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From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*

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Can it be that twice within a few years, the people of this country have taken a stand against two separate evils that they have accepted for their whole lives -hate and prejudice against LGBTQ and people of color.

We were all completely amazed when masses of Americans

began to realize that LGBTQ people were not to be feared or discriminated against. Suddenly laws were overturned and attitudes of the majority of people were changed. I write this as a straight person who cannot fully understand the pain and sadness experienced by just about every gay person who "came out of the closet" and faced the consequences. I fully understand that there are still a lot of people who think another person's sexuality is any of their business. There are "religious institutions" who teach their followers to hate people who are different from them. And there are Judges and legislators who ignore the Founding Fathers' stand against having religious institutions and government intertwined. However, in the last few years, up to and including this week, significant changes were made.

Change really be-

Con't → M LA page 2

Someone on here recently said,
"I haven't lost friends over politics, I've lost friends over morals,"

and I can't stop thinking about it.

People think "politics" is this separate, supra human thing, but it's your morals in action.

@emilylhauser

meeting

VIRTUAL
MEETING

July 13, 2020

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

MLA from page 1

gan when Harvey Milk, who was a martyr to gay rights, began telling gay people that they needed to make themselves known to those around them. That must have been extremely difficult for many and in so many cases, gay people, especially young gay people, were abandoned by their families and their friends. But in the end, Harvey Milk was proven to be correct. When people began to understand that the grandchild or nephew they loved or the co-worker they respected were gay, it was much easier to accept that their previous notions about gay people were not founded on anything except learned fear and discrimination. The recent Supreme Court case that disallows

an employer from firing a person for simply being gay is a huge step in the right direction. Does it solve all problems? No. This has taken much too long and will not quietly go away. The recent Supreme Court decision that employers cannot fire a person simply for being gay was a welcome surprise. However, it followed the Donald Trump's edict allowing trans people to be refused medical care. Will it never stop?

We have all seen instances of police brutality over the years. A black person, usually a male, is brutally murdered by police. Black people march, there is often some rioting, and then it is gone, except for the family's grief. The recent murder by police of George Floyd and the resulting protests of thousands of people

of all ages, races and ethnicities was different. They protested police brutality day after day, week after week, across the US and across the world. This is beyond anything we had ever seen before. The absolute brutality of the murder and the attitude of the police officer who kept his knee on the neck of George Floyd was impossible to forget. Yet the police officer kept that position for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. The three officers with him made no attempt to stop him. In fact, they assisted. The sight of a young woman videotaping it all, made little



difference to him. He had done this before, lied on the police report and gotten away with murder or at least brutal treatment. It was the way things were and in his sick mind, it was only a black man. But this time, in this place, it was not acceptable.

The question now is whether he will be found guilty. Will he really go to prison and will the three officers who assisted him join him there? While the fact that he was fired and then ar-

MLA—next page

MLA from prior page

rested and indicted, as were his accomplices, was a big step forward, it was only a first step taken in the glare of media coverage and intensified protests. What will happen when time has passed? I can remember waiting for the verdict in the Travon Martin case, absolutely certain that George Zimmerman would go to prison. The shock of his acquittal is still clear in my mind. Will that happen again here?

We should probably not be surprised at the police murder last weekend of Rayshard Brooks. His crime was falling asleep in a Wendy's drive thru. In the light of TV, Radio, and the internet repeatedly showing the not only the protests but the seemingly different response to Mr. Floyd's

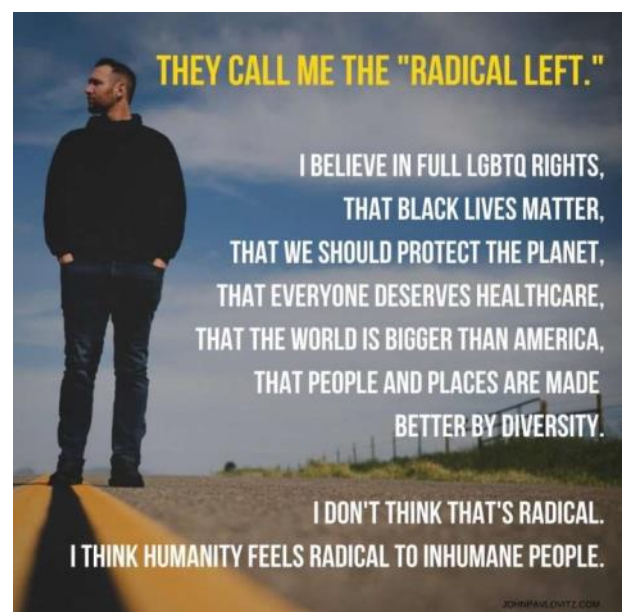
murder. Never before had this kind of Police brutality resulted in the almost immediate firing of the officers and their arrests. This was uppermost in the thoughts of most people. Yet these Atlanta officers killed a man who had fallen asleep in a Wendy's drive thru. What were they thinking? Were they thinking? Did they really believe they could sweep this "under the rug" as they had most likely done before? This could have been an easy encounter. They could have allowed Mr. Brooks to lock up his car and walk to his sister's house. Instead, they killed him. Now they are both charged with serious crimes.

Let's discard the President's response. He needs the votes of the segments of the police and military who want to keep the status quo. That is his only concern.

Even Senators like Ted Cruz, and most other Republicans are accepting that police brutality exists while ignoring that it is systemic in police forces across the country. At least they are acknowledging a problem. That is a step forward. The bill they propose seems to suggest changes without requiring them. They brought out Senator Tim Scott, who until now was not a household name. But Senator Scott is the one and only black Republican Senator, so he got the job of pre-

sending the bill. There is a world of difference between the House and Senate bills, but "Grim Reaper" McConnell had no choice but to allow the bills to go forward. We simply hold our breath and wait.

Again, I write this as a privileged white person who cannot fully understand the depth of pain a person undergoes in this country simply because he or she was born black. But I know that we have to use this time and this place in history to make the changes. Can we do it? 🍷



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 there is no meeting in JUNE, you can pay online at:

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





District 66 News



We are beginning to see very good results from our efforts to engage voters to sign up to Vote for Mail. Data from the supervisor of elections shows over 10,000 voters in Pinellas County signed up. The vast majority of those are registered as Democrats and No-party.

