



From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*



My first thought when Donald Trump was declared President in 2016 was that it was going to be a long time until Election Day 2020. I feared the worst, and as it turned out, the worst was far beyond what I imagined. This country has suffered through a lot in the intervening years. We all knew he would be a terrible President, but we had no idea what harm he could inflict on our people and our Democracy. Assuming

Joe and Kamala win in November, our work will have just begun. We must start with voting.

First, Democrats must vote in larger numbers than ever before. While Trump's claims that mail-in-ballots will be subject to fraud, I remind you that the only ballot fraud in vote-by-mail that I know of was last year in North Carolina where Republican activists picked up ballots from voters and altered or completed them. The process in counting votes that are sent by mail has never been a problem. That is simply more of Trump's plan to disrupt the election process.

Before I get into details, this Newsletter has a section where you can get comprehensive answers to your questions on voting. The answers are based on a detailed, multi-page article put out by Heidi Sanchez who has a lot of experience and serious interest in making sure votes are counted. Please give it a look ([page 3](#)). This is more complete and specific than the Voters' Guide discussed below. The Supervisor of Elections office has a publication giving information on the rules for voting. (www.voteinellas.com). It has information but is vague in some areas. If you do not get the answer you need

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Desk	1-2
Voting Information	3
2020 Ballot Initiatives	4
Tuesday Morning Game Changers	5-6
CANDIDATES!!!	7-12
Presidential Debates Set!	13
Membership	14
District 66 news	15
District 67 news	16
Florida Dem Party	17-19
Opinion & Letters	20-22
Representatives	23

Con't → M LA page 2


meeting

**VIRTUAL
MEETING**

September 21, 2020

7:00 pm

Invitations to the ZOOM meeting will go to members who have paid their dues for 2020 .

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

MLA from page 1

here or in the Guide, check Heidi's information first.

Early voting is a way to vote directly so it will be counted first on election day. There will likely be shorter lines, so it is safer. (In previous years we were sometimes the only voters in the place.) Early voting in Pinellas is from October 19th through November 2nd. Early voting is only held in the offices I discuss below; all of these are open from 7 am until 7 pm. With regard to mailing in your ballot, if you intend to use the mail, please do so shortly after you receive it in early October. I do not have to tell you that there have been some problems with the mail and there will likely be more. If you mail it shortly after receiving it, there should not be a problem, but do not mail it in much later than that. You can drop it off but consider where. The best choice is the

- ☑ **Supervisor of Elections Office at 3001 Starkey Road in Largo (33773).**

I say that because starting with Early

Voting there will be people stationed at the front of the building to receive your ballot. You do not need to get out of your car at that drop-off. It is just easier there and since that is where the ballots will be counted, less chance of losing the ballot. These are the other drop-offs:

- ☑ **315 Court Street Room 117 in Clearwater (33756),**
- ☑ **501 First Ave N in St Pete (33701),**
- ☑ **SPC Allstate Center, 3200 34th St. S in St Pete, and**
- ☑ **The Centre of Palm Harbor, 1500 16th St., Palm Harbor.**

In all of those places you will have to park your car and go into the building.

There are also drop boxes in many cities. The Supervisor's office has published a list but they admit there could be changes. As a result, I am somewhat skeptical. We have one we feel is more accurate. I will send that list out in a separate email, but with reservations. **Do not, under any circumstance drop off your ballot if no employee of the Supervisor of Elections Office is there.**

When you are completing your ballot you will

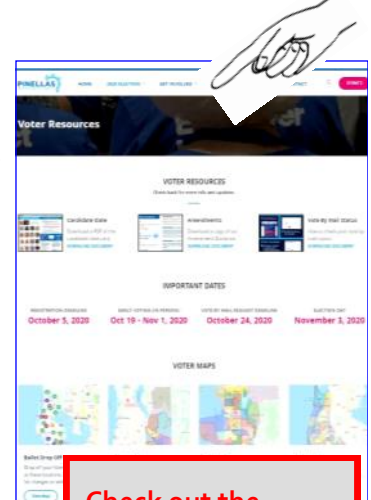
see a set of Amendments. Fortunately, we are not what we had a few years ago when we had 11 Amendments on the ballot, many of which were tricky. This year there are six, and three are recommended. The three we recommend, #s 2, 5 and 6, deal with raising the minimum wage to \$15.00 per hour and two that are acceptable changes to the property tax process. The Amendments are listed here in the Newsletter. Take a look.

Then we must make sure we understand the pressure we will be under when the ballots are not all counted by midnight on election day. The fact is that Trump has maligned the mail in voting system because he knows Democrats will be using it far more than Republicans. Most Republicans are likely to vote on Election Day. Unfortunately, several large states are not permitted to count mail in ballots until election day. This will delay results in the count. Stop and think about it. The result

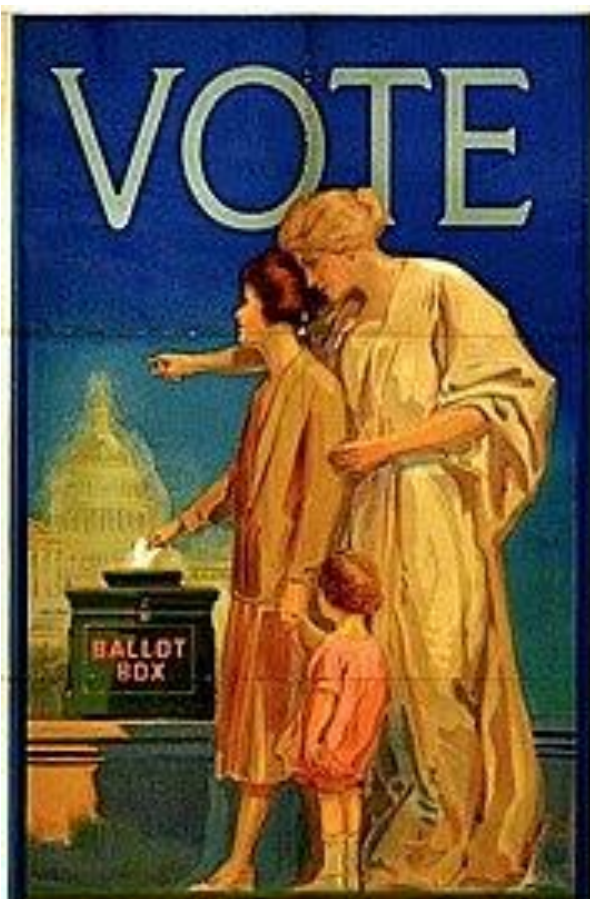
will likely be a large number of votes for Trump reported on election day while Democratic votes will trickle in over a week or two, possibly more. Guess who will be screaming about being cheated and call the election for himself. We just have to be diligent and steadfast during that time.

