



WWW.Largodemocrats.org
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From the President's Desk:

By Mary Lou Ambrose



We all know that we are in an extraordinary crisis right now. The United States Government has been ignoring the health crisis which any rational person has understood for many months would become a pandemic.

We could all see it coming, that is all of us except Donald Trump. He lied to the country from the day that the Chinese government finally admitted that it had a serious, out of control, epidemic on its hands. Much like Donald, Xi tried to keep this disease that was ravaging his country a secret. The result has been that almost every country is now in the grip of a disease that has run

completely out of control. We may well be on the way to the horrible medical situations in China, Iran and Italy because we did not react.

Our President has ignored the problem, stupidly telling people that there was really no big problem and it would soon go away. He claimed that there would be a vaccine "shortly." He said this in front of the scientists who, given the

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meeting

Next regular meeting will be held at: Acropolis Restaurant 1170 Starkey Road Largo, FL

No meeting
We are erring on the side of caution to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.
We want all of our members to be healthy, and to stay that way.
By complying with the social gatherings directives, we have cancelled this month's meeting.

COVID-19 INFORMATION

FL Dept of Health in Pinellas - Epidemiology (727) 824-6932

The Florida Department of Health (Department) is working closely with the Centers for Disease Con-



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**COVID-19 Call Center available 24/7 +1 (866) 779-6121 or
or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov**

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trol and Prevention (CDC) to monitor the current outbreak of COVID-19 and is actively working to ensure that the most up-to-date CDC guidance is quickly and accurately disseminated to local partners. Monitor the sites below for the latest case counts and protective information as we work with our local partners to investigate, confirm, contain and report suspected cases

Pinellas County Announces Updates to COVID-19 Response

[This is an important message from Pinellas County Government.](#)

As part of the response to COVID-19, Pinellas County has taken these additional

steps to help protect the community:

- The Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners declared a Local State of Emergency today. This enables the County Administrator to work with our partners and municipalities and provide assistance where needed.
- The Citizen Information Center was opened as well, to answer citizens questions about non-health related concerns. The number is (727) 464-4333. The CIC will be open on Friday from 3-8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and Sunday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The weekday hours will be based on the need and an-

nounced.

Health concerns or questions should continue to go to the Florida Department of Health of Pinellas County 24-hour COVID-19 Hotline at (866) 779-6121.

If you are experiencing a medical emergency, call 911. If you have, or are being evaluated for COVID-19, notify the dispatcher.

What everyone should know

COVID-19 can spread from person to person through small droplets from the nose or mouth, including when an individual coughs or sneezes. These droplets may land on objects and surfaces. Other people may contract COVID-19 by touching these objects or surfaces, then touching their eyes, nose or mouth.

Symptoms of COVID-19 are fever, cough and shortness of breath. Symptoms may appear in as few as two days or as many as 14 days following exposure. Most

people recover from COVID-19 without needing special treatment. The elderly and those with underlying medical problems like high blood pressure, heart problems and diabetes are more likely to develop serious illness.

There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19. The best way to prevent illness is to avoid being exposed to the virus. The Department recommends everyday preventive actions to help stop the spread of respiratory diseases, including:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick;
- Staying home when you are sick and avoiding contact with persons in poor health;
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands;
- Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then disposing of the tissue;
- Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds,

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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
@AOC

Every minute, hour, & day that Fed action is delayed on Coronavirus puts lives at risk.

The House has been hammering away at a coronavirus relief package. We just called in every member to vote on & pass a deal at almost 1am.

[#WheresMitch](#) McConnell?

Taking the weekend off.

Covid from prior page

especially after going to the bathroom, before eating, after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing;

- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Always wash hands with soap and water if hands are visibly dirty; and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.

he CDC does not recommend that asymptomatic, healthy people wear a facemask to protect themselves from respiratory diseases, including COVID-19. Facemasks should be used by people who show symptoms of COVID-19 to help prevent the spread of the disease to others. The use of facemasks is also crucial for [health workers](#) and [people who are taking care of someone in close settings](#) (at home or in a health care facility).

A person that experiences a fever and symptoms of respiratory illness, such as fever, cough or shortness of breath, within 14 days after travel from China, Italy, Iran, South Korea, Japan and any other destination under [CDC travel adviso-](#)

ry should call ahead to their health care provider and local CHD and mention their recent travel or close contact.