To support the overall county efforts, District 66 volunteers did amazing work! Here is an update on those efforts:

Phone

- We have now made over 3,200 calls from our phone bank list. We continue to have very positive conversations, and people appreciating our calls.
- We have also been calling newly registered voters and voters who did not vote in 2016 as part of our version of an adopt a block effort. These are voters that are many times not engaged by campaigns. This is a great way to share information on voting, candidates, vote by mail, and build relationships. We are getting more and more volunteers helping with this effort.

Postcards

- - Indivisible postcard volunteers sent out 80,000 postcards to voters registered as NPAs. A huge achievement! A new effort is being launched to engage voters that have signed up to vote by mail around the time they will receive their ballot this fall.
- - We have now mailed well over 10,000 postcards as part of our D66 Vote by Mail campaign, and our adopt a block efforts. A lot of great feedback from voters that appreciate us informing and helping them. It has been amazing to see so many people helping with this effort - distributing cards, paying for stamps, and of course, addressing the cards. Many hands make light work!

Voter registration

- We used a new mapping tool to identify homes in our district to target for voter registration. Given social distancing challenges, this was seen as good opportunity to engage people to register. For District 66, we sent out over 1,500 postcards to priority precincts. We had a number of postcards returned, but we are seeing some positive results - about 80 people have registered. We will continue to monitor results.

Thank you for everyone's contributions for these effort to increase voter turnout and build

voter relationships!

I also wanted to share some great news related to vote by mail. Deb A. received vote by mail signup information from the Supervisor of Elections for the month of May, across Pinellas.

- ⇒ 10,421 voters enrolled in VBM in May!
- ⇒ 59% were Democrats
- ⇒ 25% were NPA's
- ⇒ 16% were Republicans

Our collective efforts were (and still are) a key catalyst for so many VBM enrollments. Still much more we are doing, but it is a great feeling to see these kinds of results.

Please note that in November 2018, 80% of VBM Voters returned a VBM ballot. This is much higher turnout as compared to non-VBM voters. Voting by mail makes a difference!

Bryan Beckman
D66 Chair

District 67 News



By Peggy
Tucker

District 67 is the other district (along with District 66) where a

sizeable number of our Largo Club members live. The district is large, running roughly from Missouri Ave./Ulmerton Road east to 49th Street and north to Sunset Point.

More importantly, District 67 is a key area where a large Democratic turnout can be particularly impactful to winning this fall. That is because it has about the same number of Democratic and Republican voters.

The district currently does not have a chairman but is being organized by Beth Davis and a handful of volunteers who have split the district into several areas. I am working to build a team to concentrate on the southern part of the district, most of which is in Largo and will be vital to getting Eric Gerard elected to the Largo Commission this fall.

The I Hate to Make Phone Calls Group

The activity where we currently

need the most help is making phone calls to Democrats who have not yet registered to vote by mail. The phone banks are all online and calls can be made any time between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. For those of you who like company, we have a group, unofficially dubbed the "I Hate to Make Phone Calls Group," that is making calls on Wednesday mornings. There is a Zoom meet-up at 9:15 and then we make calls from 10 a.m. until noon, followed by another quick Zoom chat to address any questions that have come up.

We also have texting available and postcard writing, all with the goal of getting more Democrats signed up to vote by mail. Training is available online for any of these activities.

To get involved contact:

Peggy Tucker

(727) 460-5345

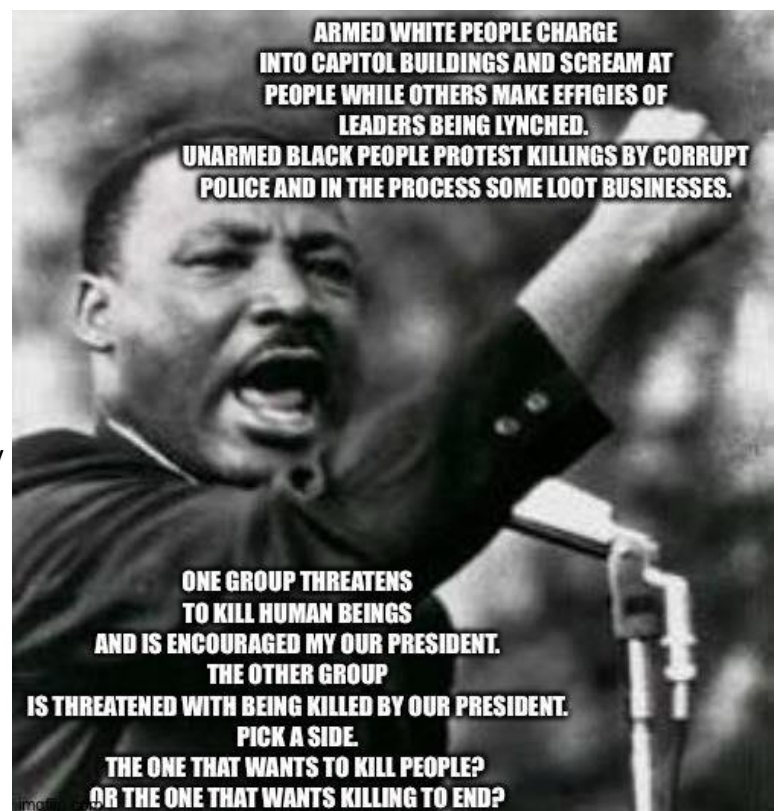
Peggytucker55@hotmail.com

Beth Davis

(727) 742-3797

Beth.g.davis@gmail.com

In It To Win It!



Tuesday Morning Game Changers

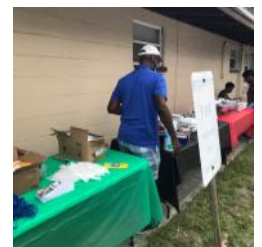
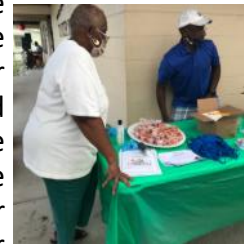
Juneteenth Celebration 2020
By Ginny Nelson

In a way that we all are familiar with in organizations, the usual volunteers were on hand to make Ridgecrest's Juneteenth Fish Fry a sell-out. Delicious fried fish, coleslaw, baked beans, bread, and a cold drink were on the menu. The food was delivered by carhops, drive-in-style, to the customers as they waited in their cars. Vern and Tiffany were the efficient and fast carhops, quickly collecting tickets and delivering meals. The circular drive at the Tasker Beal Jr. Service Center provided the perfect venue for efficient traffic flow.

