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From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*



I sat down to write this letter with visions of Impeachment, Lying Republicans and a Mafia Boss President dancing around in my head. After all, it was a difficult week, to state it mildly.

But with a little nudging by my husband, I decided to remember that it is the Holiday Season, after all. I believe the Democrats, on the whole, did the correct thing with the Impeachment. There was nothing else they could do given Trump's actions toward Ukraine and his insist-

ence on doing what the Founders feared most – bringing a foreign country into our elections. Trump's refusal to comply with Congressional subpoenas and demanding that his staff and anyone who ever worked for him ignore legal House subpoenas set a dangerous precedent for

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future presidents. His actions focused on the destruction of a funda-



Acropol Restaurant
1170 Starkey Road
Largo, FL

January, 20, 2020

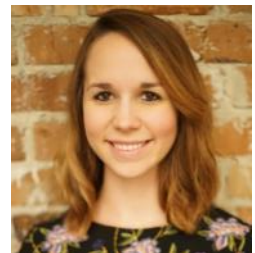
6:30-8:45 PM

Our **January** speakers

Katie Vicsik

And Clearwater Council candidates

Elíseo Santana and Kathleen Beckman



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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 has an equal say in our gov-

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ernment. 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 in-

creased 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.



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mental part of our constitution – the three co-equal parts of government. In the 20th century, presidents took on more power than had actually been contemplated by those who wrote the Constitution. Trump, supported by an Attorney General who misuses his position, went far

beyond any other President. The acts which the Democrats made into the Articles of Impeachment against Trump addressed egregious wrongdoing by the President. We know that doing the correct thing does not always bring victory. It does, however, give a sense of pride in doing what must be done.

I believe as I know most of you do that after Mitch McConnell takes over, he will move quickly to end it all as soon as he can, handing a hollow victory to Trump. There is nothing we can do in the short term. There was no way Democrats could allow Trump to do what he did without

standing up to him and saying, "No." The fact is that he could have been Impeached many times in the last three years, but he has bullied the Republican Party into the Party of Trump. They protect him, knowing he is guilty.

We can only hope that we survive his Presidency which has favored two people: Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin. I believe that most of what Trump does that we find unacceptable are done at best to win Putin's favor, or at very worst, to comply with Putin's directive. The picture of Nancy Pelosi standing, while all the men sat, shamefaced, and pointed at Trump saying basically, it all

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comes back to Putin should be the backdrop of the 2020 election. We have an extremely difficult time ahead politically and we can get through it because we know we have the correct historic perspective on, and determination to save, this Democracy. A country that survived the Civil War and two World Wars must be able to survive Donald Trump.

There was a saying on many signs opposing Donald Trump prior to the 2018 elections: "We will grab you by the Mid-terms." And we did. Trump lost big time in 2018. There is some evidence from Virginia and Kentucky that a move toward Democrats is coming once again in 2020.



We can hope and pray that those results were a harbinger of good will toward Dems. For now, all we can do is enjoy family and friends this Holiday and do our best to keep the political divisions outside our celebrations. Then on January 1, we need to dedicate our focus on a 2020 Democratic victory, especially in the White House and the Senate.

Personally, I want to thank all of you for supporting me as President of the Largo Club. It is something I really love to do. I am grateful to the Board

for all they do, as well as their dedication to the Democratic Party. I am sincerely thankful for all the people who show up week after week and year after year every third Monday as members of the Largo Club.

I am always happy to end the year for the Club with the Holiday Party. We had about 45 people attend. When they came, they brought with them great food and some wine. I found it to be a happy get-together and those who were able to find time during this hectic time of year to join us seemed to be enjoy-

ing it. I also have a very big "thank you" for Lois Fries' great contribution to the Holiday Party by arranging for us to hold it in the Community Center at Randolph Farms. What a wonderful location it is!

Thank you and sincere best wishes to all of you. Joe and I wish you Peace, Joy and Love during this Holiday Season and throughout the New Year, See you in January!



Thank You!



Our children and I would like to say a sincere and heartfelt “Thank you” to the Board and members of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Club for your caring and support over the past year while Charlie was ill. So many of you helped in ways big and small, and I’ve received numerous cards, and all of it has been greatly appreciated.

The flowers from the Club at Charlie’s service were beautiful also.

I plan to keep living in this area and renewing the good fight with hopefully outstanding results in 2020!