This is a difficult time, but we can get through it. Some of the most dangerous voices in this country have been given priority and have turned many in the wrong direction. Hopefully, we will have learned from the Trump years and resolve some of our systemic problems and strengthen our Democracy. 🇺🇸

[Click on image](#)



Check out the newly updated Pinellas County Democrats website



November 3 General Election Info

<u>Register to Vote</u>	Voter Registration Deadline October 5, 2020
<u>Request a Mail Ballot</u>	Deadline to request a ballot be mailed: October 24, 2020 5:00 PM
<u>Ballot Mailing Schedule</u>	Military & Overseas voters: Sept. 18, 2020 Domestic: Sept. 29, 2020

WHEN AND HOW TO VOTE IN PINELLAS COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 18 THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

Submitted by Heidi Sanchez

Click on the [links](#) for a fuller explanation of the various options for voting and ensuring that your vote is counted! Be a fully informed voter!

[Click on LINK](#)

1. [Least Desirable Option: Election Day](#)

Time's up. What if the weather is bad? You feel ill or otherwise indisposed? What if the line is very long? What about COVID-19 exposure? Read for more information.

2. [Second Worst: Voting by Mail and Returning the Ballot by Mail](#)

Uh oh—the post office is running very slow in processing mail. Dare you count on it? If this is your choice, return your ballot early (10 – 14 before election day) and track its receipt.

3. [Better: Voting by Mail and Dropping off the Ballot](#) **

It's easy and you know they will receive it in time.

4. [Excellent Option: Early Voting](#)

Yeah — again, weather, lines, etc. But guaranteed!.

5. [Best: Voting at a Supervisor of Election Office Beginning September 18](#) **

Right there! No worry, no doubt! You voted! It Counts!

☒ [Expanded Ballot Drop-off Locations!](#) A couple of new locations for more convenience!

☒ [Acceptable Form of Identification in Florida](#) Do you know what they will accept? Is yours current?

☒ [Tracking Ballots](#) Know that it was requested, that they sent it, that they received your completed ballot, and that it was counted.

☒ ** have the SOE agent verify your signature before you leave



For additional information , go to

BALLOTPEDIA



CLICK
LINK

Six statewide ballot measures were certified for the [ballot](#) in [Florida](#) in [2020](#).

- [Four citizen initiatives](#) are on the ballot. Amendment 1 would state that only citizens can vote in Florida; Amendment 2 would raise the minimum wage to \$15 by 2026; Amendment 3 would establish top-two open primaries; and Amendment 4 would require constitutional amendments to be passed twice
- [The Florida Legislature](#) referred two constitutional amendments concerning property taxes to the ballot.

2020 Florida Amendment Guidance

Amendment 1 • Citizen Initiative

Adds to the state constitution that only U.S. citizens can vote in federal, state, local or school elections.

Pinellas Democratic Party Recommends: NO

Amendment 2 • Citizen Initiative

Increases the state minimum wage to \$15 by 2026.

Pinellas Democratic Party Recommends: YES



Amendment 3 • Citizen Initiative

Establishes a top-two open primary system for state office primary elections.

Pinellas Democratic Party Recommends: NO

MORE →

Amendment 4 • Citizen Initiative

Requires voter-approved constitutional amendments to be approved by voters at a second general election.

Pinellas Democratic Party Recommends: NO

Amendment 5 • Legislative Initiative

Increases the period during which a person may transfer "Save Our Homes" benefits to a new homestead property from two years to three years.

Pinellas Democratic Party Recommends: YES



Amendment 6 • Legislative Initiative

Allows a homestead property tax discount to be transferred to the surviving spouse of a deceased veteran.

Pinellas Democratic Party Recommends: YES



Tuesday Morning Game Changers

Club Members Foster Connection to Ridgecrest Community

By Karen Sherrets

Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club members Karen Sherrets, Judy Sellers, Kathie Brown and Kathleen Jamison have spent part of their coronavirus lockdown creating a Little Free Library for the youngsters of Ridgecrest/Rainbow Village.



Among those attending the unveiling were Ridgecrest youngsters, the Little Free Library builder Kathie Brown, on left, project leader Karen Sherrets, and artist Judy Sellers, on right. And honoree, Jim Dyson in front.

"With Ridgecrest Elementary shut down, we were concerned that students in the volunteer Panther Pals reading assistance program would lose the progress they had been making," Karen said. "We thought providing access to books would help. We also wanted to honor Jim Dyson - another good Democrat - for creating Panther Pals and also for his career-long commitment to education, equality and diversity in the Ridgecrest community."

Jim, who was diagnosed with ALS in 2018, is still the main mover and shaker for Panther Pals, staying in touch with his 60 plus volunteers and most recently trying to set up an online effort to work with kindergarten and first grade students who need extra help learning to read.

As Karen says, "the project was a real example of 'it takes a village.'" Kathie Brown researched, designed and built the little book exchange with materials donated by Habitat for Humanity. Judy Sellers, the club's resident artist, decorated it with characters from favorite children's



books. Anona Church, Rotary of Seminole Lake, Panther Pals, the Friends of the Largo Library, Friends of Ridgecrest and lots of FOJs (Friends of Jim) have donated hundreds of books and other support.

A grand opening for Mr. Jim's Little Neighborhood Library was held Saturday, Aug. 22 at its new home on the front corner of the Young Life Center on Wilcox Road.

Gently used books for pre-readers through teenagers will be gratefully accepted. Contact Kathleen Jamison at kathleenjamison@hotmail.com to make arrangements.

"The Little Free Library philosophy is 'borrow, enjoy, share, return and repeat' but we have a feeling a lot of the kids will want to keep the books and that's okay with us," Karen says. "The more books in a home, the better chance for success in school."



Chris and Ian Collinson sitting on the bench they built and donated.

Tuesday Morning Game Changers



Sign waiving - Thursdays, 4:30-5:30pm - Largo Central Park

The Tuesday Morning Game Changers and Largo Dems are gathering on Thursday afternoons to wave signs for Biden/Harris and our local candidates. Please join us! For now, we are meeting at the intersection of Missouri/Seminole and East/West Bay (at **Largo Central Park**) from 4:30 to 5:30 pm on Thursdays. We could decide to change the location later and will let everyone know if that happens.



