

## Candidate Information

1. First name \* Marucci
2. Last name\* Guzman
3. Campaign Website\* [www.marucciforil.com](http://www.marucciforil.com)
4. Campaign Facebook \* [www.facebook.com/marucciforfl](http://www.facebook.com/marucciforfl)
5. Campaign Twitter\* [www.twitter.com/marucciforfl](http://www.twitter.com/marucciforfl)
6. Campaign Instagram \* [www.instagram.com/marucciforfl](http://www.instagram.com/marucciforfl)
7. Please list the LGBTQ+ organizations you are affiliated with and any donations you have given. \*

Through Clinica Mi Salud, my nonprofit's free clinic for the uninsured, we partner with BUSS Cares to connect patients to TRANSformation, a program for transgender and gender non-conforming individuals. The program's focal point is to guide and inform individuals about the basics of gender transitioning.

8. Please summarize your history of community involvement. This may include city boards, civic associations, non-profits, etc. \*

The majority of my community involvement has been through my nonprofit work. I run Latino Leadership, Inc. a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization in Central Florida. We provide services for children on the autism spectrum, free health care for the uninsured, and mental health. Beyond my work through LL, I am a part of my church's trustee board, participate in food drives, and connect families with resources.

For 8 years, I served on the Orange County Public Library Board of Trustees.

9. Please summarize the work you have performed in the past five years to further LGBTQ+ rights. \*

My workplace is LGBTQ+ affirming. An example is our mental health's office affirmation to inclusiveness:

At Latino Leadership Behavioral Health, we are committed to social justice and anti-racism.

We are dedicated to providing services to individuals, couples, and families that are accessible, culturally- and linguistically-relevant, and free of stigma and shame. Here at Latino Leadership Behavioral Health, we celebrate and affirm all backgrounds and identities.

We strive to provide a brave space where voices can be heard and liberated.

In my personal life, I am a mom of a teenager who is Bi. My #1 responsibility and commitment to her is that she knows she is ALWAYS accepted and loved by her parents, sister, and family.

10. Please list other endorsements you have received. \*

- Emily's List
- Ruth's List
- Florida Leadership Council Latino Victory
- School Board Member Maria Salamanca School Board Member Angie Gallo
- Fmr Florida CFO Alex Sink Rep. David Silvers
- Fmr Rep. Bobby DuBose Rep. Allison Tant
- Fmr Rep. Andrew Learned Ruth's List
- Senator Shevrin Jones
- Fmr Rep. Mike Greico
- Fmr Rep. Kamia Brown
- Rep. Daryl Campbell
- Mayor Javier Fernandez
- Moms Demand Action/ Everytown Candidate Distinction

Among others...

## **About Your Campaign and LGBTQ Issues**

**11. What motivated you to run for this position?\***

My decision to run for House District 35 is driven by my role as a mother to two daughters. The concerns I feel each morning as I read the news are centered around their safety and well-being in an evolving world. With each passing legislative session, I witness the approval of bills that erode their rights and bodily autonomy. By entering elected office, I see an avenue to persist in addressing the issues that hold deep significance for me and them, such as safeguarding women's reproductive rights and fostering secure environments in our schools and communities.

The prospect of living in a society where I find myself uttering prayers of protection as I drop my daughters off at school, due to the looming threat of gun violence, is a reality I am compelled to alter. My aspiration is to create tangible changes not only for the benefit of my own children but also for their companions and peers. Through my involvement in public service, I seek to instigate positive shifts that will resonate for generations to come.

**12. What does being an ally or advocate for the LGBTQ+ community mean to you?\***

I will be an ally in our fight to protect all LGBTQ students from harm. I will fight for equal rights for all. I have seen first hand the harm the current administration has done to our state and community. My two beautiful daughters will have less rights than I did growing up. That is unacceptable. We all deserve a safe and prospering community where we can be who we are and make our own choices without fear of repercussions. I'm running for my children and for all children who deserve to grow up in a better state.

**13. Have you attended an LGBTQ+ Pride Month celebration or Orlando's Come Out With Pride? \***

Yes

**14. Have you attended or supported a drag show or drag performance in our community? \***

Yes

**15. How would you ensure that your office acknowledges and celebrates the LGBTQ+ community?\***

In my professional career, I have been committed to equity and inclusion. My elected office would not change this commitment. We will participate in opportunities to increase awareness and opportunities to celebrate our LGBTQ+ community.

**16. Will you ensure that you and your staff receive competency training on the LGBTQ+ community, emphasizing unconscious bias? \***

Yes

**17. Would you condemn instances of hate speech in your organization and the community at large? \***

Yes

**18. Legislation from Tallahassee has caused a sharp increase in discrimination and violence against the LGBTQ+ community in Orange County. How would you go about reducing discrimination in your District or local community? \***

I would support policies and legislation that increase penalties for individuals who purposely discriminate or cause harm against the LGBTQ+ community.

**19. There is a lack of knowledge when it comes to the transgender community. Sometimes, the services offered in public offices are often unfamiliar with the needs of the transgender community. What actions would you take to ensure that the services your office provides will be cognizant of the needs of the transgender community? \***

In my professional career, I have been committed to equity and inclusion. My elected office would not change this commitment.