In a steady stream for 3 hours, neighbors and friends greeted each other coming and going. Friends of Ridgecrest Board President, Wanda McCawthan was the hostess and welcomed everyone. Geneva was the money person. "Fea Funk" (John Feazell) played throughout the Celebration, drawing in people and defining the overall upbeat atmosphere and feel of a party. The onsite resale shop was

open, and some of its goods were on display, raising awareness, and inviting customers to come in and check it out.

Most of all it was a happy scene of a community coming together to celebrate the serious business of freedom and resilience. We were privileged to be there to add our voice and acknowledge the continual struggle for freedom. Our role was to offer voter registration and voter education. A big "thank you" goes to our usual volunteers, Judy Sellers, Dana Polk, Becky Heeren, and Peggy Tucker. We love celebrating Juneteenth!! Let's all do it again next year. 🙌



By Becky Heeren

Saturday, it was my pleasure to join with Tuesday Morning Game Changer members at the 2020 Juneteenth Fish Fry at the Tasker Beale, Jr. Service Center on 119th Street in Largo. This annual event was sponsored by the Friends of Ridgecrest and the Greater Ridgecrest Crime Watch. But to hold this annual event in 2020, the organizers knew they needed to adjust the logistics to fit the current social distancing requirements. And adjust they did! The Ridgecrest groups threw a terrific drive thru fish fry-

[Next page](#)

Tuesday Morning Game Changers

From prior page Juneteenth celebration for Ridgecrest to be proud of. Live music, delicious food, great volunteers and smiling faces made this event a happy and meaningful experience for all.

The Tuesday Morning Game Changers set up an area offering Voter Registration and Vote by Mail materials. While we were there, we wondered "Who is Tasker Beale, Jr.?" By asking the ladies serving the

delicious fish, we learned that Mr. Beale was an institution in the Ridgecrest area. He served as the president of friends of Ridgecrest and that he was instrumental in obtaining important improvements as the installing of sidewalks, improved streets and streetlights to the Ridgecrest community. Through online sources, we learned that by trade, Mr. Beale was a physicist and a mathematician. To the people of Greater Ridgecrest, he was much more. He served his whole life as a husband, father, grandfather, friend, teacher, mentor, leader, communicator, connector and go-to person for the community. He worked tirelessly tutoring children in math and science, heading up local community development efforts and serving needs of the local churches that he loved.

Some people seem to just naturally serve as the cornerstone of their communities.

Tasker Beale, Jr. was one of those people. He called Ridgecrest his life-long home. He graduated from Pinellas High School, went on to receive math and physics degrees from Bethune-Cookman University, and returned to the Ridgecrest area, electing to stay there for the rest of his life. He was employed at GE and later, by Constellation Technology. When he was not working at his jobs, he was working for Ridgecrest and its people. "His [community] involvement spread far and deep. He served as president of the Friends of Ridgecrest and as vice president of the Ridgecrest crime watch committee. He also worked as a liaison between the neighborhood and Pinellas County's community development department, bringing sidewalks, streetlights and better roads to the community", (from a TBT story following his death). Mr. Beale died on April 21, 2016 at age 66.

Tasker Beale Jr.'s legacy provides



a strong platform of responsibility, love, and devotion to the neighborhood community service center that now bears his name. It was apparent at this Juneteenth Celebration, that the spirit of Tasker Beale was honored and carried forward through the diligent efforts of so many dedicate people in the Ridgecrest community. And, the fish dinner was outstanding! 🐟



HEARING FROM OUR CANDIDATES

Rene Flowers, Candidate for PCBOCC, D7

Rene Flowers, Chairperson, was elected to the School Board on November 6th, 2012, to complete the term of deceased School Board Member Lew



Williams. Ms. Flowers is a native of St. Petersburg, attended Howard University and University of South Florida, is a graduate of Eckerd College and is currently working on her Masters Degree In Public Administration through Capella University.. She formerly served as a member of the City Council of St. Petersburg, serving as Vice Chairperson in 1999 and 2006 and as Chairperson for two consecutive terms, 2000 through 2002. Ms. Flowers also served as President of the Florida League of Cities from 2006-2007. Ms. Flowers has served or is presently serving on a number of community, social and civic organizations, i.e., Former PSTA Board Member for four years, formerly with the City of St. Petersburg Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, CDBG Committee, The National Council of Negro Women,

en, member of the St. Petersburg Branch NAACP and the MLK Day of Service Committee, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Zeta Upsilon Omega Chapter, Member of SCLC, Legislative Liaison to FSBA for Pinellas

County Schools and Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Florida School Board Association. She is a member of the St. Petersburg Democratic Club, The South St. Petersburg Democratic Club and the Greater Pinellas Democratic Club,. Ms. Flowers also has volunteered for over the past 13 years to speak to youth in the school system about health education and making positive choices. Ms. Flowers is active in her church; and, has three adult children and two grandchildren.

Eric Gerard candidate for Largo City Commission

I'm running for City Commission because I believe we need Largo solutions to the issues we face – issues like affordable housing,

safe neighborhoods, and sustainable development that protects our environment. My background as a journalist and a small business owner combined with my service on city boards and leading city projects has prepared me to move Largo forward. I've put together this document to give you some more information on my work, why I'm running, and how we win this race. Already, we've put parts of this plan into action and the results have been very encouraging. Our voter engagement campaign is delivering my message to thousands of voters in every corner of our city. Those communications have resulted in dozens of volunteer signups and commitments for Get Out The Vote (GOTV) activities this November.

In addition to volunteering, many of our friends and colleagues have pledged their financial support to win this race. I hope that once you read a bit

about
campaign,
you'll be
inspired to
the critical
step of
nating to



effort. A robust fundraising operation is critical to make sure we can break through the noise in the lead up to Election Day.

If you have any questions, I would

HEARING FROM OUR CANDIDATES

love to talk with you. My cell phone is 727-580-9146 and you can email me at Eric@GerardForLargo.com.