Parking is available in the park but the shortest walk seems to be on the southwest corner behind Benedicts and the American Legion building. Bring your own signs or flags or we will have a few available. It's hot so also bring water, sunscreen, and maybe an umbrella. See you there!



Home made signs are welcomed!

VETERANS — Bring your Veterans for Biden-Harris signs! We need to be vocal about our support of a CinC who believes in and supports the troops and the veterans.

IF YOU NEED A SIGN — Wanda has 6 Biden-Harris for \$10 each. These were purchased by the Club for \$10, so no profit in resale. :-) Contact her at Admin@largodemocrats.com to reserve your sign.



For **more** sign-waving event photos and information, go to [Pinellas Democrats.com](https://PinellasDemocrats.com)

Click on LINK



OUR CANDIDATES!



2020 Democratic Candidate Slate



IN IT TO WIN IT!

**Joe Biden for President
Kamala Harris for VP**



Charlie Crist
Representative CD 13



Kimberly Walker
Representative CD 12



Darryl Rouson
State Senate District 19



Jessica Harrington
House District 64



Kelly Johnson
House District 65



Patricia Plantamura
House District 66



Dawn Douglas
House District 67



Ben Diamond
House District 68



Jennifer Webb
House District 69



Eliseo Santana
Pinellas County Sheriff



Joe Saportas
Pinellas County
Tax Collector



Trevor Mallory
Pinellas County
Property Appraiser



Dan Helm
Pinellas County
Supervisor of Elections



Janet Long
Pinellas County
Commission District 1



Charlie Justice
Pinellas County
Commission District 3



René Flowers
Pinellas County
Commission District 7

This is the Slate Card that the Pinellas Democratic Party has printed for distribution to our Democratic Voters.

If you want to help spread this message to your voters, please contact your district chair for "lit drop" schedules.

If you didn't see a full write-up for a candidate, please visit the [Pinellas Democratic Party website](https://www.pinellasdemocrats.com) from there you can link to the candidate's websites for additional information.

Click on LINK

District Chair 64

Malanda Schmitz

District64@pinellasdemocrats.com

District Chair 65

Bill Norsworthy

District65@pinellasdemocrats.com

District Chair 66

Bryan Beckman

District66@pinellasdemocrats.com

District Chair 67

TBD

District67@pinellasdemocrats.com

District Chair 68

Sharon Loughry

District68@pinellasdemocrats.com

District Chair 69

Tony Meredith

District69@pinellasdemocrats.com

District Chair 70

TBD

District70@pinellasdemocrats.com

Hearing From our Candidates!



Eliseo is a father, a community leader, and an Army Veteran. He retired

from the Pinellas Sheriff's Office with 31 years of service implementing technology and modernizing policing in our community. He knows that changing the culture of law enforcement in our community starts at the top. That's why he's running for Sheriff.

After serving our country in the Army, Eliseo joined the Pinellas Sheriff's Office. Immediately, he encountered racism from superiors in the administration. On his first day, he was told "we don't want you here, you don't fit" by a high ranking official in the administration at the time. He was passed over for promotions in favor of less qualified colleagues. Eliseo worked to implement technology in the Sheriff's Office – but his suggestions to modernize the office were pushed aside.

Eventually, he undertook a major project to use cameras and audio equipment for Sheriff's deputies. It seemed like common sense to Eliseo – utilizing

this technology would protect officers from false accusations and build trust and transparency in the communities they serve. Like most of his other suggestions, the idea was shelved by his superiors. Years later, the Pinellas Sheriff's Office still refuses to implement body cameras for its officers.

Seeing the resistance to change, reform, and modernization prompted Eliseo to run for Sheriff. He believes that changing the culture of policing starts at the top. That means instilling values like service, security, and compassion with officers and ending the militarization of our domestic police force. He also believes we need to transition away from the violent "domination tactics" of the Sheriff's Office. By utilizing social workers, community policing, de-escalation tactics, and limiting the use of armed intervention, we can end bloodshed and create a Sheriff's Office we can all be proud of.

For more information, to volunteer, or to donate, please go to www.SantanaforSheriff.com. Thank you for your support! 🙏



Eric and his wife Pat are familiar faces in Largo and have been serving our city

for years. In addition to volunteering on the Greater Largo Library Foundation Board (two years as its president) and the Largo Planning Board, Eric is a graduate of the Largo Citizens Academy, the Pinellas County Sheriff's Citizens Academy, and is a recipient of the Partners In Progress for the Arts President's Award.

Eric draws on his experience as a journalist, a small business owner, and a community leader with a track record of success for our city. He started working at 13 in his family's business – reconditioning industrial products in Cleveland, Ohio. Eric came to Tampa Bay in 1976 to join the Tampa Tribune covering municipal government. He went on to cover local government and public safety for the St. Petersburg Evening Independent. He founded his own marketing agency in 1989 where he worked with independently-owned companies around Tampa Bay.

[Con't next page](#)

Hearing From our Candidates!

From prior page

Now, Eric is running for the Largo City Commission because he believes we need Largo solutions to issues like affordable housing, protecting our environment, and creating safer neighborhoods. You can learn more about Eric, volunteer, or make a donation at www.GerardforLargo.com. Thank you for your support! 🍷



Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida PRESS ADVISORY

For immediate release
August 28, 2020

Patricia Plantamura Endorsed by the Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida

The Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida is proud to endorse Patricia Plantamura for Florida House of Representatives, District 66, in the general election on November 3, 2020.



Regarding her DECF endorsement, Ms. Plantamura said, "As a six-year elected City Councilor in the Tampa Bay area, I saw clearly that a healthy economy and a healthy environment are not mutually exclusive goals. With so many people unemployed due to COVID-19, now is the time to focus on jobs which are environmentally responsible--and also cost saving for consumers. I'd like to be part of Florida State House leadership working to make this a transformational time for Florida's economy."

Contact Information

Candidate: plantamura2020@gmail.com, www.people4politics.com

Facebook: [PlantamuraFLStateRep66](https://www.facebook.com/PlantamuraFLStateRep66), tinyurl.com/DonatePlantamura66

DECF : Dr. Janelle Christensen, President, (530) 277-9265, janellejchristensen@gmail.com

The Democratic Environmental Caucus of Florida (DECF) is chartered by the Florida Democratic Party. Its members support Florida lawmakers, candidates, legislation and businesses which preserve, protect and restore Florida's natural resources. The DECF concerns may include but are not limited to protecting Florida's air quality, water quality, coastlines, wetlands, wildlife, wild lands and parks.



