



**ELECT TOMMY HAWES  
AS STATE COUNCIL SECRETARY**



# **IT'S THE WRITE CHOICE**

**HELLO EVERYONE, MY NAME IS TOMMY HAWES. I HAVE BEEN  
A MEMBER OF FLORIDA 4-H FOR 11 YEARS, AND I AM  
RUNNING FOR STATE COUNCIL SECRETARY.**



# Who I am & how I got started in 4-H.

My name is Tommy Hawes. I was born and raised in South Florida, specifically Broward County. From an early age, I have always loved spending time outdoors in our natural world. I enjoy just about anything you can do outside, including competing in archery tournaments, going on runs, and going to the beach. However, fishing is one of my favorite hobbies.

My 4-H journey began when I joined a marine ecology club at just 5 years old. As I progressed through the program, I joined clubs that focused on robotics, archery, livestock, and fishing. I grew up watching my older brother lead club, county, and district meetings, while also staying heavily involved at the state level. I knew that I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I soon started running for officer positions in various clubs, beginning to develop my public speaking and leadership skills at an early age. I began competing in archery tournaments when I was just 8 years old, and since then I have competed in various state and national competitions. Archery has taught me that to be successful, you need to work hard and maintain a high level of work ethic. Through 4-H I have been given countless opportunities to explore my passions and find new ones, develop valuable life skills, and make incredible connections. These are just a few of the many reasons I love the 4-H program.



Pictured above: Shooting archery for the first time.



Pictured above: Attending Florida 4-H Day at the capitol, meeting with Representative Spencer Roach.

# My experience in state 4-H.

Throughout my time as a junior and intermediate 4-H member, I would watch as my older brother and his peers traveled all across the state for 4-H events. I would frequently hear about the incredible experiences they were afforded, and I wanted to engage in those opportunities as well. As such, I joined the Florida 4-H Executive Board as soon as I was able to. At first, I was fearful of the unknowns that came with this new position. I did not know anybody on the Executive Board and felt uneasy about what was to come. However, those feelings left just as fast as they came. Being a member on the Florida 4-H Executive Board has been such an incredible experience and has left a lasting impact on my life. For my first year on the Executive Board, I was placed on the iLEAD Committee and the Ways and Means Committee. On the iLEAD Committee, we had the opportunity to plan the state-wide event for intermediates that introduced them to leadership and state 4-H programs. It was a huge success! On the Ways and Means Committee, we planned fundraisers, set goals, created merchandise, and reviewed budgets for Florida 4-H. This past year I was fortunate enough to serve my second term on the Executive Board. This year I was placed on the iLEAD Committee once again, in addition to the Service Committee. The Service Committee plans service-learning opportunities for the Executive Board and coordinates the state service-learning month. My involvement continues to grow outside of the Executive Board as well. I have attended 4-H Day at the Capitol multiple times, and I seem to love the opportunity more every year. I truly enjoy meeting with representatives and senators to talk with them about 4-H. I have also served as a Work Ready Florida 4-H Ambassador, which has been a wonderful experience. It was last year that I decided to attend 4-H University. After that event I decided, set in stone... that I was going to run for Florida 4-H State Council Office.



Pictured above: Attending Florida 4-H Legislature as a Lobbyist.



Pictured above: Attending iLEAD as a committee member.



Pictured above: I served as a legislative aide at Florida 4-H Legislature for the President of the Senate, Gracie Meradith.

# Why you should elect me as Secretary

Through my time in 4-H, I have had the honor to serve in many officer positions in clubs with over 50+ members. This past year, I have served as the Secretary of the Project Stable 4-H Club in Broward County (which has 54 members). I have also served as Secretary for the Hooked on Nature 4-H club (which had 56 members). These experiences have given me incredible exposure to the position of Secretary in a serious environment while preparing me for larger roles. In my 4-H career, I am constantly searching for opportunities to make a positive impact on my fellow youth. I plan on improving communication channels between the state and local 4-H levels through regular updates and virtual town hall meetings. Furthermore, I plan on traveling the state and connecting with club and county 4-H programs to promote state events while leaving a positive impact on 4-H'ers. I also plan on encouraging youth 4-H advocacy throughout the state. If not for 4-H, I do not know where I would be. 4-H has made a lasting impact on me, from public speaking to general social skills. 4-H teaches youth how to care about, and appreciate each other. 4-H provides a home for youth who have trouble making friends at their schools. 4-H makes people feel welcome, and like they belong. I would like to help ensure that 4-H is making positive lasting impacts on youth for generations to come.