For information from the CDC on COVID-19, please visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

For Florida Department of Health information, please visit: <http://www.floridahealth.gov/>

Information on COVID-19 prevention:

Stop the Spread of Germs <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/stop-the-spread-of-germs.pdf>

Symptoms of Coronavirus <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/COVID19-symptoms.pdf>

For information in Spanish and Chinese, go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/communication/factsheets.html>.

FL Dept of Health in Pinellas - Epidemiology [\(727\) 824-6932](tel:(727)824-6932)

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opportunity, told the truth – that this was going to get a lot worse before it got better, and that a vaccine would not be available for at least a year, probably longer. Trump came back on and told the same lies that scientists had just discounted. Would you have expected anything different? This week's national broadcast was a disaster, igniting yet another downturn in the Dow Jones Index. There was a lot of talk from Trump, blaming others, but ignoring the lack of testing kits and the processing for them. We still do not have the medical devices need to help people recover. We do not even know what we need to do in order to self-quarantine.

It is a waste of time to blame Trump. This self-named "very stable genius" is simply a very insecure, bottom of the class spoiled child. Rather than blame Trump, I blame the Republicans in the United

States Senate. They know that Trump is dangerous. They knew it before he became President, and many spoke against him. Amazingly, once he became President, they began to march blindly behind him. Out of respect? Not likely. Out of fear of his control over his base? Probably. He has threatened their seats by funding a far-right primary challenger against them. No matter why they follow his lead, they have ignored their oaths of office and sat silently by while he decimated the Constitution. There was every legal reason to put him out of office after the Impeachment. They chose to ignore the truth. They know better but they cared more about their personal power than about the Constitution. The only way out is to throw every Republican Senator who acquitted Trump and is running for reelection in 2020. That is not possible, but we must flip a minimum of four Senate seats and there is a possibility we could do

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that. In reality as long as we have DINO's like Joe Manchin in the Senate, we need a bigger majority. After the 2020 election, the Democrats must control the White House, the Senate and the House.

Every time we have an important election, we say it is the most important election of our lifetime. In actuality, the 2016 election was one of those, and we blew it. We absolutely cannot do that again. This election is a must-win. Our Constitution has been decimated; our system of governing is not in place. Our alliances are in shatters and our President respects only dictators and evil strongmen. When Trump won in 2016, two professors of Constitutional Law said we would be OK as long as he did not undermine our Democracy. But that is what Trump has done and continues to do. We have this one last chance to put it back on track. We cannot blow this election too. Our Democracy depends on it ☐

HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY MEETING



Our speakers were from CAIR Florida,. Left to right:

Thania Diaz Dlevenger , CAIR-Florida's Civil Rights Director , Christine, and Norma Henning , Immigration & Civil Rights Attorney



They took turns describing CAIR's mission and programs. Christine, a relatively recent convert to Islam, gave a person story of her challenges and experience. She now works for CAIR-FL.

It was a very important and moving program.



**TRUMP'S AMERICA:
THE RICH GET RICHER
THE SICK GET SICKER**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Local elections, must-see TV with Democratic Presidential debates and primaries, and, oh yes, the Florida Legislature is in session. Here is an admittedly not all inclusive list of key dates for the next few weeks.

March 15

Presidential Debate from Washington, D.C. CNN hosting.

March 17—10 am—2pm

Florida Primary and local Municipal elections. Also Arizona, Illinois, Ohio. Turn out to vote for who will represent you at the Democratic National Convention. NALC 1477, 5369 Park Blvd N, Pinellas Park, FL 33781

April 4

Local (and statewide) voting to select delegates to Democratic Convention.

April 18

Largo Mid/Pinellas Democratic Club annual picnic at Taylor Lake Park.

May 2

Truth & Justice Gala Dinner with Special Guest Congresswoman Val Demmings



facebook.com/Largodemocrats/
www.largodemocrats.com



11th Annual Democratic Picnic

Saturday, April 18, 2020

Politics in the Park

SODAS!
Lemonade!



11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Pavillion 4
Taylor Lake Park
(across from Pinecrest Golf on 8th Ave
1100 8th Ave SW)
Largo

**Super Dooper
HOT DOGS!**



Statewide and local Democratic office holders and candidates will be on hand to meet voters and speak.