**Democratic slate cards ready to
be distributed to Precinct 327**



**Even more slate cards!
Let's get busy!!**

Con't next page

Hearing From our Candidates!

From prior page

Making a Difference

"As your Representative, you can count on me to make a difference for the people and businesses in this district. I'll fight for what's needed for our community to recover and thrive."

— JENNIFER WEBB

**VOTE BY MAIL,
VOTE EARLY, or
VOTE NOVEMBER 3RD**

Request a mail ballot at
VotePinellas.com

RE-ELECT

JENNIFER WEBB

**OUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE
DISTRICT 69**

ElectJenniferWebb.com

JENNIFER WEBB is one of Florida's Most Effective Freshman Legislators!

Jennifer's Legislation:

- Keeps more money in people's pockets
- Protects our waterways and beaches
- Expands career and technical education
- Increases access to long term care
- Establishes the Office of Drug Abuse and Prevention
- Reforms Juvenile Baker Act System

Jennifer Webb is committed to:

OUR STATE We now see how our state fails to work for our hardworking neighbors and local businesses. I will put common sense solutions ahead of ideology to create a state that works for all of us. I will work to bring home every Federal Dollar Florida is entitled to and make certain federal relief funds are spent wisely.

OUR HOME I will fight to protect our beaches, waterways and drinking water by investing in infrastructure, banning offshore drilling and fracking.

OUR BUSINESSES Small businesses are the backbone of District 69's economy. I will fight for our businesses so they have the tools to recover, create jobs, and strengthen and diversify our economy.

OUR NEIGHBORS I will stand with our workers until they receive every penny they are due from unemployment, the training to remain competitive, and the benefits needed to care for their families.

OUR CHILDREN I will lead the way in expanding education at all levels, from pre-K to vocational and technical training programs.

OUR FAMILIES Suicides and addiction have reached an all-time high. My family has been impacted by both. I will be our champion in the legislature to solve this continuing crisis.

JW P.O. Box 12142, St. Petersburg, FL 33733
(727) 320-6275
Jennifer@ElectJenniferWebb.com

Political advertisement paid for and approved by Jennifer Webb, Democrat, for State Representative, District 69.

Con't next

Hearing From our Candidates!

Dawn Douglas

For HD 67



My name is Dawn Douglas, and I am running for State Representative, District 67. I'm proud to claim the Mid-Pinellas Dem's as my home club! You may remember my race for this seat in 2018. After we narrowed a 14-point spread between myself and Latvala to a 3.8 spread in 2018, I know we can flip Seat 67 **BLUE** in 2020.

I have been a life-long resident of Pinellas County beginning in first grade when my family settled in Largo. Graduating from Largo High School (go Packers!), I followed my childhood dream of becoming a mermaid at Weeki Wachee Springs. (Yes, I swam in a tail!) While still performing as a mermaid, I began my studies at St. Petersburg Junior College (now SPC), where I

completed my A.A. degree and then attended USF in St. Petersburg, earning a B.A. in English.

As a public-school teacher for 20 years and PCTA/FEA union representative/member, I have lobbied and advocated for students, teachers, and public education. Traveling to Tallahassee on many occasions, I work diligently to improve the quality of education. In spite of massive efforts, our educational system has been sold out! Florida wastes billions of dollars on meaningless standardized testing that degrades schools, teachers, and students based on these same tests. This process is done to divert billions of dollars to charter and private schools (i.e., private pockets). The most abhorrent outcome is the labeling of each student as a level 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5! Ask any student you know who attends a Florida public school; they know their achievement scores. It has been branded in their mind and heart and is now the measure by which they judge themselves. Lawmakers refuse to listen. I WILL LISTEN!

These lawmakers have repeatedly made laws that favor special interest groups, corporations, and private individuals – to the detriment of the educational needs, environmental impacts, and the health and well-being of Florida's citizens.

Grassroot amendments are manipulated until their intent can no longer be recognized (i.e., medical marijuana, smaller classroom size, returning citizens rights, etc.). Regardless of consequences to Florida and those who call it home, lawmakers blindly follow the voting directives of their party. They refuse to listen to the voice of the people. I WILL LISTEN!

Fracking in Florida – NO!! Our fragile ecosystem cannot be destroyed for wanton desire of profits. Drinking water before petroleum? No one reaches for a glass of petroleum when they are thirsty! Did you know that fracking between 1967-1972 was accomplished by exploding nuclear bombs underground? Even without continued nuclear contamination, fracking is NOT acceptable. Lawmakers are not listening. I WILL LISTEN!

Medicaid expansion in Florida is long overdue!

Republicans refused this boon almost 10 years ago and have not seen fit to offer an alternative. The time for a one-payer health system is here! They are not listening. I WILL LISTEN!

Racial inequity, dumping plastics and toxins into our environment, homelessness, mental health challenges, public transportation, affordable housing... the list is growing. The time to turn it around is now! The ultimate U-turn! You turn it around! Send me to Tallahassee... I will turn it around! I WILL LISTEN!!

During the upcoming session, our Florida government must grapple with economic recovery, education, housing, jobs, and health care for all. I will be honored to represent you in the difficult time we are facing. I'M ALREADY LISTENING!!

Please visit my website www.ElectDawnDouglas.com to support my campaign and volunteer.

IN IT TO WIN IT!!!

With gratitude, Dawn 🙏

Endorsements: [Pinellas NOW](#), [West Pinellas NOW](#), [Tampa NOW](#), [Florida NOW](#), [Pinellas Classroom Teachers Association \(PCTA\)](#), [The Sierra Club](#)

Hearing From our Candidates!



Kelly Johnson
candidate: **FL House**
District 65 in the
State House.

I've lived in Pinellas County my entire life. I'm the middle of three children of two dedicated Pinellas public school teachers. After Dunedin High School, I studied at St. Petersburg College and received my bachelor's degree from Clearwater Christian College.

I have spent most of my adult life caring for children — my own children and several youth in the area who call me "mom" to this day. I've been a middle school basketball and soccer coach, and an elementary school flag football coach. I've led

youth groups in my home for more than 15 years and have served in many areas of ministry helping some of the most vulnerable of our community: the homeless, women, seniors, and youth.

I've published 10 books to date, including self-help books, teen novels, and a children's adventure series.

