



[WWW.Largodemocrats.org](http://WWW.Largodemocrats.org)  
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## From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*



There are a many terrible things that may happen if Donald Trump is reelected in November. Our Democracy, which is in poor shape now, will likely no longer exist. We have no systems set up within the government. The so called "wonderful people" appointed by this President are all as amoral if not immoral and self-

serving as he is. Not one of them has any more concern for "we the people" than Trump does. They work only for their own monetary interests and those of Corporate America.

As an example, before Trump, we had made progress with the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. I think I wrote in a Newsletter some time ago about driving through New York City in the summer of 1966 when a temperature inver-

sion had turned the air yellow. It looked like the photos we often see of major Chinese cities now. We were all sniffing and sneezing by the time we got far enough from the city that we could no longer "see" the air. Our 2 year old ended up with pneumonia and spent 10 days in the hospital. Another problem of the time was highlighted by the oil on the waters of Lake Erie burning.

Through the ensuing years we were able,

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largely under Democratic Administrations, to pass legislation that stopped the corporate polluters from their dumping their pollutants into our air and

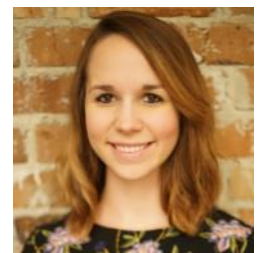
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Acropol Restaurant  
1170 Starkey Road  
Largo, FL

**January, 20, 2020**  
**6:30—8:45 PM**  
**Our January speaker is**  
**Katie Vicsik**

And Clearwater Council candidates  
**Elíseo Santana and Kathleen Beckman**



Katie Vicsik is the Florida State Director at All on The Line, a campaign of the National Redistricting Action Fund. Katie leads Florida's statewide program to create awareness & action around the redistricting process via strategic partnerships, and grassroots engagement.

The National Redistricting Action Fund (NRAF), a 501(c)(4) organization and affiliate of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee (NDRC), launched the All On The Line campaign in early 2019 to restore fairness to our democracy and ensure every American

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has an equal say in our government. Our campaign is driven by grassroots organizers who want to make a lasting impact on the future of this country, their community, and state.

All On The Line raises awareness about the harmful impact gerrymandering has on federal and state policymaking, encourages participation in opportunities that defend democratic ideals, and increases grassroots engagement in every step of the redistricting process. With fair maps, we will finally have political leaders who are more likely to tackle the big issues facing our country and who are responsive to the needs of the people they are elected to represent

Katie has prior campaign experience in Florida, working on President Obama's 2008 and 2012

campaigns, as well as serving as the Florida State Director at Enroll America, an issue-based campaign that educated

consumers, and increased enrollment in health insurance, for the Affordable Care Act.

Katie has 2 very lovable Labradors, and a 3 year old son named Ben. She is a native Floridian, who hopes to bring transparency to the statewide redistricting process, so that we can have elected officials who represent our values. You can reach Katie at

[vicsik@redistrictingaction.org](mailto:vicsik@redistrictingaction.org).

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water. Now we have no actual Department of Energy. The sham that pretends to be that agency has been led until recently by a Texan oil guy. The President (I have trouble typing that word now without putting an adjective like "Fake" or "Mob Boss" in front of it.) brags repeatedly about how he has made it possible to add to the profits of Corporate America by allowing them to pollute our air and water.

The above is just one

part of Trump's devastation of our Government. Certainly his appointment of Betsy DeVos to the Department of Education can be considered even worse than his destruction of the Department of Energy. She has worked against public schools consistently. She clearly has bought into the Republican Party's emphasis on what can be considered "dummying down our schools" which has been their goal since the days of the John Birch Society.

He has done this in every Department, appointing people who are as mean, self-serving and pompous as he is. All of them show signs of being bigoted or actual white supremacists behavior – just like Trump. However, the absolute worst thing he has done is to pull out of the Paris Accord on Climate Change and refuse to act to begin turning this country toward a sharp decrease fossil fuels here in the United States and begin a tremendous drive toward reliance on wind and so-

lar. Refusing to move the largest, richest country in the world away from fossil fuel dependence is unquestionably the worst of all the terrible things he has done. This one stupid, selfish man has taken what may be irrevocable steps toward dooming the planet to continued dependence on the fossil fuels. The result will be that he has pushed the planet and its inhabitants towards complete devastation. Our children and grandchildren will suffer greatly from Trump's shortsightedness.

If for no other reason than the environment, we MUST defeat Donald Trump in November. However, defeating him will not be sufficient to make an impact on the future of the planet. It will take defeating every Republican in Congress who, for their own selfish reasons, did not have the courage to stand up to Donald Trump during his presidency. If we cannot do those two things we will have lost a whole lot more than an election.

