance.	
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Hillsborough County School Board, District 5

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Tamara Shamburger		X	It appears to be a fiscal nightmare that will result in the destruction and displacement of too many residents; specifically, low-income, minority residents of District 5 that has dealt with continual gentrification of their neighborhoods.	I support investment into improving transportation options.
Joe Jordan-Robinson	No response	No response	No response	No response

Hillsborough County School Board, District 7

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Lynn Gray		X	it will break our urban areas up to a point where many families and their communities will be displaced. Sadly many of the residents in these areas do not have the finances to relocate in an easy way. Also, many of our landmarks like Jefferson High School will be compromised as well.	No response
Cathy James		X	I do not support Tampa Bay Express (TBX). It has no benefit to our community and will destroy neighborhoods that have been the fabric of our community for almost 100 years.	Transportation is not a pothole issue, it is a comprehensive plan to move people from place to place thoughtfully, economically and efficiently. It should include safe and well maintained roads, rail, bus, ferries and hired services like taxis, Uber, Lyft and hired vehicles. We must expect the County Commission in conjunction with Tampa City Government and the regional jurisdictions to be creative in

				designing a futuristic system and we must fund this investment for our future success as a community.
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State Senate, District 16

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Bob Buesing	No response	No response	I agree with the Tampa Chamber's position that we need an "all of the above" response to transportation needs. That includes transit, legalizing ridesharing, and road improvements. I would accept the TBX money but then fight hard to improve the design in several ways. For the historic neighborhoods, two specific design changes need to be explored. The stacking of lanes (like the Selmon Elevated Lanes) significantly reduces the loss of homes and businesses in the neighborhoods. And sound barrier walls are needed to better protect the historic neighborhoods like the walls in place near Fowler and Fletcher. Tolling existing lanes cannot be justified anywhere in the project and may not be legal in any event.	I agree with the Tampa Chamber's position that we need an "all of the above" response to transportation needs. That includes transit, legalizing ridesharing, road improvements, safe bike lines and increased walkability in city planning. I favor changing state law to allow cities to conduct a referendum to determine if that city's residents want to invest in improved transit within the city borders, a position advocated by Mayor Buckhorn. Current law only allows counties to conduct such a referendum. It is important to bring the community into these conversations and speak to any residents whom transportation changes might affect to ensure that their voices and concerns are the central part of the process. I look forward to the day when we have pollution free electric automobiles powered by renewable energy. With smart investments and forward thinking policy we can achieve that goal.
Joe Redner		X	I do not support TBX. In fact, I was the first candidate in the District 16 State Senate race openly against it.  TBX is a poor answer to Florida's transportation problems and would be a meager band aid on a very big problem.  It was drafted 20 years ago and is outdated today.	For decades, state and local government has provided band-aid solutions to systemic transportation problems. Our government fails to properly regulate growth, so the developers develop without regard for our environment, or for building density in ways that improve the flow of traffic and make our city and county a more enjoyable place to live.  Our transportation problems

			<p>Imagine how outdated it will be decades from now when they are supposed to finish it. And that's if it finishes on time.</p> <p>I believe it's a spiff for the rich at the expense of the poor.</p>	<p>are planning problems. We're always playing catch up, and the projects take so long and are designed in such a rigid way that by the time they come up for a vote, like TBX, they've outlived their usefulness and create more problems than they solve.</p> <p>We need progressive transportation planning - planning that includes light rail done right. But it can't be JUST a transportation plan. We need an overall plan for development that takes transportation into account. We need zoning laws to encourage density growth in areas that create a smooth flow of traffic throughout the city and the county without hurting the environment.</p> <p>And the plan can't be rigid or final - transportation is a dynamic problem and we need flexible solutions. Those are the transportation principals I will bring to the State Senate:</p> <p>I favor giving localities more power and discretion to design their own plans - more home rule, which is something our current legislature is eroding every year.</p> <p>We need state funding allocation for transportation projects that rewards planning that is flexible and integrated.</p> <p>Air quality impact, should be a deciding factor in determining funding allocations for all State transportation projects, weighed equally to congestion impact.</p>
Sheldon Upthegrove		X	<p>I am against TBX as it only encourages Urban Sprawl. Unfortunately, in the great city of Tampa's case, it is going to have to hurt in order to get better. If as a</p>	<p>I believe we must improve our side roads as well as arterial roads and incorporate a study showing origin/destination of the largest majority of commuters and use that to</p>

			District we can encourage people to live/ shop/ eat closer to home, the better their lives will be at the end of the day.	make truly informed decisions about where and how to encourage small, central communities.
Dana Young	No response	No response	No response	No response

#### Senate, District 19

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
John Houman	No response	No response	I oppose most parts of the current TBX because it is to disruptive of the community. I am for elimination of the PTC and against tolling a current lane of on the Howard Franklin.	
Darryl Rouson		X	Transportation and mass transportation is an integral part of our economy. Being on the outside I don't know the whole story but would be one of my priorities in the Senate.	

#### State House of Representatives, District 63

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Shawn Harrison	No response	No response		
Lisa Montelione		X	Ms. Montelione voted against TBX while a member of Tampa City Council, as MPO Board member	

#### State House of Representatives, District 67

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Chris Latvala	No response	No response		
David Vogel	No response	No response		

#### United States House of Representatives, District 12

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Gus Michael Bilirakis	No response	No response		
Robert Matthew Tager	No response	No response		

United States House of Representatives, District 13

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Charlie Christ	No response	No response		
David Jolly	No response	No response		

United States House of Representatives, District 14

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Kathy Castor	No response	No response		
Christine Quinn	X		I do support TBX in the Tampa area. However, I do not support an increase in taxes to fund this project. Many private companies have funded these type of projects - getting paid back by the tolls and then once they are repaid- the tolls are then split with the States, County and cities.	There is a lot that goes a into this discussion- and I will be happy to further discuss this matter in the future and support Tampa DOT as your newly elected Congresswoman

United States House of Representatives, District 15

Candidate	For	Against	Why?	Views On Transportation:
Jim Lange	No response	No response		
Dennis Ross	No response	No response		