

**BEFORE THE FLORIDA
JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,
THE HONORABLE JOHN B. FLYNN
JQC NO. 2023-006 & 2023-067

SC23-1435

AMENDED NOTICE OF FORMAL CHARGES

TO: Hon. John B. Flynn
Polk County Judge
Polk County Courthouse
255 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

The Investigative Panel of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, at its meeting on September 15, 2023, by a vote of the majority of its members, pursuant to Rule 6(f) of the Rules of the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission and Article V, Section 12 (b) of the Constitution of the State of Florida, finds that probable cause exists for formal proceedings to be instituted against you. Probable cause exists on the following formal charges:

1. During your 2022 campaign for judicial office, you or your campaign published inappropriate statements evincing an inappropriate bias in favor of law enforcement agencies or against people accused of crimes. For example:
 - a. Your campaign created advertising rack cards that includes bullets highlighting, among other personal and professional achievements,

your service as an Assistant State Attorney, your service as a victim advocate, and “Supports Law Enforcement.” (See Exhibit 1)

- b. Your campaign created numerous fliers, advertisements, and posts on social media including statements that you “Support Law Enforcement,” you “Support our law enforcement agencies,” or other statements evincing bias in favor of supporting police or law enforcement. (See Exhibit 2)
- c. You or your campaign made repeated statements on social media that, “Criminals won’t be happy to see me on the bench” or similar phrases. (See Exhibit 3)
- d. You or your campaign made statements on social media that, “I am running for judge to help keep the County safe for my family and yours,” and concludes with “#supportlawenforcement”. (See Exhibit 4)
- e. You or your campaign publicly stated on your official campaign social media page, “...I am not afraid of hurting peoples feelings if I was this would be the wrong job, I will sentence based on history because that is the best indication of future behavior and if they have a history Grady’s Hotel (aka the jail) is open 24*7 365 days a year.” (See Exhibit 5)

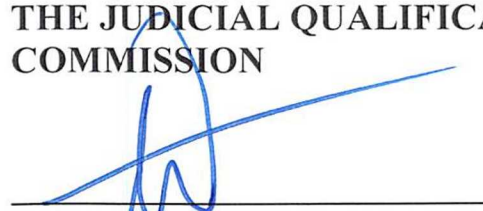
f. In highlighting your endorsement by the Polk County Sheriff and the West Central Police Benevolent Association, your campaign published an advertisement featuring those endorsements and stating, “Those you trust, Trust Flynn.” After announcing your endorsement, you were made aware of concerns about the perception of bias in your judicial campaign by a member of the public who posed a question on social media. (See Exhibit 6)

Your actions constitute inappropriate conduct in violation of Canons 7A(3)(a), 7A(3)(b), 7A(3)(c), 7A(3)(e)(i), of the Code of Judicial Conduct.

You are hereby notified of your right to file a written answer to these charges within twenty (20) days of service of this notice upon you. The original of your response and all subsequent pleadings must be filed with the Clerk of the Florida Supreme Court, in accordance with the Court’s requirements. Copies of your response should be served on the undersigned General Counsel for the Judicial Qualifications Commission, and the Executive Director of the Commission.

Dated: this 9th day of April, 2024.

**THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF
THE JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS
COMMISSION**



Alexander J. Williams
GENERAL COUNSEL
Florida Bar No. 99225

P.O. Box 14106
Tallahassee, Florida 32317
(850) 488-1581
awilliams@floridajqc.com

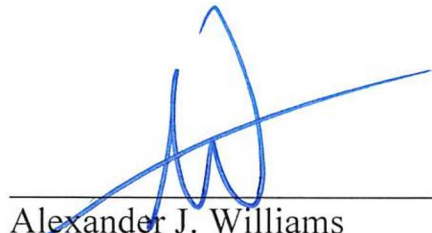
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Formal Charges has been furnished by electronic service, on this the 9th day of April, 2024, to the following:

Hon. John B. Flynn
Polk County Judge
Polk County Courthouse
255 N. Broadway Ave.
Bartow, FL 33830