## Experience and Qualification

Throughout my time in the 4-H program and beyond, I have garnered a variety of skills and attributes that are well-suited to serve the 4-H program in a beneficial way in the role of a state officer. Many of my experiences have helped qualify me for the office of Secretary. Some of my recent experiences and qualifications are listed below.

### National Experience and Qualifications

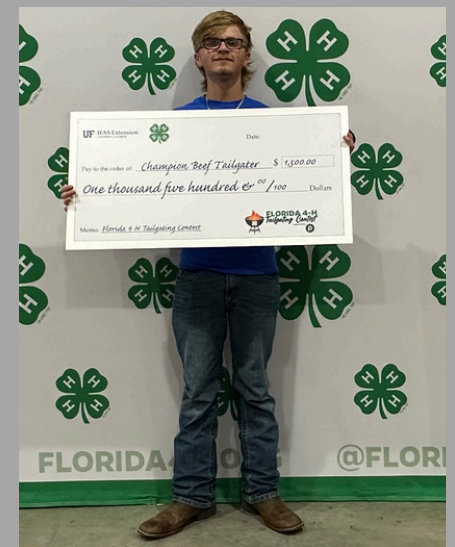
- President of the United States Volunteer Service Gold Award

### State Experience and Qualifications

- Florida 4-H Executive Board Member (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Florida 4-H Executive Board iLEAD Committee Member (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Florida 4-H Ways and Means Committee Member (2022, 2023)
- Florida 4-H Service Committee Member (2023, 2024)
- Work Ready Florida Ambassador

### Local Experience and Qualifications

- Project Stable 4-H Club President
- Project Stable 4-H Club Secretary
- Southern Bore 4-H Club President
- Hooked on Nature 4-H Club Secretary
- Fort Lauderdale Archers 4-H Club Vice President
- Volunteer with numerous 501(c)3 organizations



Pictured above: Taking first place at the Florida 4-H State Tailgate Competition in the beef division.

# Goals and Plans

In the office of Secretary, I plan to improve Florida 4-H by enhancing communication, spreading awareness about our remarkable events, and maintaining accurate records. Below you will find my goals and plans to accomplish this task.

- **Enhancing Communication Channels:** I plan on improving communication between the state and local 4-H levels. I plan on doing so by organizing town hall meetings and creating standard communication channels and information dissemination procedures to ensure all 4-H members feel engaged.
- **Prioritizing Youth Executive Board Engagement:** I commit to serving as an effective, efficient chairman of a Florida 4-H Executive Board Committee, where my priority will be to ensure that youth committee members gain valuable life skills while revitalizing our programs to maintain our current status (in my opinion) as the best in the nation.
- **Keeping Accurate Records:** I plan to keep accurate records of the whereabouts of the Florida 4-H State Council, in turn working closely with the reporter to publish regular updates to keep 4-H members informed statewide.
- **Spreading Awareness About State Events:** I plan to travel across the state and raise awareness about our state 4-H events by engaging with local 4-H levels, increasing participation statewide. I have thoroughly documented the incredible offerings of many state events that I plan to share.

# Goals and Plans (continued)

- **Quality Assurance Tests:** I plan on formatting and releasing quality assurance tests to get valuable feedback from 4-H'ers all across the state. This feedback could provide insight on how we can improve our program and state events.
- **4-H Club of the Month:** I plan on documenting notable achievements, activities, or community service deeds from 4-H clubs statewide. I will work with the reporter to highlight these achievements for the state to see. This will not only incentivize 4-H clubs to actively engage in opportunities, but it will also provide a platform for 4-H members and club leaders to feel noticed and recognized for their accomplishments.