You can also learn more at our website:

www.GerardForLargo.com.

Contributions accepted securely at www.GerardForLarfo.com

Or by check to:

Eric Gerard for Largo Commission

2308 Seton Ln
Largo, FL 33774



The Florida National
Organization for Women PAC
(officially "the NOW PAC of Florida")
is pleased to endorse

Evan Frayman

FOR CIRCUIT JUDGE - PINELLAS & PASCO

- 24 years of courtroom experience as a litigator focused on business litigation, employment law and family law
- Dartmouth College, BA
- University of Miami School of Law, JD
- Public service ranging from presidencies of the Rotary Club of Dunedin Waterside and Temple B'nai Israel, to participating in Clearwater Bar Association Law Day speakers program and legal clinic

This digital posting is to be used only for free, no charge postings on social media. This digital posting may be shared on digital media. If any organization or person prints this listing, please identify that organization or person on the printed item or items.



Karl Nurse Candidate for School Board District 7

Karl Nurse has spent his lifetime in community and public service. It started with working as a legislative aide for 6 years in the Florida House and Senate. He primarily worked on environmental and education issues. 34 years ago, Karl and his bride, Jody started Bay Tech Label. Today, we provide 48 people with good jobs. We have never laid anyone off, in good times or bad. The

skills learned in running a business served Karl well when elected to the St. Petersburg City Council. St. Pete has a \$700 million budget in good years. Karl joined the council in 2008 as the economy crumbled. He had to use his practical problem solving skills to lessen the impact to the most vulnerable citizens. Karl passed over 50 ordinances and policy changes during his time on council.

Karl circled back to school related issues because 3 of the 5 most struggling elementary schools in Pinellas County were in his district. In helping with issues surrounding Melrose Elementary and working with 4 different principals, he experienced the chal-

lenges and opportunities in the eventually successful effort to turn this school around. Helping to improve the largest feeder, pre-school to Melrose played a role in Melrose boosting its grade.

I ask to imagine all students catching up by 3rd Grade. Imagine if the school system provided a path to the middle class for all students, regardless of if they were college bound or other high wage skills bound. We can do this. First, we have to commit to these higher goals. Then, identify the resources needed and focus those resources on these major goals. If you elect Karl Nurse to the School Board, District 7, that is what I will seek to achieve.

HEARING FROM OUR CANDIDATES



Patricia Plantamura
Candidate for
HD 66

with manly
Firmness his
Invasions on
the Rights of
People."

nize kindred spirits-- as in group therapy. We are people who aspire to our Declaration's self-evident truths, equality of all people, and our Creator's endowment of rights of life and liberty. In good company we envision these ideas for others as we do for ourselves.

Our Founders Declared our Independence. "In the course of human events..." it is up to us now. In the words of Broadway's Hamilton, "history has its eyes on you."

You can donate at:

<https://secure.actblue.com/donate/plantamura-for-florida-state-representative-district--66-1>

IOR

Patricia Plantamura Campaign for HD 66
10013 118th Way
Seminole, FL 33772

Follow Patricia at:
Blogspot: [Pat-plant.blogspot.com](http://plant.blogspot.com)

Upholding the Work of our Founding Fathers

While I have been invited to share about myself, as the Fourth of July approaches, let me first share some encouraging words about our Country. I will simply provide links about myself at the end.

Our Founders' words were clear in the Declaration of Independence, separating themselves from the ilk of King George. Read on with a certain present-day leader in mind.

Among their rebukes of the King: "He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them."

"He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly for opposing

It goes on: "He has endeavoured to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their Migrations hither..." "For depriving, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury..."

"He has excited domestic Insurrections amongst us..."

Like their descriptions of King George, we're up against a President "whose Character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the Ruler of a Free People."

Our Founding Fathers would enthusiastically recognize your efforts now as necessary in extending their vision. You have been working for months registering voters and encouraging VBM ballots. Candidates stepped up toward government posts where tax revenues are drying up. In these acts you are present day patriots by definition, people who love, support and defend their country with devotion.

Remain mindful of Democrat gatherings over the years and recog-



CONTACT US

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



Join us for our monthly general meeting on Monday, June 22nd at 7pm. Representative Charlie Crist will be our guest speaker.

Joining us also will be Richmond Floyd to speak about what "defunding the Police means" and Ryan Barack, the lead attorney with the FDP Voter Protection Program for Pinellas County, will talk about how you can be a part of election protection.

For link information, please email office@pinellasdemsrats.com

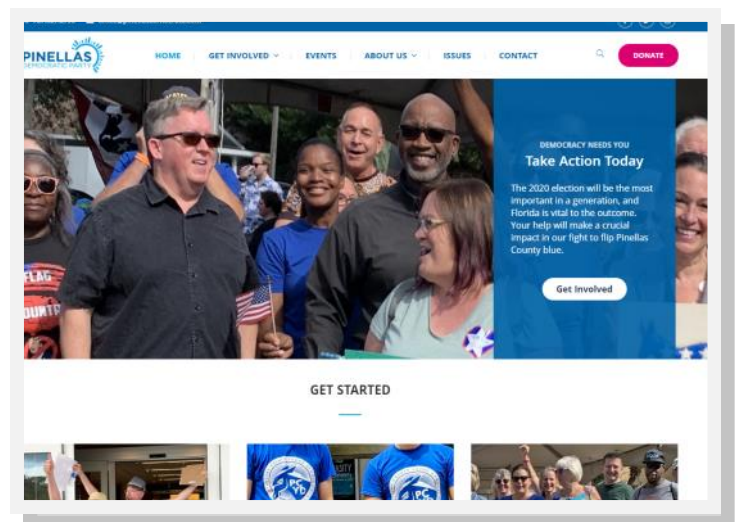


Join the In It to Win It Team

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.

Check out our revamped website!