**Beer Brats!
Bratwurst!**



JOIN US!



Admission is \$10.
Tickets may be obtained from:
Mary Lou Ambrose 433-4045
or Bob Glass 319-6031



We're going green!
Don't forget to
bring your own plate
& utensils and re-usable water bottle.

Contact Mary Lou Ambrose (433-4045)

Bob Glass (319-6031) or

Wanda Schwerer (637-7314)

to purchase your tickets. All proceeds go into our Political Committee for supporting our local candidates.

You may purchase your ticket—or donate—online at:

<https://lmpprogressivepc.com/>

UPCOMING SPEAKERS

April— We have invited Susan Glickman to join us in April to bring us up-to-date on the efforts to bring Clean Energy to Florida.

Ed Dye with the Climate Change Reality Project was supposed to be our speaker in March. This is an important presentation, so we will try to bring him back later in the year.



YOUR Democratic Club



Dues are \$15 per year, payable in January of each year. Dues paid in the last quarter of the prior year will carry forward into the new year.

If you have not already paid, Since there is no meeting in March, you can pay online at:

<https://www.largodemocrats.org/get-involved>



Tuesday Morning Game Changers News

Last Monday's (March 2) menu for the 75 kids in Ridgecrest included: lasagna, mac n' cheese, green salad, raw veggies with dressing, fruit salad, Italian bread, drinks, cookies, and a surprise....cake!

The TMGC's bought, cooked, and served a meal to the always hungry young people. We heard "thank you" many times. As always it was great fun to spend time with the kids and their very special leaders. For many years the moms of Ridgecrest and other leaders there have provided a weekly time to connect with each kid and then to provide some food before sending them home. It is our pleasure to occasionally join them.

The Game Changers (plus others) who provided the food and service include: Steve Flammia, Sharon Reidy, Cathy Ewing, Faith Devitt, Pam Beyersdorf, Sue McCormack, Judy Sellers, Marie Zeits, Peggy Tucker, Jutta Kohl, Kathleen Jamison, and Ginny Nelson. Thank You All!

Beer night! 2nd Friday of each month is Beer Night! 7:00—9:00 PM. And if you're hungry — Bar-B-Q!

Hammersteine's Brewery

1158 7th Street NW

Largo 33770

There is a road closure so use your GPS.



The Game Changers meet every Tuesday morning at 9:00 am for breakfast and socializing.

We are at the Acropol, 1170 Starkey Road, Largo 33771. Please join us!

You are invited to join us at:

Up-coming Post Card Writing Events

RSVP to Ginny @ ginny.nelson72@gmail.com to get started writing from home .



CONTACT US

2250 1st Avenue North
St Petersburg, FL 33713
Office hours vary based on volunteer ability. Please call or email for more information.



Join the In It to Win It Team

Become an **In It to Win It** sustaining donor! By committing to a monthly, recurring donation, you will make the critical work of the Pinellas Democratic

Party possible. *How does it work?*

Click on the image above and under "Make it Monthly" select "Yes, Count me in!" then set your monthly donation amount. Give what you can, every cent counts! You may cancel your donation at any-time by calling the office at 727-327-2796.

Mark your calendars and get out your checkbook! It's time to attend the Pinellas County Democrats First Annual Truth and Justice Dinner!

Featuring Florida's Own "Rep. Val Demmings"

Pinellas County Democrats

TRUTH AND JUSTICE DINNER

A Fundraiser to Get Out the Vote in 2020

Tickets on Sale
3/4/2020

Sponsorship Opportunities
events@pinellasdemocrats.com

May 2nd, 2020
Cocktails 6pm, Dinner 7pm
Hilton Carillon
950 Lake Carillon Dr, St. Petersburg

with special guest
**U. S Congresswoman
Val Demmings**





From the Chair's Desk

We made history last week! Thanks to your hard work, we now have over five million active registered Democrats in Florida! And our pace keeps increasing month-after-month. We are taking nothing for granted and are all-in to win in 2020!

