



## From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Desk	1
News & Memes	3
Holiday Potluck photos	4
Pinellas Dem Party	5
Florida Dem Party	7
Opinion & Letters	12
Representatives	13



When Donald Trump became President, like most of you, I was convinced that he would be a terrible President. I had no idea how terrible. He lied so much, it was hard to determine just where he stood on issues. That is, until he began having election rallies for his far-right supporters. We began to understand that he did not support any issues himself. He support-

ed anything his 30% or so of the electorate wanted, whether it was rational or not. Add in the likes of Fox News and crazies like Ann Coulter and Rush Limbaugh, who have carried his message to the hinterlands.

Then there were the never-ending lies. The lies began on the day of his Inauguration. He lied about how the sun appeared on that rainy day as soon as he began his speech. (Not true,} Then there was the on-going demand that everyone acknowledge that more people attended his Inauguration than Obama's, in spite of pho-

tos showing just the opposite. Thousands of lies went out from the President over the next two plus years. The lies just kept coming, and still continue,

It has become a proven fact that Russians, most likely at Putin's orders, significantly interfered with our elections. Why did Putin want Trump elected? Was there a deal made between Trump and Putin? Does Trump owe Putin money?

I find it significant that just prior to Trump's taking office, the Republican Platform was changed to strongly diminish the

sanctions against Russia. Why would he do that? Why would Trump make a person like Paul Manafort, his Campaign Manager? Manafort oversaw the change and was notorious for his connections to Russia. Where were the Republican elected officials? Where are they now?

MLA -> page 2



**Dr. Bruce Nisson**  
**Runaway Inequality Comes at a Steep Price**

Monday, Jan 21 17 — 6:30—8:45 pm

**Acropol Family Restaurant, 1135 Starkey Rd, Largo, Florida 33771**

Our speaker is Bruce Nisson. Bruce's presentation will provide an analysis of how wealth is extracted from all of us by Wall Street, and an overview of the decline of American exceptionalism.; will also discuss the major impact of runaway inequality on a series of issues that are often viewed independently. And reviews a range of policies and actions that will be needed ot bring more economic and social justice to America.



MLA From Page 1

Then there were his choices for Cabinet members to head the various Departments of Government. He told us he would name "the best people." Well it turns out that his idea of "the best people" was a whole lot different from our idea of the "best people." He named a bunch of people like himself. Crooked business people or people with a far-right cause (think De Vos), who were selfish, greedy and self-absorbed. People who assumed that the position to which they were appointed allowed them tax-payer money for their own use. If that were not bad enough, they followed Trump's instruction to completely dismantle the Departments they were appointed to lead. For example, few Ambassadors were named to represent the United States in foreign countries. State Department offices were empty as were the offices of most other Departments of the Government. People did not stay long in this Administration, Unbelievably, the initial "best people" were often replaced by Fox News hosts who all made their living spreading the lies that Trump sent out on Twitter.

