

# POLL REPORT: LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 5

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July 7, 2022

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Conducted June 30 – July 1, 2022 via IVR among likely Republican Primary voters throughout Lee County.





## (A) Executive Summary

As of the official filing deadline, there are three candidates in the Republican Primary for Lee County's 5<sup>th</sup> Commissioner District: John Albion, Joe Gambino, and Mike Greenwell. The shotgun-start filing period was quick, wild, and intense, but after all was said and done, these three candidates were the three to officially throw their name in the hat. With all of this in mind, this poll intends to make sense of where things currently stand.

From a Name ID standpoint, Greenwell is the clear frontrunner. 34% of voters already have a positive opinion of him, as opposed to only 21% for Albion and 13% for Gambino. Additionally, about 1 in 5 voters have a "Very Positive" opinion of Greenwell, which is more than double the value for either of his opponents. On the other side of the coin, Greenwell also enjoys the lowest negativity of the three candidates, at only 19%, compared to 27% for Gambino and 30% for Albion. With the highest positivity ratings and the lowest negativity ratings, it's clear that Greenwell is starting this race as the most popular candidate – by a sizeable margin.

Importantly, we also asked respondents who they plan on voting for in the election. Unsurprisingly, Greenwell again emerged as the clear frontrunner. Even though a majority of voters indicated that they were undecided (57%), a full 31% of the electorate indicated that they plan on voting for Greenwell. Starting off with about a third of the vote in a three-way race *before* doing any significant campaigning is an impressive feat which shows quite clearly that Greenwell is the early favorite to win this race. Neither Albion (8%) nor Gambino (3%) even break into the double digits.

To further illustrate the massive head start Greenwell enjoys, we removed undecided voters from the equation and focused only on those who chose one of the three candidates. Among this group, Greenwell earned 73% of the vote, compared to only 20% for Albion and 7% for Gambino. With this massive of an early lead, and under the assumption that Greenwell has a reasonable war chest of campaign funds ready to effectively deploy, it is difficult to imagine a situation in which Albion or Gambino could overtake him in the remaining few weeks before Election Day.

That's not to say it's impossible – but, it would take serious political malpractice on Greenwell's part to fumble a race this winnable. Election simulations agree: after 10,000 simulations using Victory Insights' proprietary election simulation software, 100% of them determined that if the election were held today, Greenwell would win. Albion was the favorite for second place, and Gambino was squarely back in third place.