Most recently, I've advocated for the hundreds of thousands of Floridians who are without jobs or income. I've been through this myself. I know how the state government has not been working for average Floridians. The fight for a fair unemployment system has to go all the way to Tallahassee.

Our movement has resonated with so many across the country — I've been interviewed for local media but also in the Washington Post, the New York Times, and most recently on MSNBC live with Ali-

cia Menendez! It has been an incredible journey, one that I hope to take all the way to the State Capitol.

If elected, I will work to increase the maximum weekly benefit unemployment amount for recipients and I'll fight for legislation that protects the environment and makes Florida a leader in environmental reforms. I have signed onto and fully support the Florida Climate and Economic Defense Initiative to combat climate change. It will make Florida the nation's leader in green industries, ready a resilient infrastructure, and create high-paying jobs in new green technology sector.

I will work to make our streets and schools safer and to get guns out of the hands of repeat domestic violence offenders. I support common-sense gun laws. I will strive to help pull more Floridians out of poverty by developing ways to increase income and lessen the burden on the welfare system. I will protect healthcare and I support expanding the Affordable Care Act. I will also support programs that create pathways to homeownership. I will continue to work with the people to ensure that discrimination has no

place in any law in our future .

I am most passionate about helping to form a post COVID-19 economy.

This year your vote will shape our post-COVID world. I hope that you'll cast it for me — someone who is ready and willing to fight to bring common-sense reforms to our economy, to our environment, and to our schools.



2020 Presidential Debates

Presidential Debates Set

Excerpted from The New York Times

President Trump and Joseph R. Biden Jr. will debate with a single moderator at each of their three matchups, the [Commission on Presidential Debates](#) announced on Wednesday.

The first debate of the general election, on Sept. 29, will be moderated by the “Fox News Sunday” anchor [Chris Wallace](#). Mr. Wallace received high marks for his debut debate in 2016 and is known for his sharp interviewing style. He is also frequently a target of needling tweets by Mr. Trump.

The second debate, on Oct. 15, will be moderated by Steve Scully, the political editor at C-SPAN, who served as an alternate moderator for the 2016 debates.

Kristen Welker, a White House correspondent for NBC News and a co-anchor of the weekend “Today” program, will moderate the third debate on Oct. 22. This will be her first time moderating a general-election debate.

A print journalist, Susan Page, the Washington bureau chief of USA Today, will moderate the vice-presidential debate between Mike Pence and Senator Kamala Harris on Oct. 7.

The debate commission, a nonpartisan group that has overseen all general-election debates since 1987, has sole discretion to pick the moderators, and the presidential candidates are not allowed to veto the choices.

Each debate is 90 minutes and is set to air at 9 p.m. Eastern, with no breaks for commercials.

Along with juggling dueling presidential candidates onstage, the moderators are solely responsible for choosing the questions and topics for the first and third debates. The second debate, which is scheduled to take place in Miami, follows a town-hall format where residents of South Florida will pose the questions; moderators are responsible for follow-ups and for facilitating the discussion. 🗣️

[Click on image](#)



CONTACT US

2250 1st Avenue North
St Petersburg, FL 33713

Office hours vary based on volunteer ability. Please call or email for more information.

office@pinellasdemocrats.com **727.327.2796**

PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES!



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, and since the SEPTEMBER meeting will be online for members only, you can pay online at:

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

Or mail a check to

Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

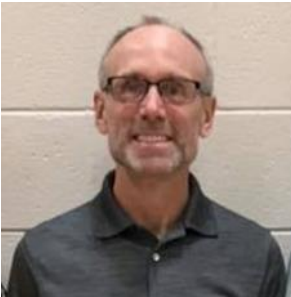
P O Box 1242

Largo, FL 33779

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District 66 News



Hello everyone,

It has been a very busy last couple of weeks. We have been

very focused on organizing and executing Literature Drops. We are also making very positive impacts across other fronts to. Here is update of the various activities. Please reach out to me with any questions. We always need more help.

Literature Drop

- ☑ The Pinellas Democratic Party has created wonderful slate cards for us to distribute to voters. We are trying to get this in the hands of voters before they receive mail-in ballots very early in October.
- ☑ We have about 75% of the literature in the hands of volunteers. We are in various stages of bagging the literature and putting it on people's doors.
- ☑ We are still looking for volunteers to help with the roughly dozen precincts we have left to assign. **Please let me know if you can help.**

"Satellite Campaign HQ"

- ☑ We now have two locations established that members of the community have opened. These locations are being used to house and display campaign materials, Voter information, VBM signups,

Voter Registration, and literature drop coordination. We are

Thank you for your generosity Jonathan W., Geneva W., and Wanda M.!!

- ☑ Here are the locations and hours. Let people know!
- ☑ A Spiritual Change, 1401 N. MLK Jr Ave, Clearwater: Tuesday & Thursday 4-6 PM, Saturday 1-4 PM
- ☑ Tasker Beal Jr Service Center, 2253 119th St. North, Largo: Tuesday 5-6:30 PM, Saturday 10 AM - 2 PM

Biden-Harris and other candidate yard signs

- ☑ A few key volunteers have been getting sign out in the community. Thank you Jane Marie, Joyce, Geneva, and Wanda for all your efforts. The signs look beautiful.
- ☑ Please be mindful of where signs are placed. Keep them in your yards and avoid city / county property, for instance.
- ☑ Amber continues to be our D66 hub for Biden signs. Please let her/me know if you want a sign or want to make a donation to help get signs out in the community.

Calling voters who did not turn in their ballot

- ☑ We still have a phone bank to



reach out to voters who should have received a ballot for

the Primary, but did not



vote. We want to make sure these voters have updated addresses, and are ready to vote before ballots are mailed out. It is likely that some of these same voters will be a challenge for us in October, so any voters we can reach now, can save precious time in October.

- ☑ **Please let me know if you would like to join that effort. We need more help.**

☑

Bryan

Bryan.Beckman@Pinellasdemocrts.com

District 67 News



District 67 Volunteers Stuffin' and Walkin'

By Peggy Tucker

Volunteers across District 67 are taking on the challenge of getting roughly 22,000 Democratic slate cards dropped at homes across the district, all in a safe, contactless manner. Photos on this page show a group, including new Clearwater Councilwoman Kathleen Beckman, that gathered at Eagle Lake Park on a recent Tuesday morning to safely stuff bags with literature.

In addition to the Democratic slate card and the statewide amendment recommendations, they are including info on the "Save The Landings" referendum in Clearwater (recommending NO vote) and

the Pinellas County Schools referendum. (See www.citizensforpinellaschools.com for more information on this and then vote YES!)

