
The Register

ELECTIONS 2020: THE FLORIDA DISTRICT 15 CANDIDATES

Election Coverage: Where they stand on key issues

By Gordon Wayne Watts / Editor-in-Chief and Political editor, *The Register* – a Conservative publication
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This race features 5 candidates vying for the District 15 U.S. House seat currently held by incumbent, Rep. Ross Spano (R-FL-15), and *The Register*, after due diligence, shall report on the results of its recent [press inquiry](#). The candidates, whose outcome will be determined by the Primary Election held today, are as follows, listed alphabetically, and by party: The 3 democrats first, and then the 2 Republicans.

■ ■ **Alan Cohn (Democrat)**, a long-time WFTS-TV (Tampa, Florida) investigative reporter, has won Peabody and Emmy Awards for his investigative reporting. His campaign websites and social media are as follows:

- <http://www.AlanCohnForCongress.com>
- <https://www.Facebook.com/CohnforCongress2020>
- <https://Twitter.com/AlanMCohn>

Although he did not respond to my [Press Inquiry of this past Friday](#), he was kind enough to accept my Facebook friend request: <https://www.Facebook.com/friendship/GordonWayneWatts/alan.cohn.7583/>

Moreover, his website is fairly, if not completely, explanatory regarding his views on key issues. Between his website and my review of local news coverage, here are highlights of Cohn's views:

- **ABORTION:** “Women's Reproductive Rights...If I'm elected to Congress, I pledge to...Repeal the Hyde Amendment, which blocks federal Medicaid funding for abortion services, which disproportionately affect low-income women and women of color.” *Source:* <http://AlanCohnForCongress.com/reproductive.html> and archived *here:* <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200817204401/http://alancohnforcongress.com/reproductive.html> and *here:* <http://Archive.vn/omqu9>
- **MINIMUM WAGE:** “Increasing the Minimum Wage...considering the majority of minimum wage earners of people of color, raising the minimum wage is a tool to start closing the racial wealth gap. Everyone deserves a livable wage and we must make sure that every business and corporation starts paying one.” *Source:* <http://AlanCohnForCongress.com/minimumwage.html> and archived *here:* <http://archive.vn/UZEU0>
- **COLLEGE TUITION:** His policy page, *here:* <http://AlanCohnForCongress.com/policy.html> and archived *here:* <http://Archive.vn/wip/Apoio> did not mention anything about Higher Education (or the costs associated with college), however, on the famous “I Side With” website, he is listed as answering “Yes” to the question: “Should the federal government pay for tuition at four-year colleges and universities?” *Source:* <https://js.isidewith.com/candidates/alan-cohn-2/policies/education> and archived *here:* <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200817210314/https://js.isidewith.com/candidates/alan-cohn-2/policies/education> and *here:* <http://Archive.vn/r2kJK>
- **STUDENT LOANS:** Notably important, Cohn answered “Yes” to another related question on the page cited above: “Do you support increasing taxes for the rich in order to reduce interest rates for student loans?” This implies or suggests that he does not support reduction or elimination of Student Loans (but rather asking the taxpayer to subsidize them even more, in this case, with a additional tax).
- *Editor's Note:* Although my press inquiry did ask a very important question of candidates about the needs to protect and upgrade the power and telecommunications grid, in light of the fact that no responses were

received, I shall omit this analysis for the sake of brevity – as **today** is Primary Election Day.

■ ■ **Adam Hattersley (Democrat)**, a Navy veteran and small business owner, is a current member of the Florida State House of Representatives, has an official website *here*: <https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4737&LegislativeTermId=88> He is the first Democrat to hold the Republican-leaning District 59 since it was redrawn in 2012, a seat which – ironically – was held by Ross Spano for 2 consecutive terms from 2016—2020 when he was in the Florida Legislature. His campaign websites and social media are as follows:

- <https://HattersleyForCongress.com>
- <https://www.Facebook.com/HattersleyforFL>
- <https://Twitter.com/HattersleyforFL>
- <https://Instagram.com/HattersleyForCongress>

Hattersley, likewise, did not respond to my [Press Inquiry](#). Nonetheless, his website is fairly complete on his views on key issues:

- **ABORTION:** Although the word “abortion” does not appear in the text of his issues page, nonetheless, he makes clear his views: “Equal Rights For Women...Adam proudly considers himself a pro-choice feminist.” Source: <https://HattersleyForCongress.com/priorities> and archived *here*: <http://Archive.vn/AJxhZ> and *here*: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200816190940/https://HattersleyForCongress.com/priorities>
- **MINIMUM WAGE:** In the same page, he says: “He supports raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour, with provisions to ensure workers receive regular increases for inflation.”
- **COLLEGE TUITION:** He doesn't directly or explicitly address costs of college or the skyrocketing tuition inflation (Higher Ed) we've seen in recent decades (*source is same page as above*), but does say the following on the related matter of Public Ed, giving hints to his views: “Adam supports dramatically increasing education spending, particularly for underserved communities, with a special focus on teacher pay, recruitment, and retention. He also believes it is essential to ensure every child has access to high-quality education, starting in early childhood.”
- **STUDENT LOANS:** Notably important, Hattersley does not address student loans at all on his priorities (issues) page, above, other than to vaguely imply or suggest he wants to help—but without explaining how additional funding would drive down tuition (which it has not done of recent) and thus eliminate need for any college loans: “Adam believes that investment in education is one of government’s most sacred responsibilities. He has fought for better education standards and funding as a state legislator, and will continue to do so as a Congressman.” However, he does give some clues that he might seek to reduce tuition (in Higher Ed) by this statement which VoteSmart recorded in a related “Public Ed” matter: “Our children deserve the best. We need to find a way to fully fund education, relieve the burden of overcrowding and compensate our teachers for the great work, time, effort and passion they bring to the classroom. Inclusive education is a right in this country and we need to treat it as such,” citing to a nonworking website link, <https://www.AdamHattersley.com/issues/> *Source*: <https://VoteSmart.org/public-statement/1301477/issue-position-education> and archived *here*: <http://Archive.vn/wip/HeHuj>
- **Editor's Note:** In light of the fact that I was a bit slow to publish this, due in part to equipment failures of a power supply and computers (giving less time to address unclear points like these), I hope to reach out to Hattersley and the other candidates to see if they want to add anything or clarify after publication.

■ ■ **Jesse Philippe (Democrat)**, a retired Marine veteran, worked for Florida DCF and is a law school graduate, according to *Florida Politics*. *Source*: <https://FloridaPolitics.com/archives/334018-meet-jesse-philippe-the-lesser-known-democrat-in-the-primary-for-ross-spanos-congressional-seat> and archived *here*: <http://Archive.vn/wip/G9o41> and *here*: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200604115041/https://floridapolitics.com/archives/334018-meet-jesse-philippe-the-lesser-known-democrat-in-the-primary-for-ross-spanos-congressional-seat>

His campaign websites are as follows:

- <https://JessePhilippe.com>
- <https://www.Facebook.com/JesseP4Congress>
- <https://Twitter.com/JesseP4Congress>

Although Philippe, likewise, didn't respond to my press inquiry, he was kind enough to speak to me at length, by phone, when I had trouble finding details on his website about where he stands on issues:

- **ABORTION:** Although not addressed on his website, he told this reporter that he supports a woman's legal right to have an abortion in the first and second trimesters, but not the third trimester, putting his views on the more moderate side of liberal. *Source:* <https://JessePhilippe.com> Archived *here:* <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200817032531/https://jessephilippe.com> and *here:* <http://Archive.vn/wip/N1BA4>
- **MINIMUM WAGE:** In the same page (which is also his “front page” or “landing page”), he says the following: “Growth for Small Business...Wall Street is winning, but the middle class is losing. We need a democracy based on people and not computers. Congress must include working people!” While this reporter was a bit negligent in asking his views on minimum wage or recalling any comments he may have made when we spoke by phone at length, nonetheless, his comments here suggest or imply a desire to see an increase in minimum wage, a traditional theme of Democrats, Progressives, and Liberals.
- **COLLEGE TUITION:** He doesn't directly or explicitly address costs of college (e.g., tuition for future students), but makes telling comments in that same page, here: “Education...If we do not support education today, we will fall behind as a nation. I plan to support teachers' pay increase, investment in secondary education, and student loan forgiveness programs,” and also says: “Veteran Support...In Congress, I will propose amending our GI bills to include full education tuition relief, healthcare, and transition programs for them.” These views seem to refer to relief of forgiveness for “**past**” student debt, but imply the same as momentum moves forward for “**future**” costs of college. However, in our phone conversation, Philippe agreed with this writer that the costs of college are unreasonably too high.
- **STUDENT LOANS:** Notably important, Philippe does not address the currently-enrolled Student Loan Bankruptcy equality bills, [H.R.2648](#) and its Senate companion bill, [S.1414](#). When speaking by phone, he indicated theoretical support for both bills, although he candidly admitted that he had not thought much about this subject. Furthermore, when this writer asked him about his views on reducing or eliminating the use of tax dollars to make or guarantee Student Loans (due to the problems associated with colleges jacking up tuition to match increased borrowing abilities—thus hurting taxpayers stuck with toxic debt to students who can't repay monopoly-based-inflated prices, and harming students stuck with price-gouging here), Philippe admitted that he had not thought this through, but agreed – in theory – to a reduction of loan subsidies if coupled with sufficient support for colleges with State/Federal taxpayer monies—if done in a gradual enough manner so as to not be so sudden as to prevent students from going to college should loans be eliminated suddenly.