Peggy Tucker



11th Annual Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club Holiday Potluck



Toni Walker

Toni stopped to say good bye.
She's moving to Pennsylvania.



Early arrivals to set up the tables



Toni and Peggy



Kathleen and Rich Piper



PC DEC Chair Barbara Scott with Mary Lou, Donna and Dawn





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.



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.

Pay now and you will be paid for 2020!





District 66 News

LARGO OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADE

**Come march with the
TUESDAY MORNING
GAME CHANGERS
AND RIDGECREST
YOUNG LIFE!**

Let's make our parade message be **"Register to vote-then vote your values."** I will check in- to the possibility of having a table there to register voters in addition to marching.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Also, let me know if you plan to be in the parade with us.

Ginny Nelson

970-481-6615

727-400-6068



<https://www.facebook.com/LargoParade/>

We will start lining up at 10:30 am and you need to be in place by 11:35. The Parade starts promptly at noon and it will take until about 1:20 pm for the last participant to reach the end.

The Old Fashioned Christmas Parade is just a mile long and proceeds at a walking pace.

There will be FOOD TRUCKS at Ulmer Park. So plan to stay for lunch.





CONTACT US

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

office@pinellasdemsocrats.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



Demo-

cratic Party possible.

How does it work?

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



Happy Holidays to you and yours!

Reminder we will not be having a general meeting in November or December. Join us on **Monday, January 27th** at the **St. Pete Marriott** at **7pm** and get ready to take on 2020!

You can find all the volunteer opportunities happening during the holidays by going to www.mobilize.us/pinellascountydec

Find out how to get involved with the Party, Clubs or Caucus throughout the county by going to www.pinellasdemsocrats.com

Wishing you a Happy, Peaceful and Productive Holiday Season!

Pinellas Democrats are IN IT TO WIN IT!





From the Chair's Desk

Dear Florida Democrats,

A big thank you to everyone across the state for all you are doing, even during this busy holiday season. Let's take the time to celebrate with loved ones and do everything we can to help those less fortunate than we are. As time allows, keep on registering voters, signing up VBMs, planning next year's events, and everything else that can be fit in!

Looking forward to a great December and starting the exciting New Year, fired up and ready to go!

As of Dec 8, there are exactly 331 days -- 10 months and 27 days -- to November 3, 2020.

Forward,

Terrie Rizzo

Rally to Defeat Trump



FDP partnered with the Broward County DEC, Democratic Women's Club of West Broward, Broward Hispanic Caucus, South Florida Chapter Indivisible, United +, Move On and 350 South Florida to welcome Trump to Florida with the Baby Trump Balloon and a rally to Defeat Trump. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz and

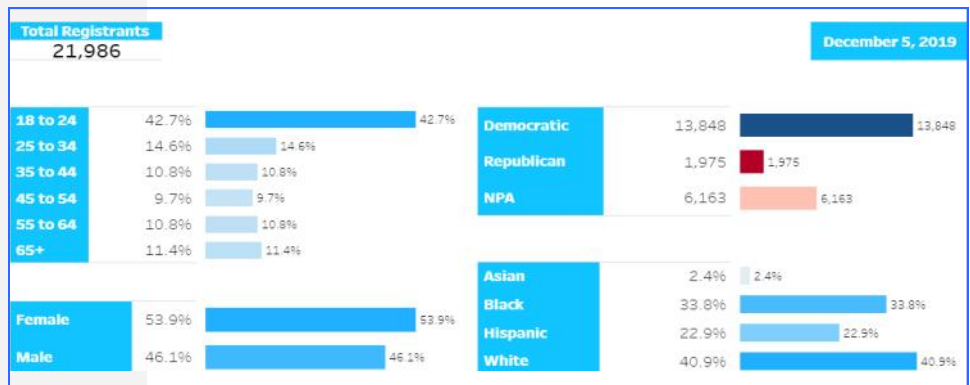
FDP Chair Terrie Rizzo led the rally.

We held a Twitter Town Hall prior to the November 26 rally and, with the help of all of our digital organizers, had the #DefeatTrumpFL hashtag trending in FL! Miami CBS 4 interviewed activists and reported on the rally. [See the CBS 4 coverage here.](#)



Voter Registration Update

We registered 4,199 voters in November for a year-to-date total of 21,986! Check out these stats :





Launch of our National Convention Website

SendDem Texting Tool

FDP has been testing texting services through our own in-house tool called SendDem. To date we have sent messages to over 167,000 individuals and saved more than \$23,000 compared to our previous vendor!