## Why am I running?

I am running for the office of Secretary to enhance the Florida 4-H Program. I feel that my individual skillset is best suited to this prestigious office. I am a passionate advocate for the 4-H program. 4-H has taught me so many valuable life skills that I will forever be grateful for. If I am to be elected, I will work my very best to uphold the positive image of Florida 4-H. I will hold myself to the highest standard of integrity, work ethic, and passionate commitment to the betterment of the Florida 4-H program, and its members. And of course, to make the best better.

# My hobbies and facts about me.

## Fishing



I've been fishing ever since I could first walk. Fishing has left such a positive impact on my life. It has taught me to respect and appreciate wildlife, understand the importance of natural resources, and allowed me to spend valuable time with my family and friends.



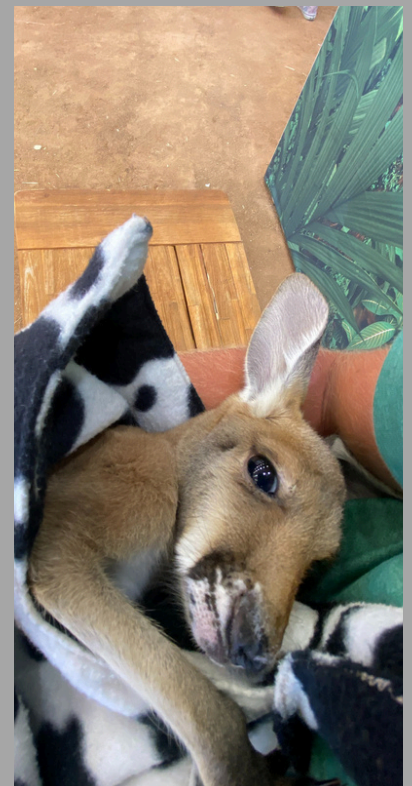
## Archery

I have been competing in archery since I was 8 years old. I have been fortunate enough to win multiple state championships, and even compete on a national level. Archery has taught me to be patient, focus, and work hard.



## Livestock

I enjoy working with, and taking care of livestock. As a part time ranch hand, I get the opportunity to work with all kinds of animals, including everythig from kangaroos to camels.



# My Hobbies and facts about me (continued).

## Football

I enjoy playing football whether it is just for fun or competition. Football allows me to train my athletic ability, while also enhancing my teamwork skills.



## 4-H throughout the years.



Pictured above: National 4-H Week.



Pictured above: Competing in the Florida 4-H State Tailgate Contest.



Pictured above: Volunteering at a nursing home.



Pictured above: Work Ready Florida 4-H Club Ambassadors attending the Florida Farm Bureau Convention.



Pictured above: Broward County at the Florida 4-H State Archery Match.



# 4-H throughout the years (continued).



Pictured above: Practicing for the Florida 4-H State Archery Match.



Pictured above: Caring for a grey kangaroo.



Pictured above: Adjourning sine die at Florida 4-H Legislature.



Pictured above: Attending Florida 4-H Day at the Capitol with President of the Florida 4-H Foundation, Isaac Chandler.



Pictured above: Attending Florida 4-H Day at the Capitol.



Pictured above: Competing at the National 4-H Shooting Sports Competition.



Pictured above: Project stable 4-H Club volunteering at the South Florida Spring Festival.



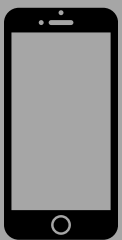
Pictured above: Building a SeaPerch underwater robot.

# Conclusion

Thank you for taking time out of your day to read my campaign graphic. I hope that you are now informed regarding why I would like to be elected as the 2024-2025 Florida 4-H State Council Secretary. I hope to be able to serve you in this office.



**Still not sure who to elect as Secretary?  
Ask the Magic 8 ball!**



**Vote for Tommy Hawes**