■■ **Scott Franklin (Republican)**, a retired Navy veteran (Naval Aviator), who served for 26 years, and local businessman (Managing Partner at Baldwin Krystyn Sherman Partners), according to his LinkedIn profile: <https://www.LinkedIn.com/in/cscottfranklin> , is a current member of the Lakeland, Florida City Commission, according to the official city website, *here:* <https://www.LakelandGov.net/government/mayor-city-commission/scott-franklin>

His campaign websites are as follows:

- <https://VoteScottFranklin.com>
- <https://www.Facebook.com/VoteScottFranklin>
- <https://Twitter.com/ScottFranklinFL>

Franklin, likewise, did not respond to repeated voicemails, or messages left on his official Facebook page, as

documented in this [Press Inquiry](#). Furthermore, Franklin has not, as of this time of publication, responded to my emailed this [Press Inquiry](#), here. Moreover, his official campaign websites do not fully inform this writer as to where he stands on the issues. However, in the interests of fair journalism (as opposed to so-called “Attack Journalism”), we will attempt to be fair, and present his candidacy in the most positive light.

- **ABORTION:** Although Franklin did not respond to repeated press inquiries made by *The Register*, nonetheless, that was not necessary here. The the “Priorities” section of his official campaign website makes clear his views on abortion: “STANDING UP FOR CHRISTIAN VALUES [] Scott Franklin is a Christian who will fight for family values. [] He and his wife of nearly 30 years have three grown children. They know how precious life is. [] Scott is pro-life and he will fight to defend life when he is in Congress.” (Where double-brackets, [], indicate a line-break.) **Source:** <https://www.VoteScottFranklin.com/services> and archived **here:** <http://Archive.vn/B6L3B> Additionally, *The Ledger* reports that: “Both Spano and Franklin identify themselves as conservative Christians and “pro-life,” meaning opposed to abortion.” **Source:** <https://www.TheLedger.com/story/news/politics/elections/local/2020/06/27/scott-franklins-congressional-bid-scrambles-polk-republicans-support-for-ross-spano/41974943/>
- **MINIMUM WAGE:** In the same “Priorities” page, on his campaign website, Franklin the following: “FUELING ECONOMIC GROWTH [] Scott Franklin is a businessman who believes we need to lower taxes, reduce wasteful spending and eliminate excessive regulations in order to create jobs and grow the economy. [] As a commissioner for the City of Lakeland, Scott has never voted for a tax increase and has fought to cut wasteful government spending. Scott will bring that same approach to Washington where taxes and spending are completely out of control.” While much can be inferred from this statement, the matter of minimum wage hikes is not explicitly addressed whatsoever, and this writer was unable to local contemporary news coverage clarifying Franklin's views on this head.
- **COLLEGE TUITION:** He doesn't directly or explicitly address costs of college, with the words “education” and “college” not appearing anywhere on his issues/priorities page. Even *VoteSmart* was unable to clear up this matter, although it did provide some clarification on some issues. **Source:** <https://JustFacts.VoteSmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/191355/scott-franklin> which lists him as failing many of the “political courage” tests. It is archived here: <http://Archive.vn/wip/jrAbE> and here: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200818112017/https://justfacts.votesmart.org/candidate/political-courage-test/191355/scott-franklin>
- **STUDENT LOANS:** Notably important, Franklin does not address this key issue anywhere on his campaign site, nor could this writer locate any contemporary news coverage of Franklin's views on this head, as of press time.