In the Largo part of the district, information on Eric Gerard for Largo Commission is being included.



In addition to the lit drops, District 67 volunteers are joining District 66 volunteers in sign waving on Thursdays at 4:30 at the intersection of Missouri and East Bay at Largo Central Park. The large number of horns honking in approval confirms that Democrats are hungry for verification that they are not outnumbered by loud and brash Trumpsters.

Phone calls, text messaging, postcard writing—all are still happening. Check out the Team Joe app or go to PinellasDemocrats.com

if you are looking for ways to get involved.

We need many more volunteers for the lit drops. If you can help—by stuffing bags, driving, or walking—please contact Peggy Tucker, 727-460-5345 or Beth Davis, 727-742-3797. Thank you!

In it for JOE and KAMALA! 🇺🇸



November 2020 Referendums

County Referendum

Pinellas County Schools: VOTE YES!

to continue supporting teacher salaries, technology, arts, text books, field trips, reading programs. To learn more www.citizensforpinellaschools.com

Clearwater Referendum

Light Industrial Development of The Landings Golf Course: VOTE NO!

No increase of truck traffic and pollution. Save one of the last Greenspaces. The only public Par 3 golf course. Save the Drew Street Plan.



From the Chair's Desk

Dear Democrats,

Wow! What an incredible, unconventional National Convention we had, highlighting what our country really needs right now. It was truly a memorable week, culminating in the magnificent Keynote speeches of our nominees, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris! I hope you are excited, inspired, and ready to work harder than ever all the way until November 3. Thank you to our 301-strong delegation -- the 4th largest in the country -- for representing Florida so well in all the week's activities, and kudos to the DNC, Biden, and National Convention teams for pulling off an amazing convention in the face of unprecedented circumstances.

It's clear Florida Democrats are fired up and committed to making a change in 2020. A record number of Democrats have enrolled to Vote by Mail and actually voted by mail for last Tuesday's Primary. For the first time ever Florida Democrats

won VBM and ran up a BIG margin of over 374,000 more returns than Republicans. See more about the Primary and Vote By Mail below. Congratulations to all those who won Tuesday, and thank you to all the candidates who threw their hats into the ring to represent Democratic values. I'm so proud of the work every candidate, staffer, and volunteer did to energize and organize voters during this unprecedented time. Primaries make our party stronger, and we're entering the final stretch of this election prepared to make history.

In 2019, the Florida Democratic Party launched our Municipal Victory Program and partnered with dozens of progressive partners to recruit the largest and strongest class of Democratic down-ballot candidates in decades. We now have over 400 Democrats running for office across the state, and we'll all be working to elect these Democrats up and down the ballot.

From expanding Medicaid, helping the unemployed and safely reopening schools, it is abundantly clear local leaders have a profound impact on our lives, and we need more Democrats at every level of government.

As Joe Biden says, we're in the battle for the soul of our nation -- and Florida Democrats will spend the next 72 days (2 months and 11 days) going pedal to the metal to send Joe Biden and Kamala Harris to the White House and to elect every member of our Sunshine Slate!

Forward,

Down Ballot Elections - Primary Election Highlights

Our Down Ballot Elections Department is working to support can-

didates in flipping seats across the state. Tuesday's Primary Election brought us some exciting opportunities! Here are just a few:

- ⇒ Democrat Daniella Levine Cava will advance to the November runoff election to challenge Esteban Bovo and flip the Miami-Dade County mayoral seat blue. When elected, she will be the first woman mayor of the most populous county in our state.
- ⇒ Democrat Jacquelyn McMiller will be in the November runoff election to challenge Kevin Anderson in the Fort Myers mayoral race. This is another mayoral seat we look forward to flipping blue!
- ⇒ Sarasota County's increase in Democratic voter turnout, thanks to VBM, allowed Tom Edwards to flip the Sarasota County School Board District 3 seat blue against the Republican incumbent and former county GOP chair. Increased Democratic turnout also prevented Republican candidates from advancing to the November elections in the Sarasota City Commission District 2 race. 🎉



Our Democratic VBM enrollment margin over Republicans continues to grow! As of Saturday, 2,134,098 Florida Democrats have requested mail ballots compared to 1,444,749 Florida Republicans - a 689,349 margin!

During the FL Primary Election, a record number of Democrats voted by mail and Democratic VBM returns outpaced Republican returns across every demographic!

Let's keep our foot on the gas for the next 72 days! Please continue

to [make VBM enrollment calls](#) and to share our VBM sign up links for every county in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Down Ballot Days of Action

On Saturday, September 5th the FDP Down Ballot Elections team is holding a Day of Action centered around Voter Education. We will kick off the day at 2pm ET with a [Voter Education Virtual Event](#) with special guest Rep. Joe Geller will share useful information about Voting by Mail in Florida this election cycle

Afterward, campaigns and volunteers will call Democrats newly enrolled in Vote By Mail and educate these voters about Voting by Mail in Florida this election cycle. This will be an opportunity for Down Ballot Campaigns to identify supportive voters in November, and volunteers will learn about how they can get involved in GOTV efforts with our Sunshine Slate of candidates. Sign up below for our Down Ballot DOA!

[Mobilize Link for Voter Education DOA for Down Ballot Candidates](#)

September 5th @ 2pm ET

Our next Day of Action will take place on Saturday, September 26th starting at 2pm ET and Down Ballot Campaigns will be calling voters with a Vote by Mail Ballot to ask them for their vote! [Sign up here](#) for the Vote by Mail GOTV Day of Action on September 26th

[Mobilize link for Vote by Mail GOTV Day of Action for Down Ballot Candidates](#)

September 26th @ 2pm ET





From previous page

New Florida Dems Website Launch

Today FDP launched its new website that will serve as a critical organizing tool for Democrats in all 67 counties ahead of the 2020 elections. The new website is more user-friendly to help serve the average Floridian, offering new voter education tools, and the ability to register to vote and enroll in vote-by-mail without leaving the website. It also continues to be a meaningful resource to Democratic voters, organizers, and candidates.