C/o

Victor Smith, Esq.
Michael Raiden, Esq.
COUNSEL FOR JUDGE FLYNN



Alexander J. Williams
GENERAL COUNSEL



John B.
FLYNN



- Former Prosecutor in Polk County
- 20 Years of Experience
- Small Business Owner
- *Supports Law Enforcement*
- *Experience as Victim Advocate*
- *Practice in front of nearly every judge in Polk*
- *Ran successful law practice 15 years*
- *Juris Doctor / Masters in Business Administration*
- *Advocate of the Constitution*
- *Former Chair of Lakeland Bar Grievance Committee*
- *Former Chair of Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee*
- *Family Man*

(863) 533-6707

JOHN @ THEFLYNNLAWGROUP.COM

WWW.JOHNBFLYNN4JUDGE.COM



WWW.JOHNBFlynn4JUDGE.

John B. FLYNN

345 West Davidson St., Suite 202
Bartow, Florida

for POLK COUNTY JUDGE GROUP 8

- Former Prosecutor in Polk County
- 20 Years of Experience
- Small Business Owner
- Supports Law Enforcement
- Experience as Victim Advocate
- Ran successful law practice 15 years
- Juris Doctor / Masters in Business Administration
- Advocate of the Constitution
- Former Chair of Lakeland Bar Grievance Committee
- Former Chair of Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee
- Dedicated Father

★ VOTE ★

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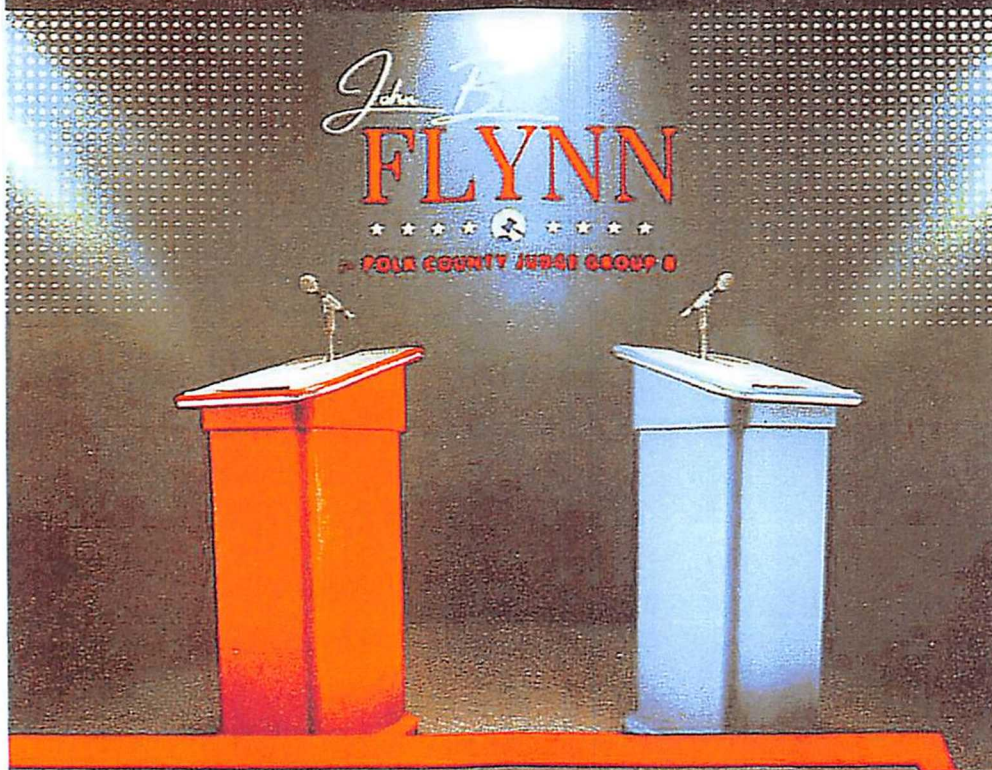
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John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge ...