■ ■ **Ross Spano (Republican)**, a small business owner from Dover, Florida, who served 2 consecutive terms from 2016—2020 when in the Florida State Legislature, is the incumbent in this race. **Sources:** <https://Spano.House.gov> and <https://www.MyFloridaHouse.gov/Sections/Representatives/details.aspx?MemberId=4568> Spano graduated with a J.D., with Honours, from *The Florida State University*, where he was a member of the FSU Moot Court Team and the FSU Journal of Transnational Law and Policy. Spano was appointed to serve on the following Committees for the 116th Congress: [Small Business Committee](#) and [Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure](#).

His campaign websites are as follows:

- <https://RossSpano.com>
- <https://Facebook.com/RossSpano>
- <https://Twitter.com/RossSpano>

Like the other 4 candidates, Spano did not respond to my e-mailed [Press Inquiry](#), here. Nonetheless, he has spoken at length with this writer in person on multiple occasions, both in an official capacity (office hours at his office) and at several campaign events. Additionally, his legislative staff have been responsive to my questions on several occasions on key issues.

- ABORTION:** Although Spano did not respond to repeated press inquiries made by *The Register*, nonetheless, that was not necessary here. *The Ledger*, of Lakeland Florida, reports that: “Both Spano and Franklin identify themselves as conservative Christians and “pro-life,” meaning opposed to abortion.” **Source:** <https://www.TheLedger.com/story/news/politics/elections/local/2020/06/27/scott-franklins-congressional-bid-scrambles-polk-republicans-support-for-ross-spano/41974943/> Additionally, a Google search found this letter, dated August 8, 2018, from Lt. Gen. (US Army-Ret.) William G. Boykin, Executive Vice President, Family Research Council Action PAC, which says, in salient part, as follows: “You have demonstrated a strong commitment to life, family, and religious freedom. During your time in the state legislature, you have supported measures providing resources for pregnant women and advocated for the protection of all life. You supported legislation requiring a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion and co-sponsored a bill that establishes penalties for killing or injuring a fetus. You’ve also championed religious freedom by voting to protect churches and adoption agencies from being forced to provide services that might violate their deeply held religious convictions. ” **Source:** https://www.RossSpano.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Spano_FL15_Endorsement.8.8.2018.FINAL_.pdf And archived **here:** https://Web.Archive.org/web/20181023213302/https://www.RossSpano.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Spano_FL15_Endorsement.8.8.2018.FINAL_.pdf and **here:** <http://Archive.vn/Y6vHc>
- MINIMUM WAGE:** In his issues/priorities page, he states as follows: “Jobs and the Economy [] Bureaucratic red tape, high taxes, and the COVID-19 pandemic are killing our small businesses. I’ve supported the Payment Protection Plan and the Small Business Loan Program, as well as created an Economic Recovery Plan, to help get our economy back on track and combat our dependence on China. We must get government out of the way, limit restrictions, and encourage entrepreneurs to invest, grow, and create more jobs.” **Source:** <https://RossSpano.com/issues> This did not explicitly address the Minimum Wage issue; however, this writer found a guest column, in which he addressed the issue clearly: “By: Rep. Ross Spano [] On Thursday, my colleagues and I in the House will vote on H.R. 582 which, if enacted, will more than double the federal minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$15.00 an hour. I strongly believe this bill would be disastrous for our economy.” **Original Source:** <https://www.OrlandoSentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-spano-minimum-wage-20190717-yxjzukulznfalajoqepk7dbmq-story.html> and Archived **here:** <https://Spano.House.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2167> and **here:** <http://Archive.vn/epWj9> and **here:** <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200805005200/https://Spano.House.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=2167> *Florida Daily* also reported on this **here:** <https://www.FloriDadaily.com/party-lines-hold-in-florida-delegation-on-raising-the-minimum-wage-with-one-gop-congressman-excepted>
- COLLEGE TUITION:** He doesn't address the costs of college at all, only vaguely alluding to it on his issue page in this brief quote: “Veterans [] There is no group of people I value more than veterans of our armed forces. It is imperative that we provide our veterans and their families with the resources they need to have a good quality of life. We must improve their access to housing, medical care, and educational opportunities.” Moreover, in conversations with him during office hours, he was honest enough to admit that he did not know that college was once free—or very close to it, as both Sen. Bernie Sander (I-VT) and Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) are reported to have said, in prior reporting by *The Register* (and which can be confirmed by a cursory review of history). However, Rep. Spano seemed genuine in his desire to make college affordable to Americans (which is not at this time, as tuition has increased at rates far more rapidly than inflation).
- STUDENT LOANS:** Notably important, Spano, when speaking with me on several occasion, admitted that he agrees with this writer's views that taxpayers spend too much money to make/back student loans, and on one occasion (during an official office visit), he asked this writer what the bill number was that addressed this issue. There is currently no enrolled bill in either the House or Senate. A copy of a proposed bill that would accomplish that is linked here: Link #1: https://GordonWatts.com/PresTRUMPS_BILLS-116hr-GWW-proposed-ih.pdf Link #2: https://GordonWAYNEwatts.com/PresTRUMPS_BILLS-116hr-