👊

## UPCOMING SPEAKERS

**FEBRUARY**— An associate of CAIR—Council On American-Islamic Relations will speak on issues handling and safety concerns of Muslims in the USA.

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



**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.**

**PLEASE remember to bring your \$15 per person to the meeting Monday night, Jan 20.**

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# *District 66 News*

An Open Letter from Ginny Nelson:

Hi All,

I wish each one of you individually and all of us together as Democrats the very best in 2020. We know that involves each of us working in some way to get Democrats elected. The document on the next page offers an opportunity.

Mainly, I want you to know that **we will have an election for District 66 chair at 6:30 p.m. on Monday January 27th, the date of our next DEC meeting.** The regular DEC meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m., as usual. It is very important to be there at 6:30, however, to learn who the candidates are and to vote for our new chair person. Also, Jared Boyd will be contacting you with additional information

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can let me know, and I will let April and Doug know to give you an excused absence.

Thank you for all the great times as your District 66 chair,

*Ginny Nelson*

970-481-6615

727-400-6068



# Tuesday Morning Game Changers News



AN INVITATION TO JOIN US IN WRITING TO PINELLAS VOTERS  
"VOTE BY MAIL" POSTCARDS

AN EASY TO DO PROJECT FROM OUR FRIENDS AT INDIVISIBLE:

You can help from home or at our get-togethers

We supply the postcards

We give you the script, examples, and addresses

Our get-togethers offer good work, sharing, and like-minded friends

Our 1st get-together is Thurs. January 23, 2020 from 10:30 am to 12

Our hostess is Becky Heeren

RSVP to Ginny Nelson, 970-481-6615 or [ginny.nelson72@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.nelson72@gmail.com)

REASONS WHY IT'S GOOD TO RECEIVE YOUR BALLOT IN THE MAIL:

Larger number of VBM voters results in larger number of votes cast

Win margin in Pinellas is small therefore easier to achieve with VBM

There are many ways to submit a "Vote by Mail" ballot

Receiving ballot in the mail itself, is a reminder to vote

Provides time for thoughtful answers

Very easy and convenient for most voters and in most situations!

YOU ARE THE ONE THAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
JOIN US, PLEASE!



## 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@pinellasdems.com](mailto:office@pinellasdems.com)

727.327.2796



## 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 anytime by calling the office at 727-327-2796.

☀️ Come celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with your Pinellas Dems! ☀️ January 20 2020

**MONDAY—JANURAY 20, 2020**

The Pinellas County Democratic party will March in the St. Pete MLK Day parade! Join us. Click on the image above to link to the details & registration.



Greater Pinellas Democratic Club





## From the Chair's Desk

Saturday, January 11, 2020

Dear Florida Democrats,

I continue to be excited by all the incredible work being done across our state. We have entered 2020 full speed ahead!

Next week Florida's legislative session starts, and our Democratic presidential candidates will face-off in their 7th debate. FDP is onboarding additional field directors, opening a Central Florida office, and starting the application review process for our Organizing Corps Bootcamp. On Monday we are launching FDP University and will be the only state Party with our own online training program. We are using technology, boots on the ground, and financial resources to build and strengthen our Party to ensure victory. See below for updates on many of our programs

There are exactly 298 days -- 9 months 24 days -- to November 3, 2020.

### Vote-By-Mail Enrollment Chase

Our first wave of Vote-by-mail (VBM) enrollment forms has been mailed to Democrats across the state. We've launched a virtual phone bank (VPB) to chase these forms down at [m.floridadems.org/Phonebank](https://m.floridadems.org/Phonebank).

We know voting by mail is the easiest way to make sure Democrats cast a ballot in this year's elections. Please jump on the VPB with us to encourage Florida Democrats to return their VBM enrollment forms.



### Democratic National Convention

As of Saturday, the Democratic National Convention is in 26 weeks and 2 days. Delegate filing forms to apply to be a National Convention District Delegate will be available on our website starting **February 3**. The deadline to apply is **March 7**.

Congressional District (CD) Caucuses will be **Saturday, April 4**. The CD Chairs for each district are working on securing caucus locations in each district. A list of the CD Chairs and Vice-Chairs is available [HERE](#). (NOTE: Your Congressional District 13 Chair is **Wanda Schwerer**)

We want to make sure our members know about the National Convention, how to run to be a delegate, and the timeline. More information can be found at [floridadems.org/convention](https://floridadems.org/convention).