**20. During a town hall in your District, a constituent describes being gay or transgender disparagingly. How would you constructively respond in this situation? \***

This question is one of the issues in our community. The fact that people have been emboldened to be hateful is an issue. I will fight back at discrimination in any form, in any situation.

**21. How would you respond to a person intentionally misgendering a transgender or non-binary person? \***

I have never had a problem correcting someone if they engage in hateful actions.

22. Orange County continues to embrace urban sprawl despite a plethora of data that links urban sprawl to severe strains on our housing, employment, healthcare, and public transit systems (to name a few). What are your thoughts on Orange County's growth?\*

It is out of control We need to address the infrastructure issues plaguing our community, while working on affordable housing.

23. To expand upon the prior statement, what could Orange County do regarding development that would better serve the communities in your District? \*

Orange County needs to adequately fund transportation to address our community's need to reach much needed services.

## State House Questions

24. Will you support/co-sponsor legislation to make it illegal to fire someone, deny them housing, or reject their access to public accommodations because of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression? \*

Yes

25. Will you support legislation requiring fair and equal access to essential healthcare for transgender persons? \*

Yes

26. Would you oppose any and all legislation that criminalizes the medical treatment of transgender youth? If not, why?\*

Yes

27. Will you oppose using taxpayer dollars to subsidize private and charter schools that discriminate against LGBTQ+ students and families?\*

Yes

28. Do you support teaching comprehensive, LGBTQ-inclusive, age-appropriate sex education and HIV/STD prevention programs in our public schools?\*

Yes

29. Would you support/co-sponsor legislation creating a non-binary gender marker option on state licenses? \*

Yes

30. What kind of gun safety measures do you support that would reduce potential violence against the LGBTQ+ community and general gun violence? \*

I believe the root cause of mass shootings is the availability of weapons of mass destruction and high capacity magazines. Until the leaders of this state value lives more than they value guns we will have to secure our schools. The best way to prevent a school shooting is to keep the shooter off of school property. I don't support the Guardian Program. I believe the safest school is one that has a trained School Resource Office on campus. With that in mind, the school districts need to have MOU's in place with the Sheriffs office and municipalities to ensure that there is a clear delineation between the role of admin and SRO's when it comes to discipline. The arrest data needs to be monitored annually and school districts need to implement programing to keep students out of the school to prison pipeline.

31. What gun safety measures would you advocate for within the State Legislature?\*

Expanding Red Flag bills.

32. Which steps would you take to ensure the safety of patients, doctors, and staff of reproductive healthcare facilities such as Planned Parenthood? \*

No one should be threatened for providing healthcare to their communities. I would support increasing safety measures to provide added protection.

33. How would you respond to instances of hate crimes in Orange County (antisemitism, anti-LGBTQ+, anti-immigrant, etc.)?\*

The same way I have in my past. After PULSE, my nonprofit provided resources to families impacted by the shooting. This was the right thing to do at the time and mirrors our continued committed to the community.

Related to immigration, as the Executive Director of a Latino serving nonprofit, we are committed to advocating for and protecting our immigrant community.

34. How would you work to decrease income inequality and promote affordable living in Florida? \*

I will work to ensure that the Sadowski Fund is not raided.

35. Despite mental illness among adults and children being at an all-time high, Florida ranks next to last on per capita spending on mental health programs. What are your immediate and long-term plans for addressing this epidemic in Florida? \*

I have personal experience with this issue since mental health is a program my nonprofit provides. Reimbursement rates need to increase and we need to ensure Baker Acts aren't being used as behavior modification in public schools.

36. The Florida Republican Party is passing legislation that strips away LGBTQ+ rights, starting with our children. These shamelessly discriminatory bills force LGBTQ+ families to reconsider their future in Florida. What would you tell the parents of LGBTQ+ children in your District who feel they must leave Florida to protect their children? \*

Don't. We need them to stay and help fight back the bullies. We cannot allow this administration to make Florida a place that isn't welcoming. We need to Flip HD 35 and continue to fight back the supermajority.

37. The Trevor Project's 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ+ Youth Mental Health found that 45% of LGBTQ+ students seriously considered suicide, and 1-in-5 LGBTQ+ attempted it. How would you lead on this issue and work to decrease these statistics during your term in office?\*

I would support legislation to increase resources for children to know they're loved and protected.

38. What are the top environmental concerns you feel should be addressed, and what solutions do you plan to bring forward if you were elected? \*

In addition to the continued investment in springs restoration projects, National estuary restoration projects, research for green algae, red tide and brown tide, we also need to make sure that the use of certain fertilizers are minimized along these fragile water systems.

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## **Additional Questions**

39. Is there anything else you want us to know about why the Rainbow Democrats should support your candidacy?

House District 35 is a winnable seat by the right candidate. I believe that candidate is myself. I am a Hispanic Female, in a female majority seat with a 30% Latino electorate. Winning this seat puts democrats in control of the 2024 cycle. We can continue to flip seats and chip back at the super majority that has been disastrous for the state. Education and equity are two things that are of the utmost importance to me as a mom and a member of this community. I am committed to advancing the priorities of the LGBTQ+ community because for me it's personal. With your help, we can continue to build a movement to make Florida an inclusive place for everyone, where residents can thrive.