We are hosting a **Candidate forum** for candidates running in the August Primary.
Send your questions to



MEET THE CANDIDATES

Hosted by

**The Campaign Committee
Pinellas County Democrats**

Send your candidate questions to: Campaign@pinellasdemocrats.com

Sheriff



James
McLynas



Eliseo
Santana

Tuesday, July 7th, 7-8 pm

meet.google.com/zop-yjnw-vnu

Join by phone

(US) +1 617-675-4444

PIN: 447 918 539 4118#

Florida State House D67



Dawn
Douglas



Mike
Henkel

Tuesday, July 7th, 8:15-9:15 pm

meet.google.com/zop-yjnw-vnu

Join by phone

(US) +1 617-675-4444

PIN: 447 918 539 4118#

County Commission D7



Renee
Flowers



Rep. Wengay
'Newt'
Newton



Frank
Peterman

Thursday, July 9th, 7-8 pm

meet.google.com/usm-icti-cxq

Join by phone

(US) +1 617-675-4444

PIN: 545 457 518 3782#

Florida State House D70



Keisha
Bell



Michelle
Grimsley



Mark
Oliver



Michele
Rayner

Thursday, July 9th, 8:15-9:15 pm

meet.google.com/usm-icti-cxq

Join by phone

(US) +1 617-675-4444

PIN: 545 457 518 3782#

Send your questions to: Campaign@pinellasdemocrats.com



MEET THE CANDIDATES
Hosted by
The Campaign Committee
Pinellas County Democrats

The Pinellas Democratic Party's Campaign Committee invites you to join us for a series of candidate forums. Send your questions and meet the Democrats running in the August primary races, including Sheriff, County Commissioner D7 and Florida House Districts 67 and 70. Pose your questions to Campaign@PinellasDemocrats.com and RSVP to one of our events! <https://www.facebook.com/pg/PinellasDemocrats/events/>

PS. In case anyone missed it, we started promoting the Meet the Candidates forums on our socials today. Check it out: <https://www.facebook.com/PinellasDemocrats/posts/10158506577616118>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/555544145114486/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/434650414161138/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1639917712849572/>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/756930598202507/>



From the Chair's Desk

We hope all the wonderful dads, granddads, uncles, brothers, role models and mentors who have a hand in raising our future had a very Happy Father's Day!

What an incredible week for Democrats and for our country. Last Monday the Supreme Court rightly affirmed that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which bars discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, and national origin, affords protection from workplace discrimination to the LGBTQ community as well. We are proud to stand in solidarity with the LGBTQ community and celebrate the Supreme Court's affirmation that LGBTQ people deserve equal protection under the law. While this victory gets us one step closer to a country where

everyone can live openly, freely, and authentically, we know we have much more work to do to ensure a truly equitable United States. To the activists who have worked decades for these protections, congratulations and Happy Pride!

Thursday brought an additional reason to celebrate as the Supreme Court voted to protect the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and the more than 700,000 DACA recipients whose lives were hanging in the balance due to the Trump administration's cruelty! Back in 2012, the Obama-Biden Administration created DACA to protect young people who have only ever known the United States as home and offer them a chance to

work, study, and live a full life – free from the threat of deportation. DACA gave hundreds of thousands of young people a chance at a better life, and they gave infinitely more back to our communities and country. Now we must work toward compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform.

Friday we celebrated Juneteenth. Though this year marked 155 years since the first Juneteenth, it's painfully obvious we still have a long way to go until we are all truly free. I am grateful to be a part of a Party and a community that is striving for change and working to end systemic racism. Black lives matter!

We must elect Joe Biden, who is committed to championing equal rights for all Americans and to es-

tablishing a road map to citizenship for Dreamers, their parents, and so many more who deserve it, and also elect Democrats up and down the ballot who are committed to bringing about needed change.

As of Monday, June 22, there are exactly 134 days -- 4 months and 12 days -- to November 3, 2020. We are one month away from the July 20 deadline to register to vote or change party to vote in the August Primary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joni".



From previous page

Down Ballot Elections Department

This week FDP launched its new Down Ballot Elections Department and announced a \$2 million investment into more than 50 down ballot elections. The department will provide critical data, organizing, digital, and communications support to municipal, county, and state house campaigns. Rosy Gonzalez Speers will serve as Senior Advisor for Down Ballot Elections.

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The new Down Ballot Elections Department will encompass the successful Municipal Victory Program (MVP) led by Lisa Peth and chaired by Miami Commissioner Ken Russell, which has trained over 600 candidates throughout the state.

Moving Florida Forward: A Conversation on Racial Justice

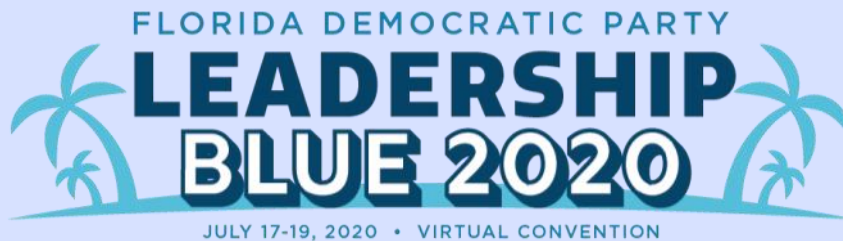
FDP is hosting a Virtual Statewide Town Hall with Florida's Congressional Delegation, former US Attorney General Eric Holder, former Commissioner of the Philadelphia Police Department, and community activists **Thursday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. ET** to discuss racial justice. The event will be broadcast live on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

A promotional poster for a "Virtual STATEWIDE TOWN HALL" titled "MOVING FLORIDA FORWARD: A Conversation on Racial Justice". The poster features a dark background with white and blue text. At the top, the title "Virtual STATEWIDE TOWN HALL" is prominently displayed. Below it, the subtitle "MOVING FLORIDA FORWARD: A Conversation on Racial Justice" is written in a smaller font. The poster lists several participants with their names and titles: SEN. U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL ERIC HOLDER, COMMISSIONER CHARLES W. HARRIS, CONGRESSMAN ALCEE HASTINGS (FL-11), CONGRESSWOMAN DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (FL-12), and CONGRESSWOMAN JUDY CLINE. Below these, it says "WITH COMMUNITY ACTIVISTS AND DEMOCRATIC MEMBERS OF Florida's CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION". A grid of 10 small portraits of community activists and democratic members follows. At the bottom, the date and time "THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2020 AT 6:30PM EDT" are listed, along with the instruction "Watch Live" and links to Facebook.com/AlceeForCongress, Facebook.com/RepDebbieWassermanSchultz, Facebook.com/FlaDems, and YouTube.com/FlaDems.