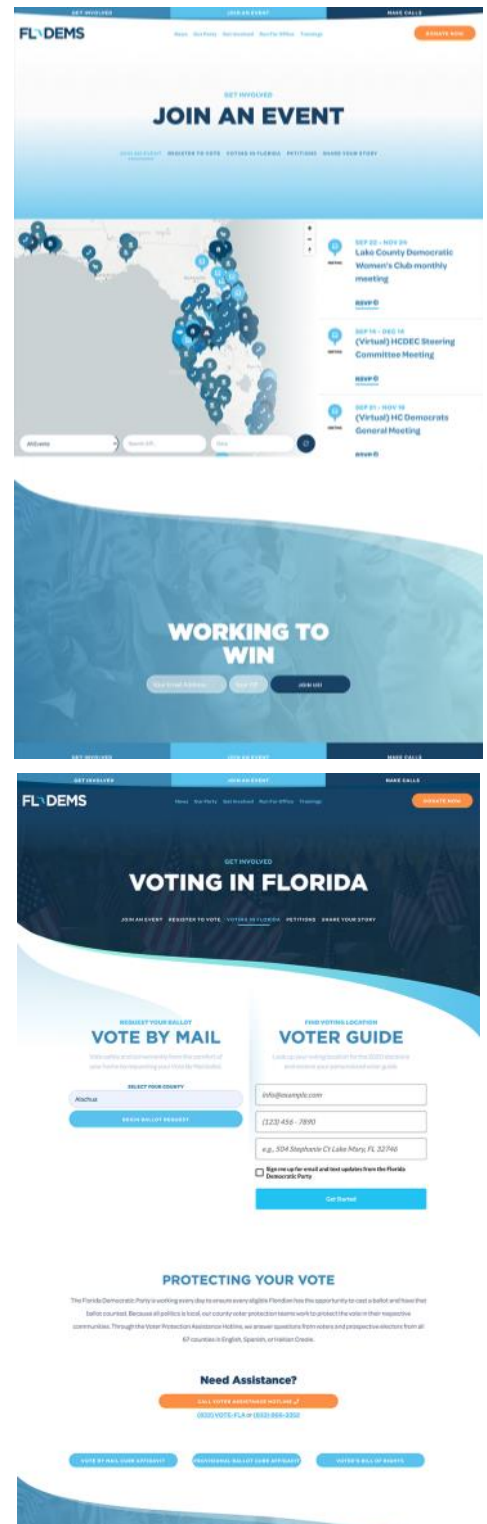
New features on the website include:

- ✦ Real-time map of every Democratic grassroots organizing event across Florida
- ✦ Voter registration, vote-by-mail ballot request, and ballot recommendation tools for voters based on address
- ✦ Voter assistance resources and access to 24/7 phone line to get in touch with the Florida Democratic Party Voter Protection Team
- ✦ Candidate toolbox including a campaign plan generator and resources for current and prospective Democratic candidates
- ✦ Extensive list of active phone banks for grassroots organizers to jump in and easily get involved
- ✦ Online learning system

with a catalog of recorded webinars and workshops to train the next generation of grassroots organizers

- ✦ Sleek new design that captures the Florida Democratic Party brand
- ✦ Entirely responsive user experience so that every page is ready for smartphones, tablets, and desktop computers.
- ✦ Accessibility-conscious styling with powerful enhancement tools for persons with visual impairment, color blindness, and dyslexia
- ✦ Showcase of all Democratic Congressional and State elected officials, county Democratic parties, and statewide Democratic caucuses with links to their social media pages so visitors can stay connected and get involved
- ✦ Resume bank to house resumes for campaigns of homegrown Florida talent
- ✦ Every page fully translated into Spanish and Haitian Creole
- ✦ Automatic recognition of users visiting FloridaDems.org from outside of the United States to provide Democrats abroad with the resources they need

Visit <https://www.floridadems.org/>



Opinion & Letters

LABORING ON LABOR DAY

By Doris Weatherford

Adjunct Professor at the University of South Florida

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I write this on Labor Day, knowing that *LaGaceta* had its Labor Day edition last week. Historians are like that: we want to examine things after they have happened, and we seldom speak prior to an event, even a scheduled event. So I wanted to see how our local paper, the only one we have, dealt with this day. Because the *Tampa Bay Times* no longer prints on Mondays, that meant going to the e-version, where I found what I expected: zilch.

A plethora of stories on this summer's protests, but not the slightest allusion to the protests that brought worker rights. Not one word about the historic strikes of the late 19th and early 20th centuries that ended what was essentially industrial slavery, especially for immigrants from Eastern Europe. Just one example is Ludlow, Colorado in

1914, when the National Guard shot and killed coal miners and their families. They followed that up by setting their humble homes ablaze.

The same thing had happened in 1912 in Lawrence, Massachusetts, because textile workers rejected a pay cut. Women were the majority of weavers, and most did not speak English. They didn't obey the orders of policemen on horses and died as a result. I'm going to quote a bit from my "Foreign & Female: Immigrant Women in America." This is by an on-scene reporter from "Collier's," then one of the nation's most prominent magazines:

I saw with my own eyes, under the gray light that precedes dawn a little group of twenty-five women shivering in the cold...I knew this was 'picketing,' which even when peaceful, is unlawful in [Massachusetts]. I saw a detail of men come down the street clad in police uniforms, [and] I heard horses' hoofs. I saw the women flattened like hens as the shadow of the hawk falls... I heard a rough

voice call upon God to damn them. I saw the nightsticks driven hard against the women's ribs... I saw one who passed me. "Listen," she called to a friend. I go home. I nurse the little one. I be back yet."

FROM NEW ENGLAND TEXTILE MILLS TO ARIZONA COPPER MINES

After cloth was woven in New England, it often went down to New York where the garment industry flourished – unregulated, unsafe, and exploitive. A 1909 strike, however, was unique. It started out with the usual assaults by police, but they accidentally arrested a couple of prominent women, including a Vanderbilt. For the next year, many affluent women supported the workers by refusing to buy new clothes, and the strike generally was successful. Not all the manufacturers, however, settled with the strikers, and no one enforced safety.

When a fire broke out in the Triangle Factory of Lower Manhattan in 1911, 146 people died in the flames. Most were young, Jewish women, and some were the sole support of their families

back in the Russian Empire. They were so obviously desperate for money that they were working on Saturday, the Sabbath for most of them. The shock for the public, though, was to learn that these women routinely worked behind locked doors. They were caged like prisoners, lest a union organizer slip in to encourage them to strike as their sisters had done the previous year. Dozens of charred bodies were piled up next to the doors that sealed them in.