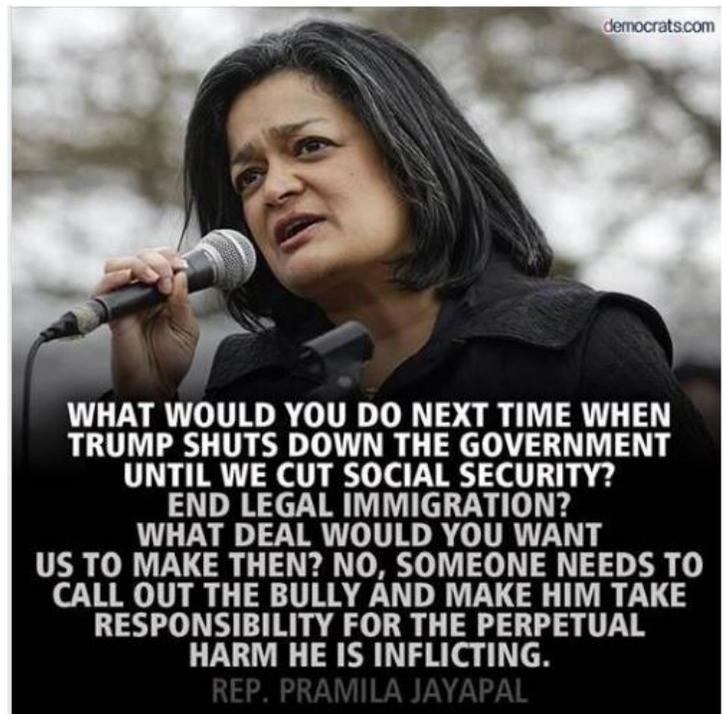
But it has become so much worse. Now there is information that Trump may have been acting in the best interests of our enemy, Russia, to the detriment of the United States. In the US a person is innocent until proven Guilty. I understand that no one in this country, not even Donald Trump, should be found guilty until guilt is proven. I am not saying that Donald Trump is Guilty of undermining the United States, working as an asset of Russia, or possibly being a Traitor to this coun-

try. I merely believe that there are a lot of things that indicate that he may be guilty of one or all of those things.

He has broken with, and insulted, the leaders of our long time European allies, He stands on most issues with Putin and the other European and Asian Dictators. He has threatened to take the US out of NATO, something which would help Putin meet his goal of world dominance. He has ordered our troops out of Syria, which will leave the Kurds in great jeopardy at the hands of Putin and Assad. Again, this would strengthen Putin, leaving him to do as he wants.

Trump has "deconstructed" (Bannon's word) our Government and has set Americans against each other. Our Democracy is in great danger. He has done things which may not be repairable by the time he leaves office. This above all the damage he has done will leave a much-weakened United States, regardless of how he leaves office. If he is reelected, our Democracy cannot possibly survive. Putin's goal of world dominance will be strengthened by our weakness.

So, what is Trump? Traitor? Russian Asset? Dumb, duped lover of Dictators? 🇺🇸



# UPCOMING SPEAKERS



In **FEBRUARY**, we will be honored to have Commissioner Janet Long give us an update on accomplishments and happenings in Pinellas County.

We are hoping Dr. Susan MacManus will be able to join us in **April** to give an analysis of the November 2018 elec-

Representative Jennifer Webb (YAY) HD69 has been invited to join us in **MAY** to give an inside view of a freshman representative's life in Tallahassee.



## THE HILL: Haaland condemns students' behavior toward Native elder at Indigenous Peoples March



Rep. [Deb Haaland](#) (D-N.M.) condemned a group of young students for displaying "blatant hate, disrespect, and intolerance" in a viral video apparently taken during Friday's [Indigenous Peoples March](#) in Washington, D.C.

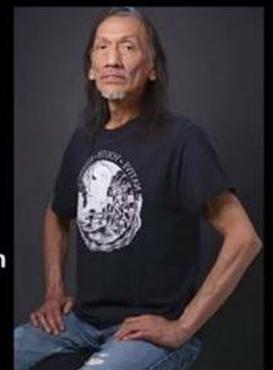
The video shows a group of dozens of mostly young men wearing [President Trump's](#) signature red "Make America Great Again" hats and other apparel supporting the president. Several young men can be heard shouting and seen jumping around a Native American elder who is chanting

and beating a drum. At one point, a young man is seen standing directly in front of the elder as he chants.