46m · 🌐

Judicial races are complicated because the rules prohibit the candidates from disclosing so much. So let me make it easy, if you want a judge that will follow the rule of law, supports our law enforcement agencies and will abide by the Constitution the first choice is the right choice! #experiencematters #polkcounty #supportlaw #supportlawenforcement
Vote Flynn



POLK COUNTY JUDGE GROUP 8



- Former Prosecutor in Polk County
- 20 Years of Experience
- Small Business Owner
- Supportive Law Enforcement
- Experience as Victim Advocate
- Ran successful law practice 15 years
- Juris Doctor / Masters in Business Administration
- Advocate of the Constitution
- Endorsed by Law Enforcement
- Endorsed by Sheriff Grady Judd
- Dedicated Father

Political Advertising (non-partisan) paid for and approved
by John B. Flynn, Esq., candidate for County Judge, Polk Co., Florida. 2022.
345 West Davidson St., Suite 202 Bartow, Florida

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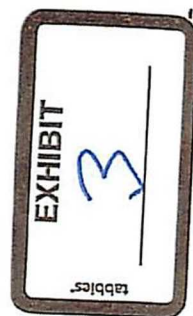
ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 8

John B.
FLYNN

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johnbflynn4judge.com

John B. Flynn for Judge – because experience counts

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Comment

Share



Stefanie Miozza

What is your stance on prosecution of crime? Soft or hard on crime? Follow the law or bend the law?

Like Reply

2



John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge
[Stefanie Miozza](#) I will adhere to the rule of law. My general philosophy is simple;
-Don't take other people's things
-Don't hurt other people
And follow the law if you do these simple things you will like me as a judge and I ask for your vote. If you are a criminal you don't want me on the bench.

Like Reply

3

< John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge's post ...



Jeremy Wycoff

[John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge](#) I've already checked that page, that tells more about you personally. I would like to know if you're tougher on crime right leaning or light on crime more left?

5w Like Reply

1



Author

John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge

Criminals won't be happy to see me on the bench I am tough if someone is found guilty the punishment should sting enough for the person to learn criminal behavior won't be tolerated. I hope that is helpful because it is the truth

5w Like Reply

8



William Liggett


He is running for a county judge position. Mr. Flynn's personal views do not matter. His rulings are required to be based on current law. So stop asking! He may be opposed to recent Supreme Court rulings personally, but must adhere to them by law. So stop asking about his personal views on laws as written!

6w Like Reply

7  

Page replied privately



 Author

John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge
[William Liggett](#) criminals won't like to see me on the bench and of course I will follow the Constitution and the rule of law. Everyone will get a fair trial and be treated with respect and if someone is found guilty the punishment should discourage bad future behavior. Thanks for your interest

6w Like Reply

2 



 Author

John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge

I will adhere to the rule of law.