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Virtual Leadership Blue

Our Annual Leadership Blue event has been rescheduled for a virtual gathering **July 17-19**. Clear your calendars for a weekend of trainings, special events,

DemDaily: Democrats Launch Offensive

This week, the **Democratic National Committee** (DNC) kicked off a general election offensive campaign in the field, on air, online and at the ballot box.

Taking the Battle to the States

The tour, which began on Tuesday, the five-year anniversary of Trump's first campaign launch, will start in Florida and wind through other swing states where Perez "will be joined along the way by stalwart Democrats who represent the

breadth and depth of our party up and down the ballot and across communities."

Warren is purportedly on Biden's short list for a vice presidential running mate, along with California Senator Kamala Harris and former Obama National Security Advisor Susan Rice. Other top contenders are said to include Florida Congresswoman Val Demings, Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms and New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham.

Attacking the Airwaves

The DNC War Room released

a one-minute television and digital ad entitled "Descent," starting with Trump's kick-off campaign five years ago when he descended down the gold escalator in Trump Tower, projecting an image that has become a metaphor for his presidency. "Ever since, he's tried to take the country down with him."

The ad continues, "Giving massive tax cuts to billionaires, praising white supremacists, stoking racial division. A white house in chaos. Losing 300,000 jobs in a failed trade war with China. Locking children in cages. He misled the American people on coronavirus stating it would miraculously go away, it



Elizabeth Warren, a top contender for VP, will tour with DNC Chair Tom Perez (NBC News)



From previous page

didn't. Now over 100,000 dead Americans, 20 million jobs destroyed. Recession."

He turned our military on American citizens. You have the power to end the descent of our nation, to choose justice, unity, leadership because we can't afford four more years of Trump."

The "six figure television buy" will run four to five weeks. Other upcoming ads are expected to focus on Trump's trade dispute with China, and Trump's response to the coronavirus crisis. '

Tackling Tech at the Ballot Box

A high tech force has been a priority under DNC Chairman Tom Perez, who has overhauled the Party's data practices and technology tools since elected in 2017.

The latest addition to

the DNC's "toolbox" was rolled out Tuesday, designed to help Democratic campaigns and state parties contact voters who have either been purged from active voter rolls or marked as inactive voters.

***DNC Chair Perez:
For the last five
years, Trump
has brought Ameri-
ca down with
him (CNN)***

The new voter purge tool uses voter file data, as well as the DNC's proprietary data science models, to help campaign staff more easily track, identify and organize voter roll functions:

* **Voter Roll Monitoring:** Monitors voter rolls to identify voters at risk of being deemed "inactive" or purged -- and to detect large-scale, potentially malicious voter roll purges.

* **Data Break-downs:** Identifies inactive and purged voters by demographic, includ-

ing race, age, and party support.

* **Voter Contact:** Enables staff to quickly contact a universe of purged or inactive voters and take the steps necessary to re-register them or help them protect their voting status.

This is particularly critical for 2020 battleground states, where state elections, and the presidential, could be decided by a few thousand votes.

To understand the magnitude of voter suppression in registration and rolls, which usually disproportionately affect minority voters, one need only look to Georgia, a potential swing state this November. In 2018, former Georgia State House Minority Leader Stacy Abrams (D) lost, by 54,000 votes, the Governor's race to Republican Brian Kemp, who, as Georgia Secretary of State, had oversight over the election in which he was a candidate.

Under Kemp's direction, prior to election day, over 340,000 voters were removed from the rolls on the grounds that they had moved - when they actually still lived at the address where they are registered. An investigation also found that 53,000 voter registrations were delayed by Kemp's office without adequately notifying the applicants.

The national party is now faced with new tech challenges as it prepares to conduct the **Democratic National Convention**, partially, or in full, online.

On May 12th, the DNC's Rules and ByLaws Committee (RBC) voted to allow aspects of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Convention, postponed because of the coronavirus pandemic to the week of August 17th, to be held virtually. 🇺🇸



Vote by Mail

This last week we enrolled over 15,000 voters into vote-by-mail! Our goal by August 1 is to enroll 210,000 low-turnout Democrats to vote by mail.

We are using a multi-pronged approach to enroll voters, including patch-through calls, direct mail, texts, and digital ads. **Just this week we contacted one million Florida voters by phone and text!** Since April 1, we've made 2,207,067 auto-dialer VBM calls and patched through 21,812 voters to SOE offices to enroll!

Since the end of May, Supervisors of Elections offices in eight counties mailed vote-by-mail enrollment forms to all voters. DNC volunteers texted the Democrats in those counties who have a support score of 60+ and a cell phone, encouraging them to return their forms. FDP field staff and volunteers called every Democrat with a support score of 60+ and a landline, making three attempts in one week to encourage them to return their forms. Additionally, FDP mailed vote-by-mail enrollment forms to Democrats in 37 counties with postage-paid return envelopes and chased

these enrollment forms with phone calls.

Voting by mail is safe, secure, and accessible. It allows more voters to participate in our democracy, and it's a commonsense way to run an election, especially during a public health crisis. Check out these stats for our Democratic seniors 65+ VBM enrollment numbers:

On Election Day 2018, 628,089 Democratic seniors were enrolled in VBM. We have almost as many enrolled today, 603,877, nearly 5 months from Election Day.

On Election Day 2018, 59,943 more Republican seniors were enrolled in VBM than Democratic seniors. Today we are only behind by 799 and poised to quickly surpass them!

Since the coronavirus crisis hit, we've had conversations with 20,348 Democratic seniors, including wellness checks and VBM encouragement.

Be sure to share our Vote-by-Mail websites in

both [English](#) and [Spanish](#) with links to sign up for Vote by Mail in every county.





Virtual Fundraiser with Congressman Adam Schiff!