See next page





## Launch of our National Convention Website

We are excited to announce the website for the Democratic National Convention for the Florida Delegation is live. It can be viewed at [www.floridadems.org/convention](http://www.floridadems.org/convention). The Democratic National Convention will be held in Milwaukee from **July 13-16**.

The new website currently provides basic information regarding the National Convention, such as our Delegate Selection Plan. As we move through this process, we will be adding all the information you need for successful Congressional District Caucuses (April 4) and a National Convention. Please take note of some important dates:

- Feb. 3 - District-level Delegate Filing Forms Available
- Mar. 7 - District-level Delegate Filing Deadline
- Mar. 17 - Presidential Preference Primary
- Apr. 4 - Congressional District Caucus to Elect District-level Delegates
- May 5 - PLEO, At-large, and Alternate Delegate Filing Deadline
- May 30 - Meeting of District Level Delegates in Orlando. PLEO, At-large, and Alternate Delegates Selected
- May 31- Meeting of District Level Delegates in Orlando. Convention Standing Committee and Convention Chair Selected
- July 13–16 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN MILWAUKEE, WI.

## FDP's Weekly Talkers Articles We Are Circulating

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

Miami Herald: [DNC chair kicks off 'battleground' tour with Latino-focused healthcare talk in Miami](#)

Tampa Bay Times: [Hijacking American Christianity](#)

Florida Politics: [Florida Democrats hires Joy Howell as new communications director](#)

Vox: [A new study finds increasing the minimum wage reduces suicides](#)

## The Tweets Around Town:

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

@[NikkiFriedFL](#): One year ago today, I was sworn in as the first woman elected to lead @FDACS, the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. We've delivered on promises, but more remains to be done. Take a look at what we've accomplished as we embark on year two.  
#KeepFloridaGrowing

@[DarrenSoto](#): VP @Mike\_Pence while you're in Kissimmee maybe you could explain Pres Trump's horrific response to #HurricaneMaria, his failure to sign #VenezuelaTPS or #DreamandPromiseAct, or running the most anti-Hispanic campaign in modern American history?

@[JuanPeñalosa](#): As Trump launches #EvangelicalsForTrump in Miami. Over 1,000 people of faith in FL sign a petition rejecting Trump's immorality and un-Christian policies. He doesn't have the evangelical vote on lock in the #SunshineState. #FlaPol #ChristiansAgainstTrump  
Iran Strategy: Break Obama Iran deal (cause Obama did it), flail around wildly, then demand that we need a deal with Iran.





Today we are excited to announce another first for Florida Democrats.

We have officially launched **FDP University** — **a guided online classroom training experience for Florida Democrats**. We have partnered with the top trainers across the country to build out easy-to-follow coursework and training programs for everyone — from a first time volunteer to a seasoned campaign veteran.

Beginning today, FDP University will allow us to support you every step of the way with online training such as **Voter Protection, Cybersecurity, VAN 101** and **Campaign Blue Print!**

This week, as we launch FDP University we are highlighting our **Voter Protection training course**. The Voter Protection course is geared toward providing you with the tools and materials you need to address the central challenge we face in 2020 and beyond. The Voter Protection courses in FDP University will help you understand the challenges and problems that impede voter registration while providing information on volunteer training, legal aspects, and polling information.

FDP University is a closed classroom experience but we are making it available to all DEC's, clubs and caucus members for free!

To register for the Florida Democratic Party University and get access to classes and training materials, **email** [training@floridadems.org](mailto:training@floridadems.org) to request your access. Please send your first name, last name, county, and position.

We look forward to sharing our material with you – please feel welcome to send questions to [training@floridadems.org](mailto:training@floridadems.org).

## Opinion & Letters

# The values preached by Martin Luther King Jr. need rediscovering in 2020

By Colbert King, Columnist, Jan 17, 2020

The Washington Post

It was a 25-year-old Martin Luther King Jr., whose birthday is celebrated on Monday, who stood in the pulpit of Detroit's Second Baptist Church on Feb. 28, 1954. The Montgomery bus boycott, which would launch the future leader of the American civil rights movement to national prominence, was nearly two years away.

King roused the Second Baptist congregation that Sunday morning with a sermon that did not once mention race. Discrimination, segregation, protest demon-

strations — these were not on his agenda. The young preacher went deeper, if such a thing was

Knowing right from wrong; honesty; justice. Basic values preached by Martin Luther King Jr. still need rediscovering in 2020.

possible during an era of racial turmoil.

King got the congregation thinking about values, a subject as relevant today as it was in 1954.

King talked about lost values and the need for rediscovering them.