Texting has proven an effective means of recruiting for events as well as GOTV activities. If you would like to implement a texting campaign with SendDem, please contact your Community Engagement Director (CED) for assistance.



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. 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
- Feb 13 - Deadline to request additional CD Caucus locations
- Feb. 15 - Deadline for CD Chairs to submit the location of their caucus
- Mar. 7 - District-level Delegate Filing Deadline
- Mar. 17 - Presidential Preference Primary
- Apr. 2 - Congressional District Early Voting to Elect District-level Delegates
- 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

Vote by Mail Initiative

The Florida Democratic Party and Mayor Gillum's Forward Florida have partnered to launch a major push to re-engage Democratic voters by enrolling Democrats in Vote-by-Mail, with a focus on communities of color and young people. Using new data and technology, we have identified hundreds of thousands of potential Democratic voters in swing districts across the state. By enrolling these voters in vote-by-mail, we move the Sunshine State closer to going Blue in the presidential election. Combined with down-ballot education programs, our efforts will also help Florida Democrats win important municipal races across the state. And because so many potential Democratic voters we have identified are in GOP and swing counties, this program will create a new electorate in entire parts of the state.



Best Practices Institute December Activist Challenge

The holidays are a time for gathering with friends and family, reminiscing on the year, and sharing our hopes for 2020. Make these conversations count by taking part in the DNC Best Practices Institute (BPI) December Activist Challenge!

- Help a friend or family member [register to vote!](#)
- Double check that all of your friends' and family members' voter registration information is accurate and up-to-date by searching their information on FDP-VAN or at iwillvote.com.
- Talk to your friends and family members who are registered to vote about why their vote is so crucial in 2020 and why it is important for them to vote all the way up and down the ballot!

Once you've completed the challenge, take a selfie and create a post on social media that includes the following information:

- Your name
- Your state
- A short statement about what motivates you to help elect Democrats in 2020
- The hashtags #BPItraining and #ChallengeAccepted
- Tag @theDemocrats

You can also share your statement on our DefeatTrumpFL.com storytelling website.

Presidential Candidates And Commissioner Fried Join The Florida Democratic Party For Amendment 4 Twitter Town Hall

Dec 13, 2019

Tallahassee, Fla. – [#LetusvoteFL](#) had trended Friday afternoon after The Florida Democratic Party hosted a Twitter town Hall on Amendment 4. Florida Democrats, including Commissioner of Agriculture Nikki Fried, joined national Democrats, including presidential candidates Governor Deval Patrick, Vice President Joe Biden, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Senator Elizabeth Warren, and Senator Cory Booker, along with numerous state legislators used the Twitter town hall as an opportunity to call out Ron DeSantis and Florida Republicans for their repeated attempts to put up roadblocks to returning citizens being able to vote .



Opinion & Letters

ON POLITICS: WILL IMPEACHMENT CHANGE 2020?

The New York Times On Politics Dec 11, 2019

By Lisa Lerer

Picture this: a president enjoying the lowest unemployment rate in decades and a booming stock market. He is about to notch a major legislative victory with the passage of a significant trade deal, has appointed two Supreme Court justices and has signed a major tax bill into law. Most voters say they're better off financially than when he took office, [according to polling this week](#). Things seem to be going great.

Now, imagine this: a polarizing president under investigation, mocked by allies abroad and assailed at home with an understaffed administration. He's about to be impeached by

the House and undergo a divisive trial in the Senate. Nearly half of voters believe he should be removed from office and 60 percent say they're unsatisfied with the direction of the country, [according to polling this week](#). Things seem to be going disastrously.

Both of these scenarios describe the current state of the Trump administration. Call it the split-screen presidency.

In an era of "alternative facts" and hyperpolarization, partisans from both sides are [telling a totally different story](#) about President Trump's time in Washington. In recent days, they don't even seem to be reading



CNN.COM

'I'm not trying to pretend to be a fair juror here': Graham predicts Trump impeachment will 'die quickly' in Senate

from the same book.

After three years of the Trump administration, what's fascinating to me is not that this divisive dynamic exists, but how long it's endured.

Take Mr. Trump's approval rating. Shortly after he entered office, it hovered around 43 percent, [according to the Gallup tracking poll](#). The most recent rating? Forty-three percent.