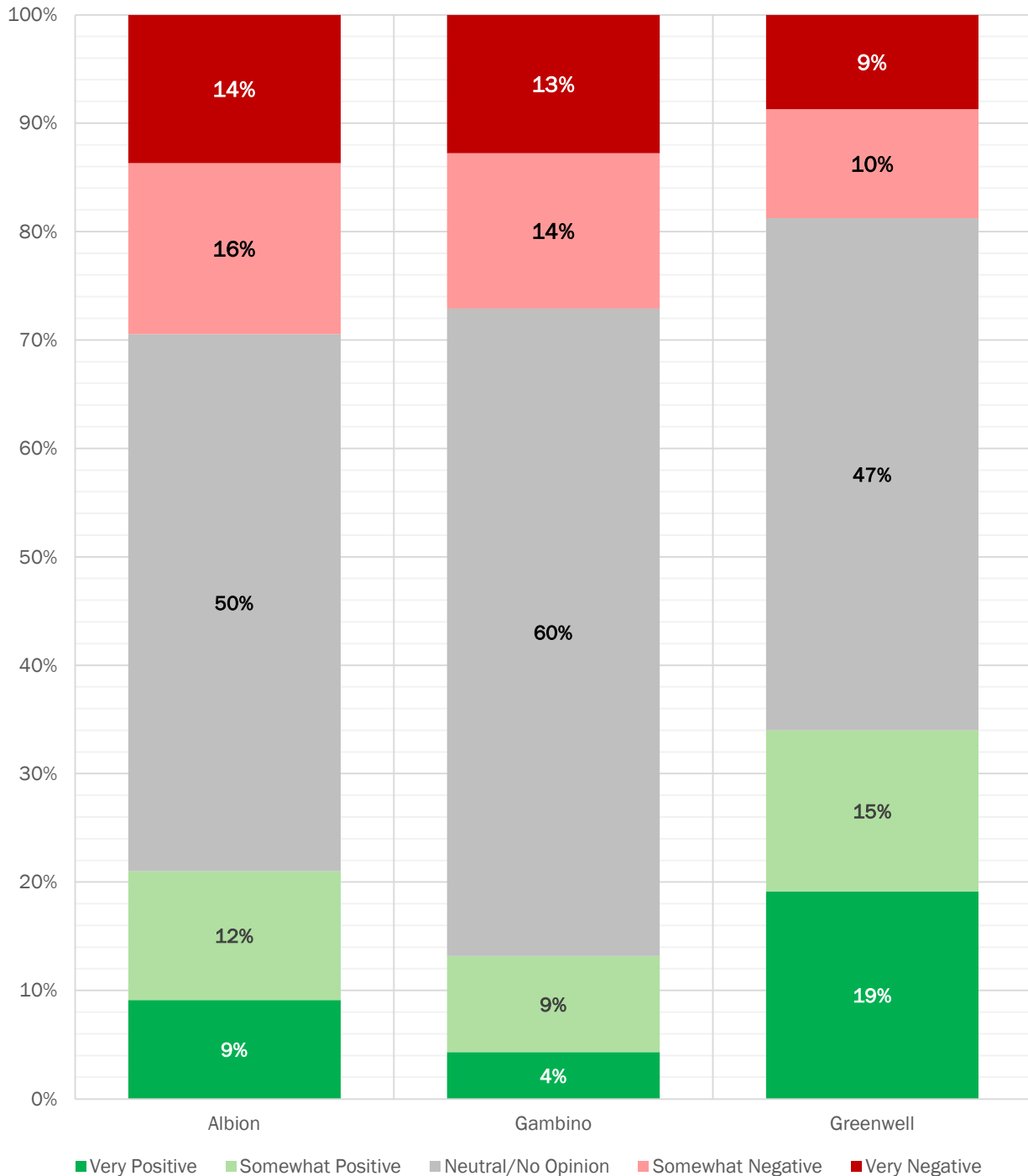
Let's be honest here: County Commission races are rarely complicated. Candidates with significant early support, a winning strategy, and sufficient campaign funding are usually the ones who win. From the outside looking in, it appears that Greenwell checks at least two of those three boxes, and thus is the clear early favorite to win this race.