The elder was identified by [Indian Country Today newspaper](#) as Nathan Phillips, an Omaha elder who is also a Vietnam veteran and former director of the Native Youth Alliance. Phillips is reportedly a keeper of a sacred pipe and holds an annual ceremony honoring Native American veterans at Arlington National Cemetery. (full story at: [https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/426160-haaland-condemns-students-behavior-toward-native-elder-at?fbclid=IwAR1BuszuwxpcdPZjDwL-iOpXzaf2bYg0wU1dA2YtUW2TW\\_rwxNldQtmr5yw](https://thehill.com/blogs/blog-briefing-room/news/426160-haaland-condemns-students-behavior-toward-native-elder-at?fbclid=IwAR1BuszuwxpcdPZjDwL-iOpXzaf2bYg0wU1dA2YtUW2TW_rwxNldQtmr5yw))

### Nathan Phillips

- Omaha Elder
- Vietnam Veteran
- Former director, Native Youth Alliance
- Keeper of the Sacred Pipe
- Honoring Native American Veterans at Arlington
- Water Protector at Standing Rock



Let's give Mr. Phillips as much exposure as the punk who disrespected him.

# Photos from Holiday Potluck



As usual, the food was plentiful, and delicious! Thanks to all who brought a dish!



The clubhouse had a nice area to set up the wine bar! It was a popular gathering spot.



How nice to see Lynn Alterman again!



Festive table cloths added to the Holiday ambiance.



### Message from Pinellas County Democratic Party Chair, Barbara Scott:

Hello Pinellas Democrats!

First, I wish all of you, your family & friends a Healthy and Happy New Year! 2019 is going to be a very productive year and will lead to a very successful 2020! This starts with the **upcoming District elections on:**

**Thursday, January 24th., 7:00 - 9:00 PM**

**St. Petersburg Marriott Clearwater  
12600 Roosevelt Blvd N,  
St. Petersburg, FL 33716**

The purpose of this email is to go over the election process, list the positions that are available for election as well as other positions that are not elected but are open for an interested person to step up and take charge and the role/goals of the committees. Any text in italics references our Bylaws.

The first order of business at the general meeting in January will be to renew the appointed membership. Appointed and elected members are allowed to run and vote in the District elections!

Appointed Members expire midnight preceding a Reorganization Meeting and their term would expire after 1 year. To be included in the election process they would need to be re-nominated and re-approved at the general meeting prior to the elections. And any member, appointed or elected, who is being reinstated are exempt from the 60 day waiting period to vote (any newly elected member filling a vacancy or appointed member have to wait 60 calendar days to be able to vote, however they can be nominated to be considered for an eligible position) - reference Article 4, Section 1.1 & 1.2

After the appointed members are renewed, we will then break out into the individual Districts: 64, 65,



***The new 2019 –2020 Pinellas Democratic Party Officers.***

Left to right, Sharon Janis, Treasurer, Joe Saportas, Sargeant at arms, Johnny Boykin, Vice Chair, Barbara Scott, Chair. Not shown, Grieta Patenaude, Secretary.

66, 67, 68, 69 & 70. Each district will conduct their own election.

- *District Elections- Only members of each district are eligible to run and/ to vote*
- *Associate members are ineligible to serve as Chair or Vice- Chair but can run for other positions.*
- *Also, unlike with the Officer positions, the Chair and Vice Chair do not need to be of the opposite sex.*

#### **Each District will elect:**

**1. District Chair-** She or He is a voting member of the Board  
Article IX Section 2.2.1. – Duties of the District Chair -The Chair shall ensure that all District Organization responsibilities are met within the District and shall preside at all meetings of the District Organization..

**2. District Vice Chair** Article IX Section 2.2.2. Duties of the District Vice Chair – The Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair, or, should that office become vacant, until an election is held to fill the vacancy. The Vice Chair shall ensure that the voter records of the District are current at all times.

**3. District Secretary/Treasurer-** She or he becomes a member of the Finance Committee Article IX Section 2.2.3. – Duties of the District Secretary-Treasurer. The

—> next page



### From prior page

Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a permanent record of the meetings of the District organization and of all District funds as provided elsewhere in these Bylaws.

