

SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

Alumnae Profile

Margaret Rowell Good '94HS

Representative (Politician)

Florida House of Representatives

Confidence, Resilience, and Leadership

Florida state representative Margaret Rowell Good says she learned about campaigning, winning, losing, leadership, and resilience at Saint Mary's.

"I ran a hard-fought race for Student Government Association president, losing by only one vote to the formidable Margaret Taylor Blair '94HS," says Ms. Good. "Back then, we did skits in the Chapel in lieu of campaign speeches, and for my presidential bid, I played guitar and sang an unmemorable song. After that loss, I was nominated for vice president, and with the help of my residential faculty and the girls on my hall, we produced an epic skit featuring Aretha Franklin's "Respect," changing the lyrics to: V-I-C-E-P-R-E, that is what I want to be, S-I-D-E-N-T, come on, vote for me! It was well received and cinched the election for me.

"These and so many other experiences at Saint Mary's gave me confidence going into adulthood to take risks. I learned not to be dissuaded by an initial failure. There we no skits in my bid for Florida House, but it did take a lot of creativity and hard to work to win three elections in a 12-month period – values that Saint Mary's cultivated in me."

Rep. Good certainly took a risk when she ran for and won a special election for Florida House District 72 in February 2018, flipping a seat that had not been held by a Democrat in a decade. She ran for reelection in November and won again. She serves as the state representative for Florida House District 72 and as a Florida House Deputy Minority Leader. She is committed to protecting the environment, finding solutions for Florida's water quality issues, enacting sensible legislation proven to curb gun violence, excellent public education, empowering and expanding the middle class, affordable health care, creating a strong economy, and more.

Rep. Good worked in the non-profit community before enrolling in law school. After law school, she, her husband, and dog Barney moved to Sarasota where she began work at Matthews Eastmoore, a civil litigation firm. She became active in the community, serving on the board of directors for the Sarasota Bar Association, the Manasota Track Club, the Florida Bar Young Lawyers Division, and volunteering with the Junior League of Sarasota. She received her B.A. from the University of South Carolina, her M.A. in Germanics from the University of Washington, and her law degree, with honors, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law.

"It is true that Saint Mary's provides girls with a supportive and inclusive learning environment that fosters leadership," says Rep. Good. "I'm so thankful for the years I spent at Saint Mary's."

Margaret certainly embodies the spirit of Saint Mary's women who are resilient, intelligent, resourceful, passionate, and nurturing, and who are educated to make a difference.

Learn more at margaretgood.com.



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