**Read on to learn more.**



## (B) Candidate Favorability

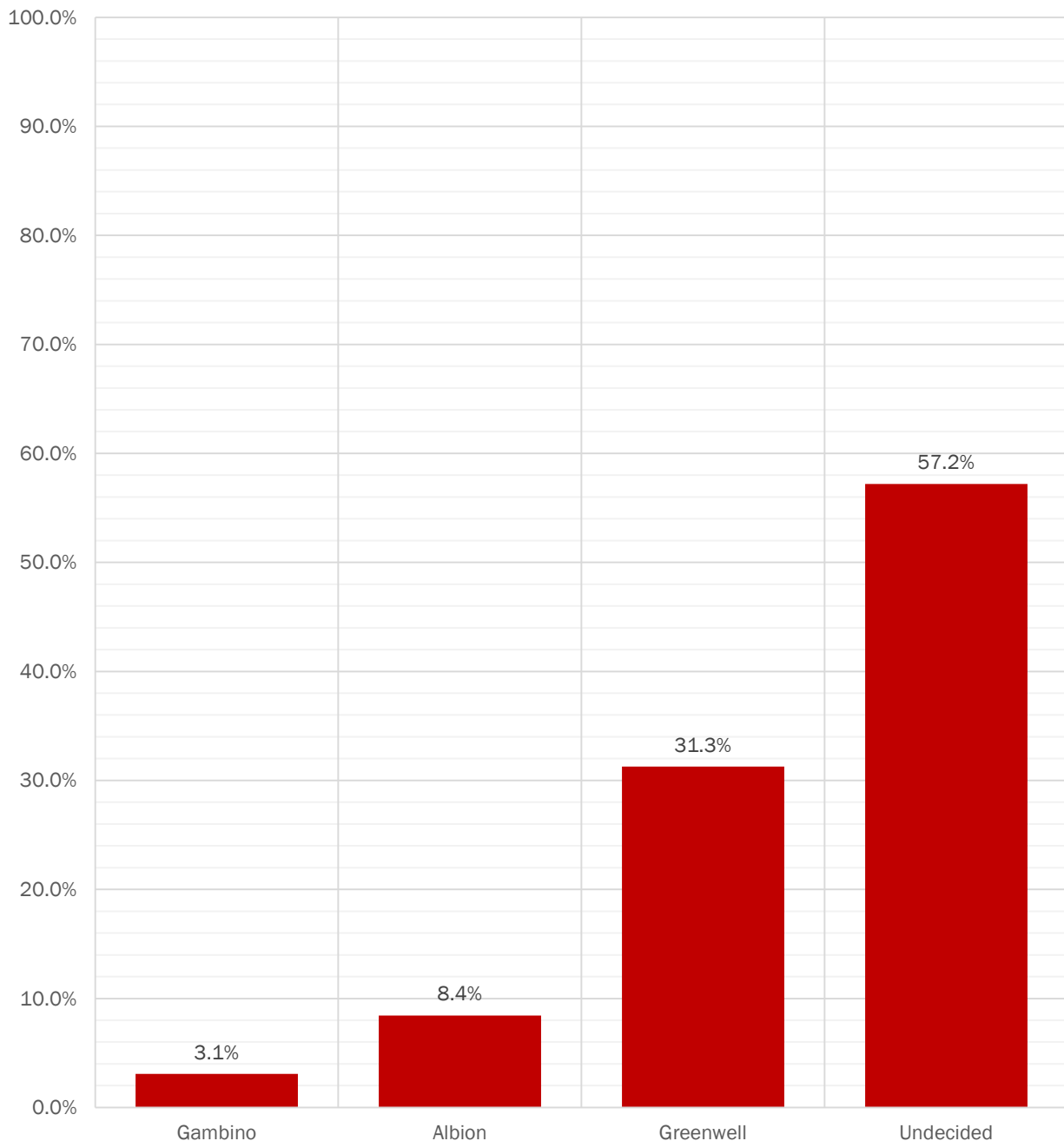
Respondents were asked to give their opinion on the three candidates running for Lee County Commission District 5. Of the three, Greenwell had the highest positive ratings by more than 10%, and more than double the “Very Positive” ratings of any other candidate in the race. With the highest positivity ratings and lowest negativity ratings, Greenwell is clearly the most popular of the three. Albion is likely the second most popular, with 8% higher positivity than Gambino, but neither Albion nor Gambino rivals Greenwell yet.