*Section 3. District Finances – Each District may maintain a petty cash account not exceeding one hundred fifty dollars (\$150). All monies in excess of that amount collected in the District by the District Organization shall be deposited with the County Treasurer, who shall maintain them in the County financial records as a separate entry. District funds shall be spent only by the District for carrying out its responsibilities, provided that the District Organization may make a gift of any or all of its funds to the County Committee for use for a specified purpose.*

*section 2.7. Finance Committee – The Treasurer may appoint a chair the Finance Committee, and choose its members from among the PDP, provided that at least half the members shall be members of the County Committee. Section 2.7.1. Duties – The Committee shall develop, in each odd-numbered year, a financial plan for the County Committee for the ensuing two years, which shall be the basis for the annual budget. The biennial financial plan shall be presented to the County Chairman in October of each odd-numbered year. Section 2.7.2. Powers – The Committee shall provide oversight for any other committee involved in fund-raising, and shall coordinate all fundraising and other financial activities by entities*

*under the jurisdiction of the County Committee.*

#### **4. District Rule & Bylaws Committee Member**

*Section 2.1.1. [...] Each House District Organization will elect one member to this committee from among its PCDEC members.*

#### **5. District Grievance Committee Member**

#### **6. District Campaign Planning Committee Member**

#### **7. District Outreach Committee Member**

#### **8. District Issues Committee Member-**

#### **9. District Public Relations/ Communications Committee Member**

#### **10. District Voter Services Committee Member**

Roles & responsibilities will be explained prior to the vote.

[After all the districts have elected these positions, we will reconvene as a group to elect \(two\) at-large positions on the Credentials Committee.](#)

This is an opportunity for you to become more involved in your County Party—it's governance and it's outreach to voters and candidates.

You are encouraged to attend the January 24th meeting and to participate in the election—and consider running to serve on one of these important committees.



### **From the Chair's Desk: January Update**

The holidays are over and Florida Democrats are roaring full speed into 2019 -- it's great to see the energy all across the state! We have been working hard at FDP on plans for 2019 and 2020, and have several updates for you. If you ever need to contact me about an issue happening, please don't hesitate to email me at [terrie@floridadems.org](mailto:terrie@floridadems.org), or reach out to any member of the FDP. Our line is always open!

### **Medicaid Expansion Ballot Initiative 2020**

We need your help getting Medicaid Expansion on the ballot in 2020! We are working with partner groups across the state to see that Medicaid Expansion can be on the ballot in 2020, which would help ensure nearly 1 million Floridians gain access to healthcare.

The first hurdle is **100,000 petition signatures submitted to the state by Feb. 28.**

We are asking for DEC's and Caucuses to help us secure petitions to put Medicaid Expansion on the 2020 ballot.

### **Legislative Spotlight**

As we head into the 2019 Legislative session I want to again congratulate our leadership, Senator Audrey Gibson and Representative Kionne McGhee. Leaders Gibson and McGhee are laying out bold visions and legislative agendas and we are looking forward to working with them in Tallahassee.

### **Meet our New Data Director**

Will Zigler is joining the FDP team as the Executive Director of Data. Will is taking over the **FDP data** program from Alex Barbieri. Many of you may remember Will when he served as Deputy Data Director in Florida during the 2012 election cycle. More recently he served as the Chief Technology Officer for the Democratic Party of Texas and the Data Director for the Missouri Democratic Party.

---

# Opinion & Letters

## How Trump is shifting the most important courts in the country

By Kevin Schaul and Kevin Uhrmacher  
The Washington Post

Published: Sept. 4, 2018

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/politics/trump-federal-judges/?utm\\_term=.35662c6b9e4a](https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2018/politics/trump-federal-judges/?utm_term=.35662c6b9e4a)

As his second appointment to the Supreme Court begins Senate hearings on Tuesday, dozens of President Trump’s picks for lower federal courts have already been installed, leaving a conservative imprint on the nation’s judiciary.

In particular, the White House has filled the influential circuit court judgeships — the second-highest courts in the U.S. and last stop for many major cases — at a faster pace than his recent predecessors.

More Trump picks to the circuit courts, also known as the U.S. Courts of Appeals, have been confirmed, 26 so far, than any recent president at this point in their first term. Another 13 of the 179 judgeships on the courts are vacant.