Meanwhile, the Trump administration's backward priorities are on full display. Trump's carelessness with our health and safety when faced with an international health crisis is deeply alarming. His draconian immigration policy is putting 100,000 Floridian children at risk of losing their health care because their parents fear deportation. Trump is hell bent on punishing immigrant families with cruel laws -- and we can't let this happen for another four years. Thank you for fiercely working to defeat him and his many failed policies in November

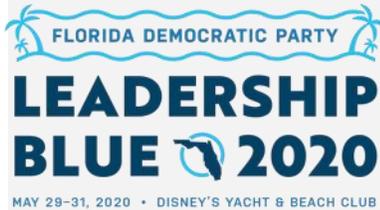
As of Sunday, March 8, there are exactly 240 days -- 7 months, 28 days -- to November 3, 2020.

Forward,

Tervi

Chair

Florida Democratic Party
We are pleased to announce the location for our 2020 Leadership Blue weekend!



Leadership Blue will take place **June 7-9** at Disney's Yacht and Beach Club Resort

You can book your room by calling 407-939-4686 and requesting a Florida Democratic Party Leadership Blue 2020 room.

We encourage you to book your room early as we expect high attendance. In addition to our annual Leadership Blue Gala, the weekend will include National Convention district-level delegate meetings for the selection of our PLEO, At-Large, and Alternate delegates.

[Click here for more information!](#)

Voter Protection

Florida has never conducted a massive statewide voter protection effort during the Presidential Preference Primary (PPP). As of March 2, here's what our voter protection effort looks like:



- 1,306 voter protection volunteers recruited
- 808 trained voter protection volunteers
- 717 credentialed PPP poll watchers
- 36 counties with voter protection teams
- 7 counties with voter protection volunteers at PPP polling places
- 24-hour Voter Protection Hotline
- 3 full-time voter protection attorneys on staff
- 2 FDP regional voter protection call centers

This is amazing progress toward our goal of having an army of 15,000 trained volunteers working at polling places across the state in November. [Sign up here to become a voter protection volunteer](#). We also need volunteers to work on Election Day at our regional call centers in Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale. [Sign up here for Call Center Shifts](#).

As the GOP continues efforts to suppress the vote, it's also important we regularly share information about our Voter Protection Hotline. Use our [Voter Protection Hotline Toolkit](#) for sample posts, tweets, and graphics.

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FDP's Weekly Talkers

March 2 2020

The Florida Democratic Party had over 250 events across the state to register voters ahead of the February 18 deadline to register for the Florida Democratic Presidential Primary on March 17. So let's get out there and tell Floridians to register to vote and come out to the polls for their pick to replace Donald Trump!

Top Lines Of The Week

- February 18th was the last day to register to vote in the Democratic Primary
- FDP is making a big push to vote-by-mail through our site fl.dems.vote.

FDP's Launched A Massive 2020 Mobilization And Registration Effor

The party has invested over \$5.2 million dollars to prepare the state to defeat Donald Trump, and register over 200,000 voters by the start of the general election. FDP began our field efforts in June of 2019, registering 31,000 voters and completing 23,000 volunteer shifts in 2019.

- The party has also been preparing for the general election like never before:
 - The party has brought on nearly 50 field organizers sooner than ever before.
 - Launched a municipal victory program.
 - Launched Campaign Blueprint with our digital campaign plan builder.
- Launched its voter protection program, including its voter protection hotline a year earlier than ever before.

The Tweets Around Town:

Tweets of interest from staff, activists, leaders, and media.

- @JuanPenalosa: After @realdonaldtrump fails to convince us that his inept administration has #Coronavirus under control, Trump's Chief of Staff says journalists efforts to keep us informed is a plot to take down Trump, encouraging Americans to ignore #Coronavirus news.
- @AlexMorash: Willie Geist on #MorningJoe: Mike Pence is so loyal to Trump, can he really be trusted to head a task force on coronavirus with Trump saying the virus will just disappear? Joe Scarborough notes "Mr. President ... talk like that will just make the markets collapse even faster."
- @FlaDems: BREAKING: Governor Ron DeSantis is not releasing the number of people tested for Coronavirus in Florida and what areas may be affected. DeSantis' habit of hiding info from the public is putting Floridians at a greater risk.

FDP's Weekly Talkers

Articles We Are Circulating

These are articles we think are of interest to read or share.