## (C) Lee County Commissioner Ballot

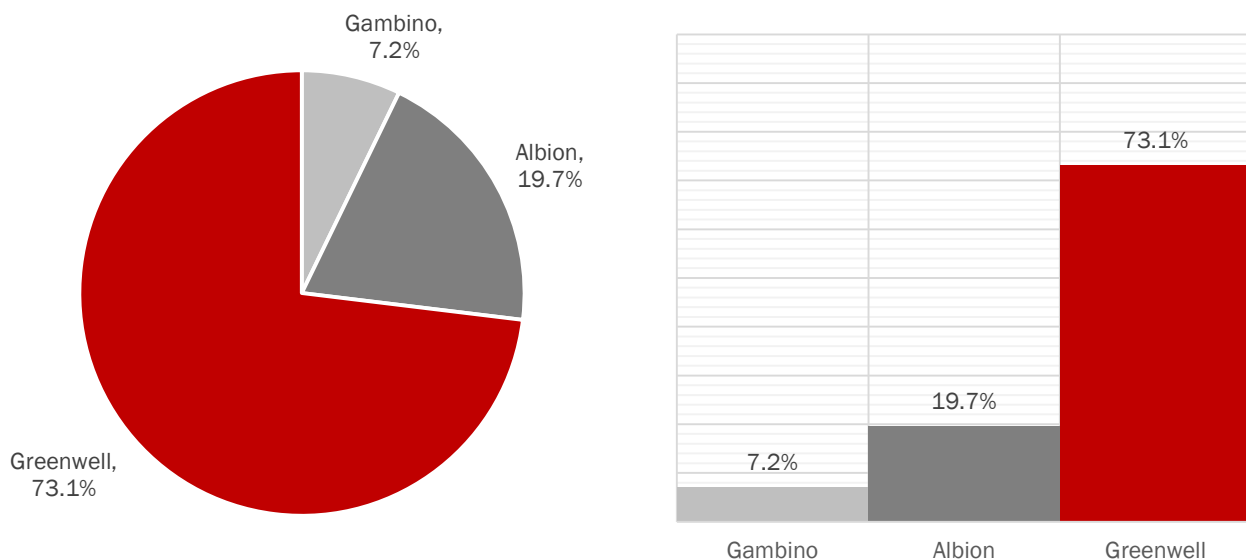
Poll respondents were asked who they would vote for in the Republican Primary for Lee County's 5<sup>th</sup> Commissioner District, if the election were held today. While the majority (57.2%) of respondents were undecided, Greenwell captured 31.3% of the vote, far more than Albion and Gambino, who were both in the single digits. Realistically, it will be difficult for Albion or Gambino to defeat Greenwell, assuming that Greenwell's campaign will be well-funded and well-run. A head start of more than 20% over all opponents is a serious advantage for Greenwell, and it would be foolish to not recognize it as such. This isn't to say that Greenwell is undefeatable – rather, it's simply a daunting task to attempt.





## (D) Lee County Commissioner Ballot (Decided Voters)

Among only those voters who have made up their minds on a candidate, Greenwell captures the vast majority of the votes, with more than 73%. Albion sits far back in second place with less than 20%, while Gambino remains in the single digits. This is just another way of looking at the data from Section C, but regardless, it illustrates the commanding lead that Greenwell currently enjoys.



## (E) 10KSim: Lee County Commissioner

Using 10KSim, Victory Insights’ proprietary election simulation software, we simulated the race for Lee County’s 5<sup>th</sup> County Commission District 10,000 times. The results showed that, if the election were held today, Greenwell would win every single time. Albion would almost certainly come in second place, while Gambino would almost certainly come in third place. This is yet another encouraging piece of evidence for Greenwell, who has already been established as the frontrunner.

		Simulated Finishing Position		
		1st	2nd	3rd
Candidate	Gambino	0%	1%	99%
	Albion	0%	99%	1%
	Greenwell	100%	0%	0%



## (F) Demographic Verification

To ensure that our poll results are generalizable to the Republican Primary electorate, it's essential that the demographics of our sample match the demographics of the electorate. In the tables below, we display the demographic similarities of our poll to the electorate across two dimensions – age and geography. For geography, two metrics are used: (1) County Commissioner District, a more granular measure, and (2) Prior Congressional District, a more high-level measure. Across all three variables (age group, county commissioner district, and congressional district), our poll had an average A.A.D. of only 1.2%, indicating that our sample was a nearly 99% perfect match for the electorate in regards to these three variables, and thus the results can be trusted.

Age Group	Electorate	Poll	Difference
18-49	13.3%	12.3%	-1.0%
50-64	25.9%	26.1%	+0.2%
65+	60.8%	61.7%	+0.9%
<i>Avg. Absolute Difference</i>			0.7%

County Commissioner District	Electorate	Poll	Difference
1	23.0%	26.1%	+3.2%
2	22.5%	22.0%	-0.5%
3	26.2%	24.3%	-1.9%
4	15.5%	15.3%	-0.1%
5	12.9%	12.2%	-0.7%
<i>Avg. Absolute Difference</i>			1.3%

Prior Congressional District	Electorate	Poll	Difference
17	12.0%	10.3%	-1.7%
19	88.0%	89.7%	+1.7%
<i>Avg. Absolute Difference</i>			1.7%

Variables	A.A.D.
Age Group	0.7%
County Commissioner District	1.3%
Prior Congressional District	1.7%
<i>Average A.A.D.</i>	1.2%



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