Trump’s appointments to the lower district courts have fallen short of all but President Barack Obama, though more than 100 of those positions are available to be filled by Trump-selected judges.

“The Supreme Court gets the bulk of the attention, but the circuit courts decide the bulk of the cases,” Arthur D. Hellman, a University of Pittsburgh law professor who studies the

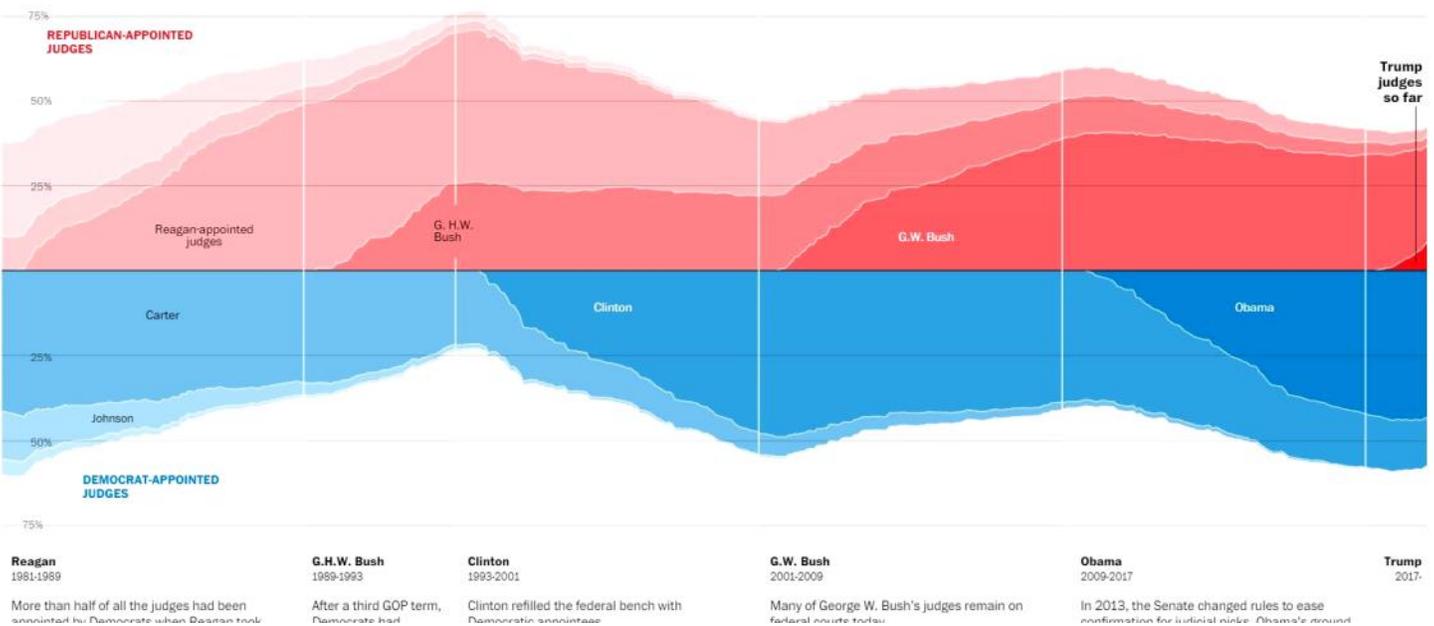
federal judiciary, [told The Post in August](#). “Because the Supreme Court these days is taking so few cases, the law of the circuit is, on many, many issues, the final law for the people who live in that circuit.”

Several Senate moves have made it easier for Trump to fill the courts.

The 2013 Democratic majority, facing Republican opposition to Obama judicial picks, lowered the number of votes needed for presidential appointees and lower-court judges [from 60 to 51 votes](#), a simple majority. This

—> next page

Share of federal judges appointed by Republican and Democratic presidents since Reagan



# Opinion & Letters

## PAGE 2

eliminated a need for bipartisanship on those nominations. (Republicans have since extended that to Supreme Court justices.)