On another occasion, when Spano was kind enough to invite myself and others to an event at the Plant City Strawberry Festival parade this past March 2020, we discussed this, and he said that he would be on the lookout for this issue in The President's upcoming yearly budget proposal, which seemed a kind gesture with good intentions. However, this writer has not yet been able to convince him to introduce a “standalone” bill (as I proposed above) to effect cuts in student loans. Moreover, on the controversial Student Loan Bankruptcy issue, Rep. Spano has been kind enough to be open to the idea of returning bankruptcy defense to “new” College Loans (like it was in recent decades past – and like practically all other loans have—even unsecured business loans and Credit Cards and even gambling debt). That is, newly-obtained loans, but not current or past loans. His objection was that the student took out the loans, and thus must repay them. When I objected on 2 fronts (old loans had bankruptcy removed after they were taken out—illegally changing the loan contract “changing the rules after the race started” – and secondly, the obvious double standards of unsecured business loans being dischargeable, but not smaller, and more necessary student loans), he suggested that we set a second office appointment to discuss this matter further. As of press time, both Rep. Spano, and this writer, have been too busy to revisit the issue, due in large part to the Primary Election season eating up his time as a candidate, and this writer's time as an investigative journalist.

RECOMMENDATIONS

DEMOCRATS: Of the 3 Democratic candidates, vying to replace Spano, all 3 have impressive credentials: Another fellow news reporter, **Alan Cohn**, was also an investigative news reporter, like this writer (and on a larger scale), and **Adam Hattersley** and **Jesse Phillippe** both served honourably in the military, both having experience as Iraq war veterans. In published news reports, Cohn has made repeated criticisms of Hattersley for slowness in registering as a Democrat: For example, The Times reports that Cohn leveled a criticism “that Hattersley didn’t register as a Democrat until his 2018 state House run, doesn’t support an assault weapons ban and has been endorsed by the conservative Blue Dog Democrats caucus.” Source: <https://www.TampaBay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2020/06/19/democrats-dilemma-picking-a-challenger-for-ross-spano> archived here: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200626200710/https://www.TampaBay.com/florida-politics/buzz/2020/06/19/democrats-dilemma-picking-a-challenger-for-ross-spano> and here: <http://Archive.vn/wip/5bSWM>

However, Hattersley, in an apparent defense of that common criticism, was quoted as saying: ““When I was driving that truck in Iraq, I didn’t care if the guy next to me was a Democrat or Republican,” Hattersley told about 50 people who gathered at Talbot House Ministries in Lakeland, a social service agency for the homeless. “That’s why I was never part of a political party until right before I decided to run for the state House.””

Philippe was also quoted in that same article as saying: “Philippe said that contrary to media reports, America isn’t nearly as divided as its portrayed. [] “The average American is not divisive. We believe in the brother next to us. We don’t care if he’s white. We don’t care if he’s Black. The average American believes in people.””