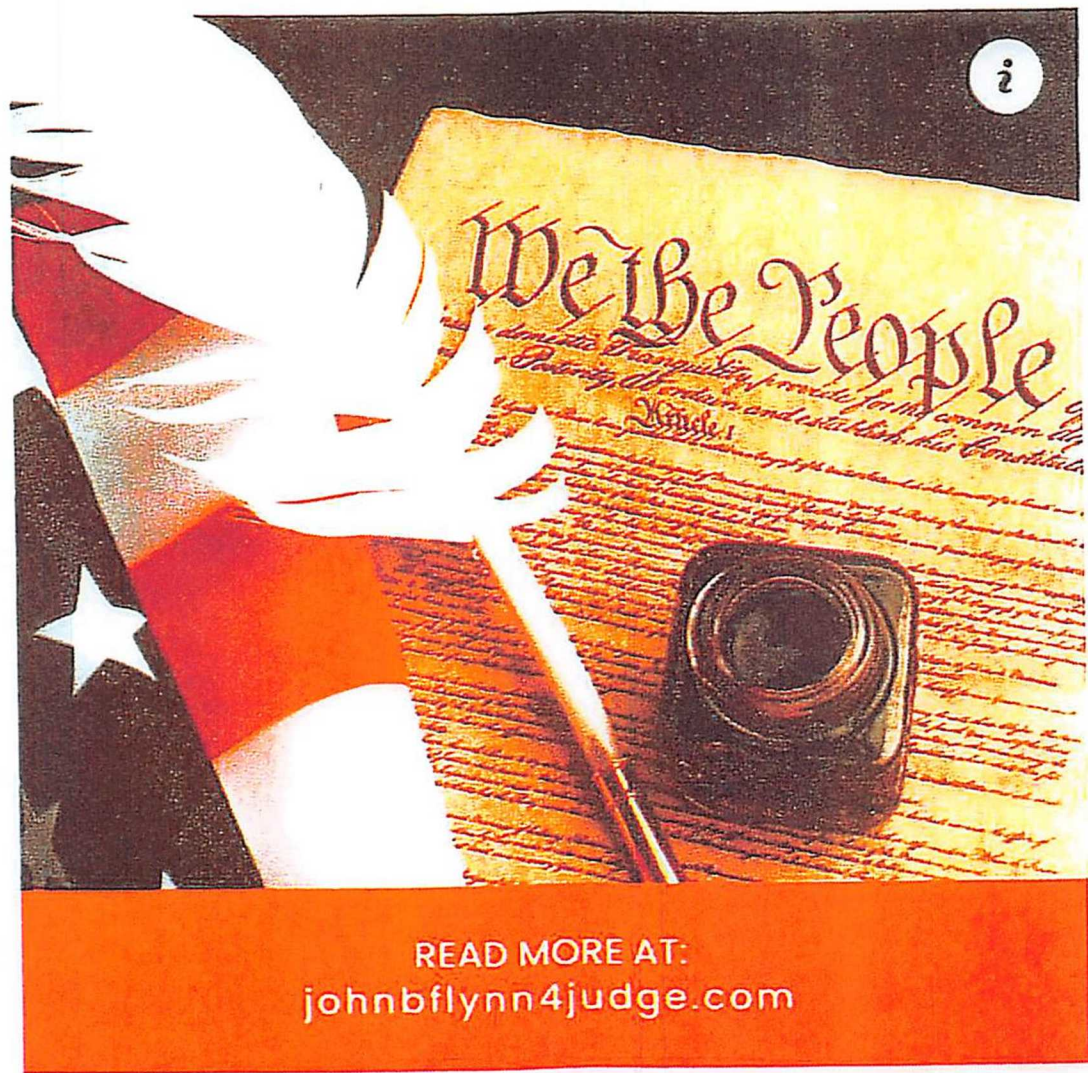


John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge

2d · 🌐

I am running for judge to help keep the County safe for my family and yours.

#polkcountyfl #polkcountyelections
 #floridaelection #judge #experiencematters
 #kindachill #winterhaven #bartowfl
 #lakelandfl #dad #makeadifference #laws
 #constitution #ruleoflaw #vote
 #registertovote #useyourvoice
 #floridaelection #floridagovernment
 #courthouse #supportlawenforcement



READ MORE AT:
johnbflynn4judge.com



John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge's post ...



Write a reply...



David Chormann

It's great that he has experience. So he can defend as well as prosecute.... Fine but we need unbiased JUSTICE. Repeat offenders need to pay the price.... Are you willing to put repeat offenders in jail? I'm tired of these bad guys with a toilet paper roll for their criminal history... and they get an ankle bracelet to go out and offend again. What will you do? I have not seen any statements about being tough on crime. This is a BIG DEAL!

2w Like Reply Page replied privately



Author

John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge
[David Chormann](#) I am not afraid of hurting peoples feelings if I was this would be the wrong job, I will sentence based on history because that is the best indication of future behavior and if they have a history Grady's Hotel (aka the jail) is open 24*7 365 days a year.