One positive result of the tragedy was the creation of the Department of Labor in 1913, but the memo to law enforcement re worker rights was very slow to arrive. Police brutality was standard procedure for decades – against white people, as well as black. Employers used state and federal troops to end strikes from Arizona copper mines to Michigan autoworkers. A 1929 strike at a textile mill in Gastonia, South Carolina, exploded into one of the century's most turbulent, a scenario further complicated by racism and pol-

CON'T NEXT PAGE —>

Opinion & Letters

FROM PRIOR PAGE

itics. Unfortunately, most people long have accepted the use of taxpayer-funded police who act in the interest of business as maintaining “law and order.” The effect, however, often is merely to maintain plutocracy.

PLEASE LEAVE THE CIRCUS AND EXPLORE REALITY

Way back in the days of Roman glory, some smart manipulator recommended giving the poor “bread and circuses” to distract them from their sad lot in life. That brings me back to the beginning, when I bemoaned the local media’s lack of attention to Labor Day and working-class issues. While the Times can’t spare any attention to that, we are treated, of course, to its usual six pages of sports. What is wrong with these guys? And yes, of course, it is guys who make these decisions.

So I ask again, why ~~can’t the guys in suits~~ bring themselves to send reporters to talk with the guys in jeans who still dominate labor unions? Is it too much to send someone to MacIn-

tosh Road to ask the plumbers how they are doing? Is it too much to expect them to check out the Ironworkers headquarters on Hillsborough Avenue? These are incredibility daring guys who climb nearly invisible ladders to frame the metal for big new buildings. Our local has won international contests in speed and safety, but who tells that story?

You might not know that there are three branches of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Hillsborough County. IBEW 915 on Harney Road does the sort of thing you think of electricians as doing: installing and repairing the wiring that is essential to everything we do. IBEW 824 on Chelsea Avenue represents telephone workers, and IBEW 108 on Hillsborough represents workers with TECO and Duke Energy. (Or at least did, back when I knew about such stuff.) And that’s just a sample of the interviews that could be done, as unions have expanded to fields that include many women.

The largest union today is NEA, the National Education Association, with almost three million mem-

bers; the American Federation of Teachers has another 1.5 million. The most politically active today probably is SEIU, Service Employees International Union, which began with health care workers. Recent months have shown us how much we depend on these essential workers, and we should be paying more attention to their experiences and opinions. There are stories here, stories to fill in the outlines of what always has been called the “Business” pages. It should be the “Economy” or the “Marketplace” or something much more inclusive.

INSTEAD...

We get the Stock Market, which is not the economy. Everything about our era is so like “the Roaring Twenties,” when Wall Street rose to dizzying heights before it collapsed -- and almost all of these “investors” were unaware that there was literal starvation in the Dust Bowl of the Midwest. Income inequality, then and now, is extremely important: without a doubt, it predictably will crash a thriving nation. So now, with Trump’s gamblers firmly

in charge, we face these startling statistics:

- Since the beginning of the pandemic, 467 billionaires have increased their wealth at a rate of \$5.2 billion per day.
- For the first time since the end of World War II, female employment dropped by double digits during the summer.
- Of those unemployed because their jobs require a physical presence, 39% earn under \$40 K annually; of those who make \$100 K or more, just 13% are laid off because their job means going to a workplace.

For the first time since measurement began, our national debt is larger than the GNP – the Gross National Product that is the real economy, not the Wall Street casino.

As a retiree, I’m supposed to be glad to see a soaring stock market because it is supposed to be reflected in the investments that Hubby and I have made. I’m sorry to say that I don’t see it. I guess it’s going to the billionaires above. In any case, I care more about

CON’T NEXT PAGE —>

Opinion & Letters

FROM PRIOR PAGE

the real world and real workers, especially women. The most feminist thing we can do this year, sisters, is to vote for candidates who support the \$15 federal minimum wage to help end income inequality.

Along these lines, it was rising feminism that led to the 1907 federal Pure Food & Drug Act. Prior to it, dairies delivered "milk" diluted with watered chalk, and pharmacies sold dangerous snake oil medications at a big profit. Political action by women, especially the General Federation of Women's Clubs, resulted in today's FDA and our ability to (mostly) trust what we put in our mouths and on our skin. We women need to repeat that activism now by insisting on enforcement that protects the mostly immigrant workers in the food biz.

Despite the pandemic, essential workers have been showing up for months in Wisconsin meatpacking plants, Arkansas poultry processors, California vineyards, and more. I know from personal experience that most of those who

toil to provide our food have no labor protections. They live in fear of deportation by the corporations that recruited them, and they don't complain when the money they put into payroll taxes never is returned to them. They have suffered a disproportionate rate of COVID because they have neither sick pay nor insurance. We should stand up for them -- and for ourselves, for both food safety and justice. ♡

Whose Administration?

LTE by Mary Lou Ambrose

Listening to Donald Trump's address at his convention, I kept wondering whose Administration are we living in right now? Trump speaks as though he is not the incumbent President responsible for the complete disruption of this country over the last four years. Donald Trump has been President since January 20th, 2017. Under his administration, we have suffered unnecessary deaths and unemployment has rapidly increased. He has ignored the dangers of the coronavirus, allowing its

growth in the United States to explode far beyond other countries' cases. We have 4% of the population and well over 20% of coronavirus cases. That is ridiculous! Over 181,000 Americans have died. Trump says, "It is what it is." He does not care if Americans die. He cares only and completely about what he feels is best for Donald Trump. We have allowed his selfish conduct to become normalized. That is dangerous,

We cannot ignore the facts. The violence has gone out of control and White Separatists feel enabled and powerful. This has led to disruption in our streets and has endangered Americans in so many ways. This is Trump's America! Consider that a white police officer shot a black man 7 times in the back while others in the same police department allowed a white man to walk away from the murder of two black men. This is Trump's America!

Trump has lied to the people of this country well over 200,000 times. We cannot forget that he and his personal Attorney General have done their best to

denigrate the Constitution and continue to do so.

We do not know why he is subservient to Putin and in love with Kim, but we do know that our President is enamored by dictators, the more brutal, the better. He has put American troops at risk of Putin's bounties and fears confronting him. It seems that Donald Trump seems to have become an asset to the Russian dictator.

Trump told us that he would hire the "best people" in his Administration." At this point, eight of his "people" have been convicted of serious crimes. Why is that? What does it say about his choices?

Donald Trump is a clear and present danger to the United States. His reelection would result in the loss of our Democracy, leaving us without the protections of our Constitution. God help us under a second Trump Administration. ♡

Contact your Federal Representative!

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United States Senate 83 Russell Senate
Office Building Washington, DC 20510
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Email: help@rickscott.senate.gov

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

<https://www.voteinellas.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.