Join us **Sunday,**

Join us **Sunday, June 28 at 2 p.m. ET** for a virtual fundraiser with special guest California Representative Adam Schiff and Chair Terrie Rizzo. This fundraiser will support our vote-by-mail programs. [Click here to RSVP or Contribute.](#)

FL DEMS

PLEASE JOIN US
for a virtual fundraiser to benefit
**THE FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S
VOTE-BY-MAIL PROGRAM**

with special guests
Congressman ADAM SCHIFF
FDP Chairwoman TERRIE RIZZO

hosted by Pam Goodman, Charlotte Perret,
Gary Sugarman, and Andrew Tobias
co-hosted by Debra Kanter, Ken Sommers, and
Judith Teller Kaye

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2020
2:00 PM – 3:15 PM EST**
RSVP: FLORIDADEMS.ORG/SCHIFF
ZOOM LINK RECEIVED UPON CONTRIBUTION

CONTRIBUTION LEVELS

GUEST: \$50	SPONSOR: \$500
PATRON: \$100	CO-HOST: \$1,000
SUPPORTER: \$250	HOST: \$2,500+

Please go to floridadems.org to purchase tickets and/or contribute.

Florida Democrats are not an Incorporated 501(c)(3) Non-Profit. Your contributions may be used to support the political campaign of any candidate for federal, state, or local office. Campaigns for any Florida official will be notified in the public domain of funds.



As our nation continues to navigate a world changed by coronavirus, it's clear just how much is at stake this November. That's why as we prepare to launch Vice President Joe Biden to victory, **Democrats are focused on planning a convention that's both successful AND safe.** Our party is tapping into the resilience and ingenuity of the American spirit, so that together we can meet the massive challenges before us.

So today, after months of careful consideration, **we announced our plans to hold a convention that protects public health, while transforming the convention experience for delegates and viewers.** These updates include:

- **Broadcasting from Milwaukee and across the nation**—Four nights of convention programming will be anchored out of our host community, Milwaukee, from August 17-20, 2020. Programming will include live content from both Milwaukee and other satellite cities, locations, and landmarks.
- **Conducting official business without risking public health**—After consulting with public health officials about the COVID-19 pandemic, convention organizers are announcing today that they have determined state delegations should not plan to travel to Milwaukee and should plan to conduct their official convention business remotely. The DNC will be in touch with delegations in the coming weeks to share more information about the processes being developed.
- **Announcing our Convention Chair**—U.S. Representative Bennie Thompson will serve as Permanent Chair of the 2020 Democratic National Convention. The Con-

vention Chair presides over all official convention business.

- **Organizing and mobilizing like never before**—In order to engage even more voters during this critical election year, we will be launching a series of engagement campaigns that invite Americans across the country to add their voices to convention programming.
- **Updating the convention campus**—With fewer people gathering in person at this year's event, convention planners are modifying the convention campus. Convention proceedings will move from Fiserv Forum to the Wisconsin Center, the convention center located in downtown Milwaukee.

In the coming weeks, we will announce some of the new and exciting ways that you'll be able to share your voices, your stories, and your ideas with the Democratic National Convention. Until then, make sure you're following along on our social media channels and at [DemConvention.com](https://demconvention.com). We look forward to sharing more updates very soon!

Yours,
Jason

Jason Rae
Secretary
Democratic National Committee



Democratic National Convention Committee Announces Series of Virtual Platform Hearings

Washington, D.C.— Democratic National Committee Chair Tom Perez and Platform Drafting Committee Chair Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced today a series of virtual hearings. The hearings are designed to allow the Drafting Committee to engage in a robust dialogue with Americans from all walks of life on the ideas and solutions that will best articulate our party's vision for the country .

The Platform Drafting Hearing and Meeting details are provided below and will be livestreamed on the DNCC's YouTube channel

- June 29 at 5-8pm ET (Platform Drafting Committee Hearing)
- July 1 at 5-8pm ET (Platform Drafting Committee Hearing)
- July 2 at 5-8pm ET (Platform Drafting Committee Hearing)
- July 15 (Platform Drafting Committee Meeting)

Additional information about the ways for interested parties, allied groups and members of the public can provide their ideas on the platform will be announced in the coming days. For more information, please email platform@demconvention.com.

Opinion & Letters

Trump Could Still Break Democracy's Biggest Norm

THE ATLANTIC [PETER NICHOLAS](#)
JUNE 16, 2020

Say Joe Biden wins the presidential election in November. On the morning of January 20, Donald Trump will enter the Oval Office and leave a handwritten letter to Biden on the Resolute desk. Later, Trump and his wife, Melania, will stand in the White House's North Portico to await a visit from the president-elect and his wife, Jill. After the armored limousine glides up the driveway, the couples will exchange pleasantries and maybe gifts before heading inside for coffee.

Trump's pictures would already have been slipped from oversize frames that, for the moment, hang empty on

the walls. Workers will pull down drapes and roll up carpets that don't suit the incoming family's aesthetic. Sometime before noon, the couples will leave the White House in separate cars and meet again on the Capitol's west portico. Trump will be in the front row, watching as Biden places his hand on the Bible and takes the oath of office. Back at the White House, Trump's senior aides will pack up and leave. After the ceremony, the 45th and 46th presidents will walk side by side to a waiting helicopter on the Capitol plaza for a final goodbye. Trump will salute, board, and fly away.

Or maybe not.

Every four or eight years, the clock hits noon on January 20 and the nation learns whether the old president accepts the legitimacy of the new

"The current presidential term ends at noon on January 20. Full stop," Joshua Geltzer, a Georgetown Law professor, told me. If Biden wins, that's the precise moment when his term would start. It's democracy's most dangerous instant: the interval when power changes hands, testing whether the nation stays moored to self-governance.

That tradition's endurance depends on Trump's cooperation—

or the resiliency of the country's democratic institutions should he withhold it. There's no assurance that Trump will accept the validity of the election results. He's already described mail-in voting as a plot to steal the election. And he's trolled critics with the tongue-in-cheek suggestion that, by popular demand, he might stay in office beyond the Constitution's eight-year limit.