2w Like Reply

EXHIBIT
6
tabbles

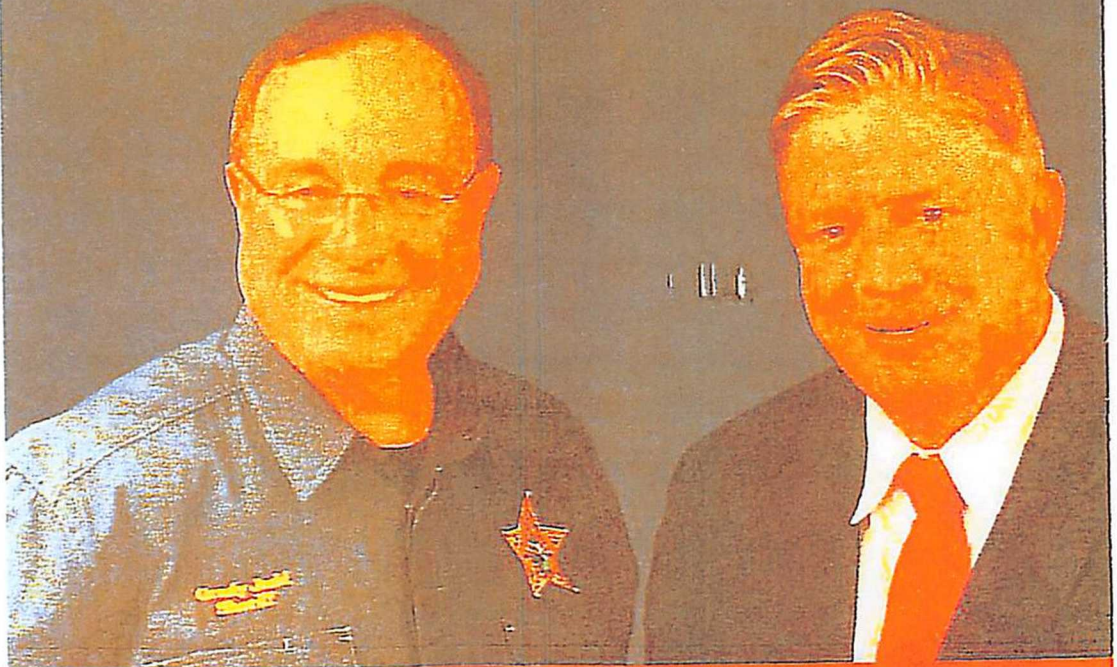


THOSE YOU TRUST,
TRUST IN FLYNN.

★ VOTE ★

John B.
FLYNN

for POLK COUNTY JUDGE GROUP 8

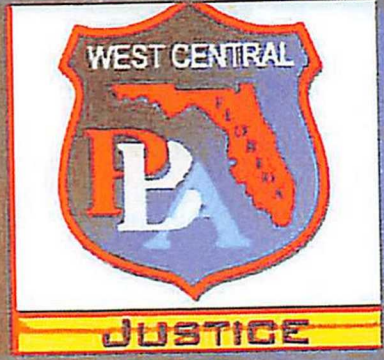
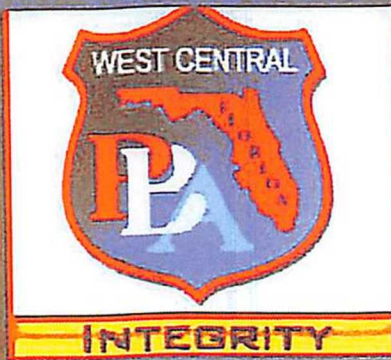
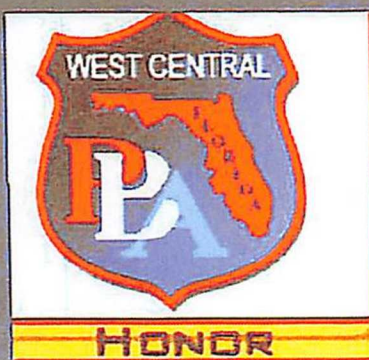


WWW.JOHNBFLYNN+JUDGE.COM

VOTE JOHN B. FLYNN
COUNTY COURT JUDGE, GROUP 8



Endorsed by Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd and
the West Central Florida Police Benevolent
Association



THOSE YOU TRUST, TRUST FLYNN



Cassie Hogan

You would think posting an endorsement for judge from the Sheriff of the same county would be a conflict.

2w Like Reply



 Author

John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge

[Cassie Hogan](#) I will follow the law and abide by the Constitution. I will make all decisions based on those legal principles and will never bend to political pressure.

2w Like Reply



Cassie Hogan

[John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge](#) I'm all for impartial justice

2w Like Reply

1 



Cassie Hogan

[John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge](#) I'm all for impartial justice

2w Like Reply

1



Author

John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge

[Cassie Hogan](#) people have opinion's. Over the years the Sheriff has support several judicial candidates and it has never been a problem. I and confident if elected my record will show that I follow the rule of law.

2w Like Reply

1



Cassie Hogan

[John B. Flynn for Polk County Judge](#) I understand, but what if your accused of being biased

2w Like Reply