Source: <https://www.BayNews9.com/fl/tampa/politics/2020/07/07/adam-hattersley-jesse-philippe-stress-bipartisanship-in-cd-15-dem-forum-in-lakeland> archived here: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20200708184243/https://www.baynews9.com/fl/tampa/politics/2020/07/07/adam-hattersley-jesse-philippe-stress-bipartisanship-in-cd-15-dem-forum-in-lakeland> and here: <http://Archive.vn/uPd18>

All 3 Democratic candidates have many good points, and some bad points. Both Cohn and Hattersley support a minimum wage hike, which *The Register* (as a Conservative publication) views as inflationary. While we agree that middle-class Americans are “priced out” of a decent living, increases in wages is not as safe as a decrease in the existing debt owed by college students who were charged via illegal price-gouging, and, as the Federal Government owns (not guarantees) most of this debt, it would not cost any taxpayer dollars to forgive part of all of the debt: We've already paid off the loans and bought them. Moreover, this would not only not be inflationary

(good), but it would also operate as a “Free Market” check on the excessive lending of our tax dollars that the Department of Education irresponsibly does: In plain English, bankruptcy defense would make the DOE “think twice” before bleeding our economy to death, thus saving Trillions of tax dollars, which could be used for infrastructure or for other needs. (Colleges, which provided free education in many places just decades ago, have no excuse: They're even more able now, as they are awash in alumni contributions, *and* receive huge amounts from the State and Federal Government.)

Hattersley's comments during his Talbot House visit (“When I was driving that truck in Iraq, I didn't care if the guy next to me was a Democrat or Republican”) paint him in very positive light—as does the fact that he “flipped” Spano's old State House seat from Republican to Democrat when he defeated Joe Wicker in the general election for Florida House of Representatives District 59 on November 6, 2018, by a 51.5 percent to 48.5 margin.

However, on balance, Phillippe is the most qualified of the 3 Democratic candidates: While he supports abortion (viewed by *The Register* – a Christian and Conservative publication – as the taking of a life—never justified except in genuine “self-defense,” such as the rare ectopic pregnancy where the child threatens the mother's life and has little chance of surviving: See LUKE 1:41—44, which describes the unborn child as a 'baby', not a 'blob of tissue'), Philippe is the most moderate. Moreover, Philippe served with honour in our military and continues to try and make the world a better place. Lastly, he was very patient with this writer, answering all of his questions. ***The Register* recommends Jesse Philippe for the Democratic Primary being held today.**

REPUBLICANS: Of the 2 Republican candidates, vying to win the nomination in this Primary—and then the General Election, in District 15 (which leans somewhat Republican in its voting pattern), both **Scott Franklin** and **Ross Spano** have good points and bad points. **Franklin** served honourably in our military, and moreover, was polite and attentive (even if very quiet) in my three (3) recent visits to the Lakeland Florida City Commission regarding some exceptionally illegal “911-call-blocking,” which this writer had documented as having been done by the Lakeland, Florida Police—when he was a City Commissioner hearing my complaints:

- Link 1: <https://GordonWatts.com/LPD.html>
- Link 2: <https://GordonWayneWatts.com/LPD.html>
- Link 3: http://Gordon_Watts.Tripod.com/LPD.html
- Archive-1: <https://Archive.vn/Nc54Y>
- Archive-2: <https://Web.Archive.org/web/20190715151123/https://GordonWayneWatts.com/LPD.html>

Moreover, Franklin seems to be both “fiscally” and “socially” conservative, respecting both our taxpayer dollars as well as having a respect for life. However, he has repeatedly refused to return any messages –both the old and the recent voicemail messages this writer left—documented in the screenshots linked in the [Press Inquiry of this past Friday](#), as well as my questions on his Facebook page—as well as the e-mailed Press Inquiry, itself. In the business world, insubordination (repeated and willful disobedience to one's superiors and authority) is a termination offense, and in an analogous manner, as a member of the press, The Register sits in appellate review of decisions in “The Court of Public Opinion,” and finds Franklin's behaviour objectionable, even if not necessarily malicious in intent. (This writer notes that he was tardy to personally visit several public events where he might have been able to speak with Franklin, and so in all fairness, perhaps Franklin was likewise busy.) But this writer also texted both candidates and suggested they could ignore the ten (10) ethics questions posed, if they were to must, and focus on the three (3) policy questions in my [Press Inquiry of this past Friday](#). This behaviour does not do any good for the GOP's Republican Party “image” as “rich,” aloof, and detached from the common man.