Whatever you thought of the president in January

2017 is likely what you think about him today.

Even Americans' changing positions on impeachment do not correspond with any shift in their fundamental views about Mr. Trump. The percentage of Americans who back impeaching the president has grown since the summer, up 10 points to 45 percent in [a poll released today](#) by the Monmouth University Polling Institute.

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Trump Is the Founders' Worst Nightmare

Once in the Oval Office, a demagogue can easily stay there.

By **Bob Bauer**

Dec. 2, 2019

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/02/opinion/trump-impeachment.html>

But the increase in support stems from those who already held negative views about Mr. Trump and have come around to the idea of impeachment as a smart strategy, pollsters say.

"It's not like anyone has changed their mind about their underlying opinions on Donald Trump and the job he's doing," said Patrick Murray, who runs Monmouth's poll. "They've changed their mind on how you get him out of office."

So, what does this all portend for the 2020 election? Well, about what you'd expect. 🍷

Donald Trump's Republican congressional allies are throwing up different defenses against impeachment and hoping that something may sell. They say that he didn't seek a corrupt political bargain with Ukraine, but that if he did, he failed, and the mere attempt is not impeachable. Or that it is not clear that he did it, because the evidence against him is unreliable "hearsay."

It's all been very confusing. But the larger story — the crucial *constitutional* story — is not the incoherence of the president's defense. It is more that he and his party are exposing limits of impeachment as a response to the presidency of a demagogue.

The founders feared the demagogue, who figures prominently in the Federalist Papers as the politician who, possessing "perverted ambition," pursues relentless self-aggrandizement "by the confusions of their

country." The last of the papers, Federalist No. 85, linked demagoguery to its threat to the constitutional order — to the "despotism" that may be expected from the "victorious demagogue." This "despotism" is achieved through systematic lying to the public, vilification of the opposition and, as James Fenimore Cooper wrote in an essay on demagogues, a claimed right to disregard "the Constitution and the laws" in pursuing what the demagogue judges to be the "interests of the people."

Should the demagogue succeed in winning the presidency, impeachment in theory provides the fail-safe protection. And yet the demagogue's political tool kit, it turns out, may be his most effective defense. It is a constitutional paradox: The very behaviors that necessitate impeachment supply the means for the demagogue to escape it.

As the self-proclaimed

embodiment of the American popular will, the demagogue portrays impeachment deliberations as necessarily a threat to democracy, a facade for powerful interests arrayed against the people that only he represents. Critics and congressional opponents are traitors. Norms and standing institutional interests are fraudulent.

President Trump has made full use of the demagogic playbook. He has refused all cooperation with the House. He lies repeatedly about the facts, holds public rallies to spread these falsehoods and attacks the credibility, motives and even patriotism of witnesses. His mode of "argument" is purely assaultive. This is the crux of the Trump defense, and not an argument built on facts in support of a constitutional theory of the case.

As the self-proclaimed embodiment of the American popular will, the demagogue portrays

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gument built on facts in support of a constitutional theory of the case.

These remarks are not merely one more instance of Mr. Trump's failure to curb his impulses. This is his constitutional defense strategy. Mr. Trump's

supporters. Once again, contrasts with past impeachments are illuminating. Bill Clinton's White House counsel Charles

Ruff testified before the House Judiciary Committee, pledging to "assist you in performing your constitutional duties."

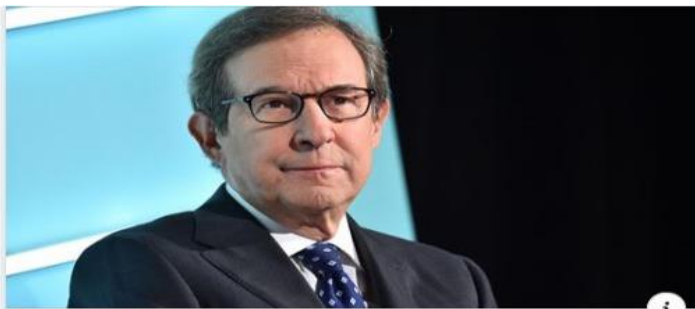
officeholders know that Mr. Trump can take to Twitter or to Fox News or to the podium at rallies — or all of the above — to excoriate them for a weak will or disloyalty.