Something seemed fundamentally wrong in society, he preached. And it wasn't because society didn't know enough. Scientific progress was amazing. King said in 18th-century

and a nightcap swallowed in New York City — all in the same day.

The trouble, he said, was not that we don't know enough but that "we aren't good enough." **Scientific genius, he said, has outpaced "our moral genius."** The greater danger facing the country in '54, King noted, was not "the atomic bomb that was created by physical science" that could be dropped on the heads of thousands of people, but **"that atomic bomb which lies in the hearts and souls of men, capable of exploding into the vilest of hate and into**

America, it took three days for a letter to go from New York City to Washington; in 1954, a person could go from Detroit to China in less time.

It's even more astonishing today. Breakfast can be had in Washington, teatime enjoyed in London

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# Opinion & Letters

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### the most damaging selfishness.”

That thought calls to mind the more than three dozen countries in the world with unmanned, missile-armed drones capable of being launched from afar under remote control and striking and killing with precision. Think about what lies within the hearts and souls of leaders in countries such as North Korea, China, Iran, Russia, Turkey and, yes, the United States.

King called attention to shaky moral foundations and the “relativistic ethic” that was being applied to right and wrong. He described it as an ethic that says “since everybody is doing it, it must be right” — an

ethic that means “people can’t stand up for their ... convictions, because the majority of people might not be doing it.” He said it’s “a sort of numerical interpretation of what’s right.”

King’s teaching got me to thinking about the 53 Senate Republicans who know that some things are right and some things are wrong, but adjust their attitudes relative to the behavior of President Trump.

King said he was at Second Baptist to say that some things are right and wrong, eternally and absolutely. “It’s wrong to hate,” he declared. “It has always been wrong, and it always will be wrong. It’s wrong in America, it’s wrong in Germany, it’s wrong in Russia, it’s wrong in China. It was wrong in

2000 B.C., and it’s wrong in 1954 A.D. It always has been wrong, and it always will be wrong!”

That got me thinking about White House senior policy adviser Stephen Miller. How can a person who pushes white nationalism, invokes a 1924 American immigration law extolled by Adolf Hitler, is bigoted and racially intolerant — how can he end up in the White House?

Then I stopped to think about who put Miller where he is — President Trump. The same President Trump who recently retweeted to his 71 million followers a doctored photo of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) wearing a hijab and Sen. Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) with a turban on his

head in front of an Iranian flag with a caption reading, “the corrupted Dems trying their best to come to the Ayatollah’s rescue.” Why wouldn’t an insulter of Islam and Muslims, who also inflicts cruelty at our southern border, want to have the likes of Stephen Miller at his side?

King’s sermon derided what he regarded as a pragmatic test applied to right and wrong: “If it works, it’s all right. Nothing is wrong but that which does not work. If you don’t get caught, it’s right.”

Which made me think of Trump using the powers of his office to solicit a foreign government to help take down a domestic political opponent, lying about his successes and taking credit for

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# Opinion & Letters

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things he didn't do — all because it works. And his adoring believers eat it up.

King reminded the Second Baptist worshipers that "it's possible to affirm the existence of God with your lips and deny his existence with your life."