Lastly, even after repeated inquiries, Franklin didn't even update any of his campaign websites to address these issues (which would have been a reasonable response to legitimate press inquiries—if he were too pressed for time to meet with me or return my emails or voice-mail message. In fact, not even a Google search could divine his views on some issues, on which his campaign pages were rather unclear:

[https://www.Google.com/search?q=\"scott+franklin\"+congress+tuition](https://www.Google.com/search?q=\)

Franklin is not all bad (and, in fact, for all his problems, probably more preferable than any of the 3 Democratic candidates). And this writer does not view Spano's policy positions (or failure to even file bills on areas where we, Conservatives, have no disagreements) as “good.”

Moreover, Spano is wrong to oppose Student Loan Bankruptcy, not only because of moral reasons, stated above (and in the Press Inquiry, invoking no less than Jesus' Golden Rule: “Bankruptcy for me, but not for thee” = Hypocrite, and disobedient to Jesus and our shared religion). Lastly, the U.S. Constitution's “Uniformity Clause” (found in Art.I, Section 8, clause 4 of the U.S. Constitution) forbids and strictly prohibits and U.S. Bankruptcy Code except that which is “uniform” (which would make current U.S. Code unconstitutional on this ground alone).

However, Spano has shown a willingness to listen, learn, and act, and the tenor of his communications seem to be with honour, genuine, and honest. ***The Register* recommends Ross Spano for the Republican Primary being held today.**

EDITOR'S NOTE: In light of how late this news report is being done (on Election Day, itself), I would note that “better late than never” applies here, and there are no less than three (3) good reasons that these primary analyses can be useful—even now:

- #1 – Some voters may be able to read this in time to “get informed” and vote in today's Primary Election.
- #2 – These assessments will certainly be useful come General Election, on Tuesday, 03 November 2020.
- #3 – And, lastly, future election cycles may be afforded some benefit of this research.
- ~~Editor, Gordon Wayne Watts///

The Register – Flagship Mirrors:

- <https://GordonWatts.com>
- <https://GordonWayneWatts.com>
- SOCIAL MEDIA:
- <https://Facebook.com/GordonWayneWatts>
- <https://YouTube.com/GordonWayneWatts>
- https://Twitter.com/Gordon_W_Watts

The Register is maintained by Gordon Wayne Watts, a non-lawyer, who is best known for his lawsuit on behalf of Terri Schiavo[1], which lost 4-3 in the Florida Supreme Court, arguably doing better than even then Governor Jeb Bush's similar suit[2] (lost: 7-0) or Terri Schiavo's own family's federal case[3] (lost: 2-1). Mr. Watts, who ran unsuccessfully for Dist. 64 Fla. House of Representatives[4], is a part-time political activist while he searches for a full-time job in his field.

Contemporary legal scholars are amazed that Watts, a non-lawyer, could almost win a court case on behalf of Terri Schiavo.

Mr. Watts, of Lakeland, Florida, received a Bachelor's degree from The Florida State University with a double major in Biological and Chemical Sciences with honors and was the valedictorian from United Electronics Institute.

Sources:

[1] In Re: GORDON WAYNE WATTS (as next friend of THERESA MARIE 'TERRI' SCHIAVO), No. SC03-2420 (Fla. Feb.23, 2005), denied 4-3 on rehearing. (Watts got 42.7% of his panel)<https://www.FloridaSupremeCourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2005/2/03-2420reh.pdf>

[2] In Re: JEB BUSH, GOVERNOR OF FLORIDA, ET AL. v. MICHAEL SCHIAVO, GUARDIAN: THERESA SCHIAVO, No. SC04-925 (Fla. Oct.21, 2004), denied 7-0 on rehearing. (Bush got 0.0% of his panel before the same court)<https://www.FloridaSupremeCourt.org/clerk/dispositions/2004/10/04-925reh.pdf>

[3] Schiavo ex rel. Schindler v. Schiavo ex rel. Schiavo, 403 F.3d 1223, 2005 WL 648897 (11th Cir. Mar.23, 2005), denied 2-1 on appeal. (Terri Schiavo's own blood family only got 33.3% of their panel on the Federal Appeals level)<https://media.ca11.uscourts.gov/opinions/pub/files/200511556.pdf>

[4] Key Phrase search: ([Google search for Watts' campaign](#))and ([Yahoo! search for Watts' campaign](#)) - Archived copies of Official Campaign pages: <https://GordonWatts.com/Campaign.html> and <https://GordonWayneWatts.com/Campaign.html>

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