

Climate Cabinet Action Fund Names Jim Bonfiglio as Part of “The Climate Cabinet 40”

House District 89 Can Change the Game on Climate with Jim Bonfiglio

September 16, 2020 10:00AM ET - Climate Cabinet Action Fund, an national organization that helps candidates run, win, and legislate on the climate crisis, announces their first annual Climate Cabinet 40, and includes Jim Bonfiglio, Democratic Candidate from Florida House District 89. These 40 state legislative races in 10 key battleground states (Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin) feature the country’s most ardent supporters and opponents of policy tackling climate change.

The announcement is accompanied by the launch of the Climate Cabinet Score Database. This database contains a 100-point score that reflects the voting record on climate and environmental bills for every sitting state legislator in the 10 battleground states.

Bonfiglio’s Climate Cabinet Score of 11 makes his race one of the most vital in Climate Cabinet rankings. The difference between Bonfiglio and his opponent, who voted anti-climate on SB 7018 and SB 410, couldn’t be clearer. The Climate Cabinet’s announcement demonstrates a recognition of Bonfiglio’s support from major climate defense organizations. They know that Jim would fight vehemently to strengthen environmental protections to keep our nation’s climate on the right track for years to come.

“The number one question prospective donors ask us is where their donation will have the most impact,” states Caroline Spears, Cabinet Action Fund’s Executive Director. “We created The Climate Cabinet 40 to help anyone identify the races where their contributions can make the biggest difference.”

To see the Climate Cabinet 40 list, access the full database, and learn more, visit:

www.climatecabinetaction.org

Local Races, Big Impact

While discussions about climate change usually focus on policy decisions made at the national level, much of the decision-making power lies within the state legislatures. It is these governing bodies that make the call on the most critical climate-related decisions, including carbon pollution, illegal air emissions, increasing renewable energy, clean cars, and environmental justice.

These state races afford the average citizen a chance to substantively support pro-climate candidates given their smaller scale. For instance, a highly competitive state house race might only cost \$75K, compared with larger federal races that often require millions of dollars in

contributions. This means that a few hundred \$20 donations go further in supporting pro-climate legislators on the state level than it does in federal and national elections.

The Climate Cabinet 40

To determine which races could have the most significant impact, Climate Cabinet Action Fund compiled a list of over 1,500 state legislators in 10 key battleground states. They analyzed data from climate change-related votes in the last legislative sessions to assign every incumbent a Climate Cabinet Score, and overlaid these Scores with each incumbent's political vulnerability.

Combining this data with the Climate Cabinet Score enabled Climate Cabinet Action Fund to identify the 40 highest stakes state legislative races for climate. Half of these are climate champions who received a perfect Climate Cabinet Score. These 20 officials need support from the climate change community as they're facing tough re-election campaigns. The other half of the list are the biggest climate change obstructionists whom we've identified as the worst on climate in the nation.

Climate Cabinet Score Database

Climate Cabinet is making its database on state legislature voting records available to the public. The trove of information will allow journalists, PACs, and others to conduct detailed analysis on the voting records of individual legislators, as well as states.

About Climate Cabinet Action Fund

The Climate Cabinet Action Fund exists to help candidates run, win, and legislate on the climate crisis. America faces record-breaking hurricanes and fires - but also the opportunity to create millions of jobs in clean energy that solve this existential threat. We have no time to waste - every elected official should have a plan to solve climate change the day they step into office. We help them create one.

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