But when Republicans regained the chamber in 2015, confirmations slowed significantly. At the time, Democrats said the GOP, led by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.), was refusing votes on dozens of judicial nominees to run out the clock on their confirmations.

In 2016, Trump was elected with a high number of vacancies waiting to be filled.

The lower vote threshold and the decision by Republicans in the Senate to sidestep blue slips, which allow senators to

block a judge from their state, have made it easier for confirmations to proceed.

The rules changes have also made it easier to install justices favored by conservatives at groups such as the Federalist Society and Heritage Foundation.

Ilya Shapiro, a constitutional lawyer at the Cato Institute, the libertarian think-tank, praised concerted efforts by White House lawyer Donald McGahn and others to fill the courts with qualified originalist judges.

“Certainly at the circuit court level this has paid dividends,” he said.

The impact could be extended by the fact that Trump’s picks

are generally younger than his predecessors.

The median age of Trump’s circuit court judges is about 49 years old, younger than the judges put forward by the past five presidents.

“Judicial nominations are for life,” Shapiro said. “If you nominate someone in their late 30s or early 40s, they’re going to be on the bench for 40 years, which is significant.”

Demographics of circuit court judges, by president

PRESIDENT	NUMBER OF JUDGES	MEDIAN AGE	PERCENT FEMALE	PERCENT NONWHITE
 <b>Trump</b> (so far)	26	49	23.1	11.5
 <b>Obama</b>	55	53	43.6	34.5
 <b>G.W. Bush</b>	62	51	27.4	14.5
 <b>Clinton</b>	66	51	30.3	25.8
 <b>G.H.W. Bush</b>	42	50	16.7	9.5
 <b>Reagan</b>	83	51	7.2	2.4

# Opinion & Letters

## PAGE 3

FULL ARTICLE IS AT: [http://fortune.com/longform/shrinking-middle-class-math/?fbclid=IwAR2vh-wQICsMZgN5J1Cde-4q\\_x12\\_0vqY6SSNqwgR7o3g4OI-2s9kQF8ffa](http://fortune.com/longform/shrinking-middle-class-math/?fbclid=IwAR2vh-wQICsMZgN5J1Cde-4q_x12_0vqY6SSNqwgR7o3g4OI-2s9kQF8ffa)

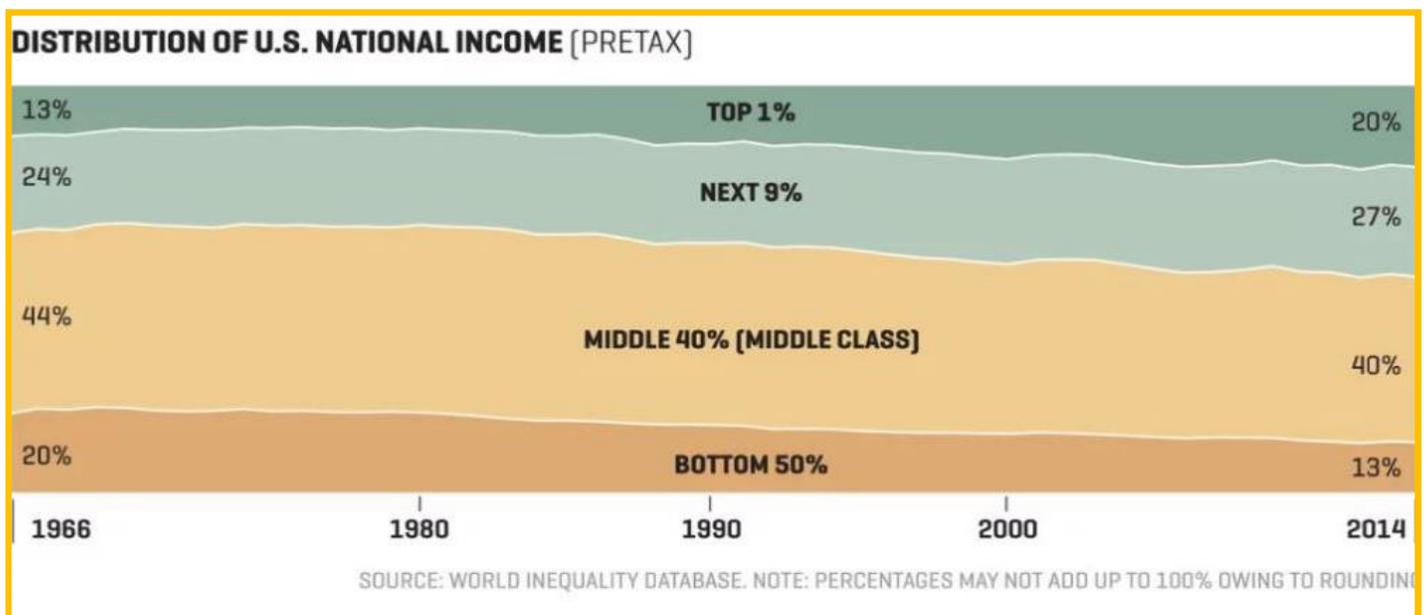
## The Shrinking Middle Class: By the Numbers