.....news is that at the end of 6 years, after America has been made GREAT again and I leave the beautiful White House (do you think the people would demand that I stay longer? KEEP

Opinion & Letters

AMERICA GREAT), both of these horrible papers will quickly go out of business & be forever gone!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) June 16, 2019

Trump could win, of course. But if Biden sweeps enough battleground states in convincing fashion, any claim that Trump was robbed of victory would be ludicrous on its face. At noon on January 20 he'd no longer be president, and if he boycotted the rituals surrounding the presidential handoff and holed up inside the White House, he'd be squatting. "He can sit in the Oval Office and put his hands together and say, 'I'm not going to leave,' but ... the transfer of power will occur with him or without him," Jonathan Wackrow, a former Secret Service agent who

was a member of the presidential protection detail and was at work the day Barack Obama took over from George W. Bush, told me. In an interview with Fox News on Friday, Trump said that he would accept defeat, that if he lost, he'd leave. "Certainly, if I don't win, I don't win," he said, adding that he would "go on, do other things."

Senator Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican and Trump confidant, told me that he does not believe Trump would defy the electoral verdict: "I'm not buying into that nutty stuff. I'm not worried about that."

Trump's opponent isn't so sure. Speaking with Trevor Noah on Wednesday, Biden predicted that the military might be called on to evict Trump if it came to that—and

that it would willingly comply. "I am absolutely convinced they will escort him from the White House with great dispatch," Biden said.

Making the moment more harrowing might be an election that is both close and contested—a more plausible scenario than a Trump wipeout. In Michigan, the outcome could hinge on mail-in balloting, which Trump has sought to discredit. He's already previewed his objections to postelection recounts that don't go in Republicans' favor.

The Florida Election should be called in favor of Rick Scott and Ron DeSantis in that large numbers of new ballots showed up out of nowhere, and many ballots are missing or forged. An honest vote count is no longer

possible—ballots massively infected. Must go with Election Night!

- Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump) November 12, 2018

If Biden were to notch a narrow victory, Trump could look to contest the results and claim he'd actually won. He could put the military and other tools of presidential power in an awkward spot, pressuring them to pick sides and untangle competing claims about who won. A supine Justice Department led by Attorney General William Barr might bolster Trump's claims by putting out statements that the vote was tainted

"It's really hard for anyone in the military, at any level, to say anything other than 'Yes, sir.' They're not lawyers," Rosa Brooks, a former Pentagon official in the

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Obama administration and a professor at Georgetown Law, told me .

The potential for chaos exposes the frailties of an electoral tradition that depends on the goodwill of the two candidates involved. If one won't cooperate, the system seizes up. The nation survived a couple of scares, but only because the loser was willing to fold. In 2000, Al Gore conceded the race when a divided Supreme Court stopped a recount in Florida, locking in George W. Bush's narrow victory. When he bowed out, Gore ended his career in elective politics, a gesture that Trump might not be so quick to emulate.

Lawrence Douglas, an Amherst College professor, published a book this year called *Will He Go?* that lays out nightmare scenarios arising

from a contested election: dueling claims about who won, with Congress and the courts unable to resolve the dispute. "In 2020, we have no Al Gore to save us from a complete electoral meltdown and the unrest and violence it could unleash," Douglas wrote.

In an interview, Douglas told me: "If people really prepare to engage in constitutional brinkmanship, the system isn't particularly designed to deal with that type of person ... It depends on people having internalized the norms that make a constitutional democracy work."

Trump's political career is the story of norms upended. He's denigrated war heroes and sparred with Gold Star families. Would he honor one of the nation's most precious norms—the peaceful transfer of

power—if it meant admitting failure?

When the fateful moment arrives, Trump would need to accept the same sobering reality that Gore absorbed: He lost. What some in Washington ask is whether he'd be in denial.

Representative Adam Smith, the Democratic chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, told me that he once spoke with a senior White House official and asked about Trump's intentions in the event of a defeat. "I said, 'There's a lot of concern that if your boss loses he's not going to leave,'" Smith said. "And he said, 'No, that's ridiculous. Of course he would.'" Smith wasn't reassured. "There's a zero percent chance that he would gracefully transfer power," he told me. "The best we can hope for is that he would *ungracefully* transfer power."

Brooks, the Georgetown

Law professor and former Obama official, is helping lead an informal bipartisan group called the Transition Integrity Project that is looking to ensure the election and potential transition go smoothly. More than 60 people are involved, including former governors and Cabinet secretaries. They're planning to meet on Zoom in the next few weeks and hold "tabletop" exercises meant to think through various scenarios: a narrow Trump defeat, a clear Trump victory, and a resounding Biden victory among them. They'll game out what might happen if Trump and his supporters use social media to intimidate the election workers tallying votes, or if he refuses to leave in the event of defeat, among other possibilities, participants told me.

Abroad, some are watching uneasily to see if the two-century-old American experiment wobbles. "I care about that, because over the years the United States and its allies have been able to draw on their

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Opinion & Letters

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Abroad, some are watching uneasily to see if the two-century-old American experiment wobbles. "I care about that, because over the years the United States and its allies have been able to draw on their moral authority to call out autocrats and dictators who steal elections, and say, 'That is not okay,'" Peter Westmacott, the former British ambassador to the United States, told me. "If we can't do that anymore, both our values and our moral lead-

ership are in jeopardy." Arturo Sarukhán, the former Mexican ambassador to the United States, told me that the election "could be a domino setting off a chain of events around the world. It will be used by autocratic regimes, by rivals of the U.S., and by countries that are chipping away at the democratic foundations of nations as show-and-tell."

All the polite Inauguration Day niceties serve a purpose: hardening those foundations. Even the letter counts for something. Obama began his note to Trump with three words accepting a result he'd labored to prevent: "Dear Mr. President." Watching from his front-row seat while Biden takes the oath of office would be a powerful signal to Trump's disappointed voters that he's freely ceding power to his legitimate successor. Would he attend, or would he decamp to Mar-a-Lago? Images of a White House makeover might be too painful for

a fragile ego to bear. Everywhere he looked, he'd find signs of his repudiation. Peering out the north-facing windows, he'd see the special viewing stand for Biden to watch the inaugural parade march down Pennsylvania Avenue. "I don't see him leaving willingly, based on what I've seen of how he's used his position," William Cohen, a former Republican senator from Maine and the defense secretary in Bill Clinton's administration, told me. "He does not believe he's subject to any constraint."

Or Trump could win. Then a transfer-of-power crisis would be averted at least until 2025, when the nation would discover whether Trump is indeed joking when he says he'll stay in office into the next decade. 🍷

<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2020/06/when-does-trump-leave-white-house/613060/>

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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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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.