This is how the Republican Party has become Mr. Trump's party. It is also why that party will not conceive of its role in impeachment as entailing a constitutional responsibility independent of the president's political and personal interests. It has come to see those interests as indistinguishable from its own. In this way the constitutional defense of the case against Mr. Trump and the defense of his own interests become one and the same. As another fabled demagogue, Huey Long of Louisiana, famously announced: "I'm the Constitution around here now."

The implications for the constitutional impeachment process are dire. Until Mr. Trump, modern impeachment has ended with some generally positive assessment of its legacy. Nixon's resignation appeared to

The demagogue may be boundlessly confident in his own skills and force of political personality, but he cannot succeed on those alone. He can thrive only in political conditions conducive to the effective practice of these dark arts, such as widespread distrust of institutions, a polarized polity and a fractured media environment in which it is possible to construct alternative pictures of social realities. Weak political parties now fall quickly into line with a demagogue who can bring intense pressure to bear on party officials and officeholders through his hold on "the base." As we have seen with Mr. Trump, the demagogue can bully his party into being an instrument of his will, silencing or driving out dissenters. Republican

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ROLLINGSTONE.COM

Republicans 'Are Having Trouble With the Facts' Says Fox News' Chris Wallace

President Trump has made full use of the demagogic playbook. He has refused all cooperation with the House. He lies repeatedly about the facts, holds public rallies to spread these falsehoods and attacks the credibility, motives and even patriotism of witnesses. His mode of "argument" is purely assaultive. This is the crux of the Trump defense, and not an ar-

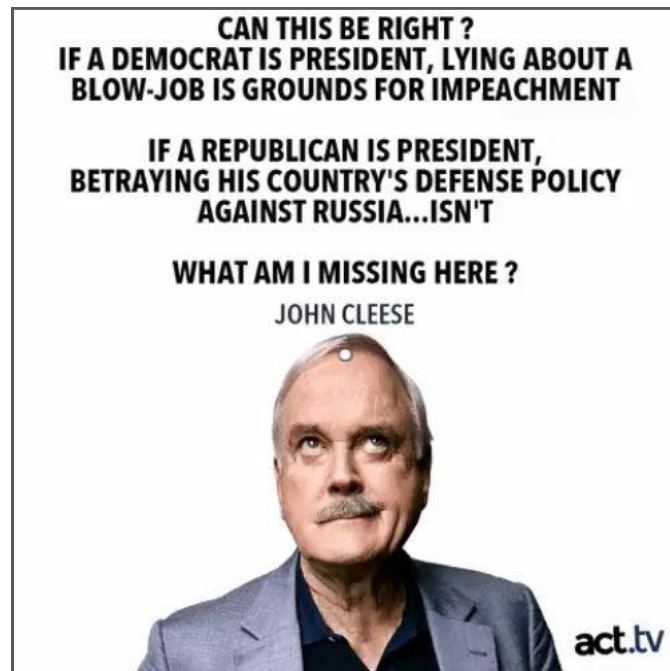
White House counsel, informing the House of the president's refusal to cooperate, declared that the impeachment process is unconstitutional and invalid — a "naked political strategy" — and advised that the president would not participate. It matters that the president's lawyer, in a formal communication with the House, used rhetoric that might have been expected from the hardest-core political

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indicate that serious charges could bring the parties together in defense of the rule of law. "The system worked" was a popular refrain, even if this was a somewhat idealized and oversimplified version of events. The Clinton impeachment suggested that the standards for an impeachable offense required a distinction between public misconduct and private morality, and Congress reclaimed its responsibility for impeachment from an independent counsel statute that was allowed to lapse.

The Trump impeachment is headed toward a very different summation. A demagogue can claim that Congress has forfeited the right to recognition of its impeachment power, then proceed to unleash a barrage of falsehoods and personal attacks to confuse the public, cow legislators and intimidate witnesses. So long as the demagogue's party controls one of the two chambers of Congress, this strategy seems a sure bet.

When this is all over, we will not hear warm bipartisan praise for how "the system worked." The lesson will be that, in the politics of the time, a demagogue who gets into the Oval Office is hard to get out. 🍷



"I was shocked that former President Obama left so many vacancies and didn't try to fill those positions," Fox News host Sean Hannity said to McConnell.

"I'll tell you why," he said. "I was in charge of what we did the last two years of the Obama administration."

Then, he laughed:



HUFFPOST.COM

Mitch McConnell Brags About Blocking Obama For 2 Years, Then Laughs About It

Contact your Federal Representative!

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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.