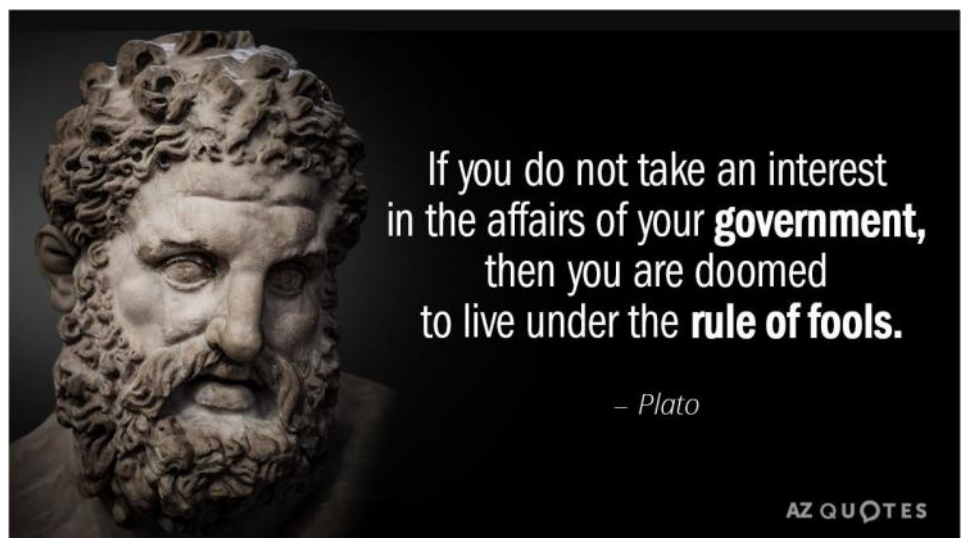
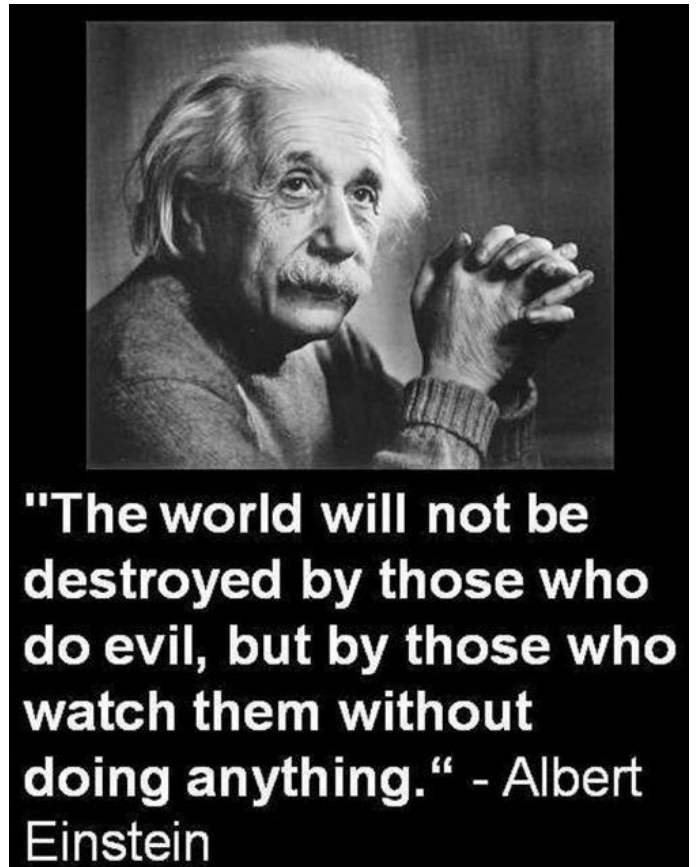
Which makes me visualize Trump basking at evangelical rallies and paying lip service to God, while paying actual service to himself.

Knowing right from wrong; honesty; justice. Basic values preached by Martin Luther King Jr. still need rediscovering in 2020.

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www.washingtonpost.com/  
opinions/the-values-](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-values-)

[preached-by-martin-luther-king-jr-need-rediscovering-in-2020/2020/01/17/8225eeb8-3896-11ea-bf30-ad313e4ec754\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-values-preached-by-martin-luther-king-jr-need-rediscovering-in-2020/2020/01/17/8225eeb8-3896-11ea-bf30-ad313e4ec754_story.html)





## 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](mailto:help@rickscott.senate.gov)

**Senator Marco Rubio** United States Senate, 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Main: (202) 224-3041, Toll free: (866) 630-7106 Fax: (202) 228-5171, TTY: (407) 254-5548 Tampa: 5201 West Kennedy Boulevard Suite 530 Tampa, FL 33609 Phone: (813) 287-5035 Call: (813) 977-6450

**Rep. Charlie Crist - 13th District** <http://crist.house.gov/> Washington, DC Office 427 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5961 Fax: (202) 225-9764 **District Offices Seminole District Office** 9210 113th Street Seminole, FL 33772 (727) 394-6950 (727) 394-6955 (fax) **St. Petersburg District Office** 696 1st Avenue North, Suite #203 St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 318-6770

**Rep. Kathy Castor - 14th District** Washington Office 205 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202)225-3376 Fax: (202)225-5652 **Tampa Office 4144 N Armenia Ave Suite 300 Tampa, FL 33607** Phone: (813)871-2817 Fax: (813)871-2864 Office Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm **St. Petersburg Office 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 advance. Note: Please mail all items to the Tampa District Office address.

**Rep. Gus Bilirakis - 12th District** Washington, DC Office 2112 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 PHONE: (202) 225-5755 FAX: (202) 225-4085 **New Port Richey Office** 7132 Little Road New Port Richey, FL 34654 PHONE: (727) 232-2921 FAX: (727) 232-2923 **Tarpon Springs Office** 600 Klosterman Road Room BB-038 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 PHONE: (727) 940-5860 FAX: (727) 940-5861 **Wesley Chapel Office** 5901 Argerian Drive Suite 102 Wesley Chapel, FL 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.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](http://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.

