



P R E S E N T S

MEET THE CANDIDATES 2020

Joe Gruters

Candidate for Florida State Senate District 23

Introduction: As a State Senator I have fought for issues that are important to our community and state. During my first two years I have passed 22 bills that have become law including the strongest anti-semitism bill in the history of Florida when we changed the definition of anti-semitism and then required our educational system to treat anti-semitism the same way you would treat racism.

What do you see as the three most critical domestic issues facing the U.S. over the next two years? Please list in priority order and explain why.

1. Economy
2. Safety & Security
3. Water Quality

Hate crimes against Jewish people and institutions are at an unacceptable level. What specific proposals do you have to reverse this trend? Would you support continuing to expand Holocaust education for all students in the State of Florida?

- Yes

Looking to the near future, our country and the rest of the world will be confronted by multiple health, social and economic issues caused by the continuing impact of Covid 19 Virus. What, if any, actions, programs and/or legislation do you propose in order to eliminate or mitigate the negative impact of the Covid 19 Virus on the wellbeing of the citizens of and small businesses located in your district?

- I supported and worked with the Governor and other legislative leaders to secure four billion dollars in funding for COVID, including tens of millions for first responders and personal protection equipment and masks and I took on state bureaucrats, challenging them to do more to speed up unemployment benefits for those in need. I will work towards helping pass liability protection laws for companies so that we can get back to work as fast as possible.

The country seems to be experiencing increasing social, economic and political polarization. What would you do/propose in order to bridge the divides that exists? What would you do to better unite the State?

- Everything starts with education. I think we need to teach respect for authority at an early age. Tallahassee is not like Washington DC and we show respect for each other and our different viewpoints.

What else should our readers know about you that will help them get to know you better prior to the election?

- I love being the state senator and I work tirelessly on my community's behalf. As a father of three young children, I know the importance of a good education. That is why I helped lead the effort to increase the funding for k-12 education by \$783 million last year. I also helped pass the first bill in 20 years to hold polluters accountable with increased fines for those who poison our water and pollute our beaches. I will continue to work on ways to make polluters pay and will fight for clean water and beaches. If re-elected I will continue to fight for you and my community to ensure that we remain the best place to live, work and play.