The American middle-class ideal was forged in the decades after World War II, when economic growth and wage increases climbed in lockstep for nearly 30 years. That pairing dissolved abruptly in the 1970s. Between 1973 and 2017, according to the Economic Policy Institute, the productivity of the economy grew 77%—but average compensation rose only 12.4%, adjusted for inflation. This divergence coincided with a shift in economic gravity, away from manufacturing and toward services and “knowledge industries.” That shift weakened the labor unions that had helped rank-and-file workers in many professions claim a bigger share of the bounty. Just as important were tax reforms that favored investment and real estate earnings over wage income. The upshot: an economic order in which the capital-owning class enjoys great advantages—and the costs of admission to and exclusion from that class grow ever higher.

By **Nicolas Rapp** and **Matthew Heimer**  
December 20, 2018

### To The Victors Go The Spoils

Tax breaks for investors and property owners have helped concentrate wealth among the top 10%. The growing impact of higher education on earnings has had a similar effect. Since 1995, average income for graduate degree holders has risen 28%; for those with only a high-school diploma, that figure is 5%.



## 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** Wash-  
ington Office 205 Cannon House Office  
Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone:  
(202)225-3376 Fax: (202)225-5652 Tam-  
pa 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 Uni-  
versity of South Florida – St. Pete Wil-  
liams House 511 Second St. S. St. Pe-  
tersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 873-  
2817 Office Hours: Please call in ad-  
vance. Note: Please mail all items to the  
Tampa District Office address.

**Rep. Gus Bilirakis - 12th District** Washing-  
ton, DC Office 2112 Rayburn HOB Wash-  
ington, 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 Ar-  
gerian 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.votepinellas.com/Portals/Pinellas/Documents/pdf for Website/Voter Information/2017%20Citizens%20Guide.pdf](https://www.votepinellas.com/Portals/Pinellas/Documents/pdf%20for%20Website/Voter%20Information/2017%20Citizens%20Guide.pdf)

### **NEWSLETTER EDITOR & LAYOUT EDITOR**

Wanda Schwerer  
[admin@largodemocrats.com](mailto:admin@largodemocrats.com)  
**PHOTO EDITOR**

Heidi Sanchez

### **Board of Directors**

Mary Lou Ambrose, President  
Becky Heeren, Secretary  
Charlie Tucker, Treasurer  
Lois Fries  
Lorena Grizzle  
Bob Glass  
Charlotte Maas  
Ginny Nelson  
Heidi Sanchez  
Wanda Schwerer (Webmaster)  
Lodewijk van den Berg  
Peggy Tucker

All of the officers were elected March, 2017. Next election is March, 2019

Additional contact information is available on

## *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.