- The American Independent: [Florida sets new record with 5 million registered Democratic voters](#)
- Orlando Sentinel: [Ten terrible moves by an arrogant Florida Legislature](#) / Editorial
- The News-Press: [2020 elections: There's an 'inactive' voter list. Are you on it?](#)



Opinion & Letters

Trump's Dangerously Incompetent Response to Coronavirus

- The American people need a well-coordinated, whole-of-government, fully funded response to keep them safe from the coronavirus threat. Instead, Trump has delivered a haphazard and late response.
- Trump putting Pence in charge of the government's response to the coronavirus is yet another indicator that Trump is not taking the threat to Americans seriously enough. As governor of Indiana, Pence [exacerbated an HIV outbreak](#) by putting politics ahead of public health. Pence's policies more than [doubled](#) the number of HIV cases during the crisis.
- The Trump administration's *dangerous incompetence is showing and putting Americans' health and safety at risk. The administration is failing to even coordinate with itself.*
- Trump contradicted his own public health officials by saying a vaccine would be ready "rapidly" at the very same press conference where they said it wouldn't be available for 1–1.5 years.
- Trump has claimed the risk to Americans is low and coronavirus will just "[disappear](#)," but health experts in his administration have warned the virus will cause a "substantial disruption" to Americans lives.
- The White House finally recognized the value of funding these programs, but the \$1.25 billion in new funds it requested is too little too late. Trump is asking for far less than experts say is necessary to fight the spreading disease, so congressional Democrats are proposing a much more robust emergency funding package.
- Democrats' funding proposal doesn't steal funding from other priorities, prevents Trump from using the funds for anything other than fighting coronavirus and infectious diseases, ensures vaccines are affordable and readily available, provides loans to small businesses impacted by the outbreak, and reimburses state and local governments for costs incurred while assisting the federal response to the outbreak.

The response to this emergency should be above politics, but Trump has [downplayed](#) the danger from the outbreak in an effort to help his [reelection campaign](#). Trump is more concerned about his own image than the health and safety of Americans.

While Trump calls criticisms of his administration's lack of preparedness for the virus a "[hoax](#)," and falsely claims experts' warnings about a potential outbreak are a ploy to hurt him politically, Democrats are focused on addressing this public health crisis in a smart, scientific and strategic way. 🙏



James Comey
@Comey

Even without competent presidential leadership, we all have the chance to be public servants.

"These dark days will be worth all they cost us if they teach us that our true destiny is not to be ministered unto, but to minister to ourselves and to our fellow [humans]" — FDR 1933

fighting coronavirus and infectious diseases, ensures vaccines are affordable and readily available, provides

Contact your Federal Representative!

Senator Rick Scott Washington, D.C.
United States Senate 83 Russell Senate
Office Building Washington, DC 20510
Phone: 202-224-5274
Email: help@rickscott.senate.gov

Senator Marco Rubio United States Senate,
284 Russell Senate Office Building
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3041, Toll free: (866) 630-7106 Fax: (202)
228-5171, TTY: (407) 254-5548 Tampa:
5201 West Kennedy Boulevard Suite 530
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University of South Florida – St. Pete
Williams House** 511 Second St. S. St.
Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 873-
2817 Office Hours: Please call in ad-
vance. Note: Please mail all items to the
Tampa District Office address.

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33545 PHONE: (813) 501-4942 FAX:
(813) 501-4944_

For the most up-to-date information on your Federal, State, and County representatives including all contact information, Go to :

<https://www.votepinellas.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=R9k4r7jkBB4%3d&portalid=72>

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All of the officers were elected March, 2019. Next election is March, 2021

Additional contact information is available on www.largodemocrats.org.

Why Join the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club?

The club provides a variety of ways to stay informed and involved in local, county, state and national political discussions. But we're not just about talk. We will be part of the action in finding the best candidates and getting them elected, as well as supporting the most important causes. We will write letters, make phone calls, knock on doors, register voters, and whatever else it takes to bring change to our communities, our county and our state. But, just as important, we also want to make time to enjoy each other's company and celebrate each other's efforts at social events throughout the year. Grassroots politics is effective and fun!

As a member of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club you can:

- Meet other active Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials and potential candidates
- Raise funds and work for candidates
- Participate in community service projects
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national importance
- Attend special events and monthly meetings.

