



From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*



So, what do we do now? Admittedly this has been a less than perfect couple of months, especially in the areas of the Presidency and the Supreme Court. It is clear that we cannot fight Trump by talking about how immoral, bigoted, etc. he is. Half the country likes that

about him. We must attack the policies, not the person. We have to show people our plans and our beliefs. We know why we lost in 2016 and must push Democratic values, not attack Republican moral issues.

So.....We work with what we have (which is actually a lot), and we plan for the future. The fact is that back 50-60 years the Republicans were in a similar place. The historically Liberal Warren Court was viewed by Republicans

the same way we Democrats now view the Roberts Court. They had an additional problem. Looking forward, they could see a time when white people would not be the majority. The Republicans were then, as now, largely made up of upper and middle-class whites. However, the people of color were the growing Population. They first concentrated on controlling the School Boards and State Legislatures. Republicans fund-

ed conservative think tanks. They convinced people that the poor and the disabled were purposely weak and praised greed as strong and meaningful. Most importantly, in spite of their policies and the actions many of their elected officials, the Republicans convinced many that they were the Party of Family Values. "Hear and follow what we say, not what we do" has been their mantra. For many years they have kept on a straight line toward Ultra-Conservative dominance. Now, in 2018, they have achieved their goal.


meeting

Our July Speaker is:
Anna V. Eskamani

Monday, July 16 — 6:30—8:45 pm

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

Anna V. Eskamani is an Orlando Native and daughter of Iranian immigrant parents, who has worked relentlessly her entire life to protect all members of our community. A community organizer who is fighting unapologetically for progressive values, Anna currently serves as the Senior Director of Public Affairs and Communications for Planned

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[MLA —> next](#)



MLA From Page 1

I believe we Democrats should follow in Republican footsteps. I am not suggesting that we accept greed and bigotry as family values, but that we make a good plan and we follow it. This may require a change in Democratic Leadership since Democratic Leaders have historically been reactive, not proactive.

First, we need to secure Florida. We **must** re-elect Bill Nelson. Rick Scott would be even more dangerous in the Senate. The Senate approves Judges. Therefore, we have to take control. Kathy Castor and Charlie Crist must be repeatedly re-elected. We have 5 Democratic candidates for Governor. Any one of them would put Scott to shame. We must avoid the problems we have had in other elections where voters worked hard for a candidate who lost in the primary and dropped out as a voter in the November race. That cannot happen again. We all must support the Democratic Candidates even if they were Not our first choice.

We have had a resignation in Senate D24. The Florida Democratic Party is working hard to find a strong candidate. We must support that Candidate. Amanda Murphy, who was a State Representative from very red Pasco County, must be elected to Jack

Latvala's empty seat. The Florida House has been a model of Republican injustice. We must take steps to change that, and elect Jenifer Webb in D69, Alex Heeren in D66, Dawn Douglas in D67. Vito Sheeley would be an excellent choice in D70. Amy Kedron is a wonderful candidate for the Pinellas County Commission and would solidify the Commission as BLUE.

We have heard Pam Keith, and on Monday we will hear Anna Eskamani, who is running in Orange County for the House. They both must be elected, but they have primaries. If they lose their Primary, we must back the winner. That goes for Tom Ryan in D67 and the incumbent in D70. If candidates have a D behind their name, we need to back them. Numbers matter!

Almost more important, we **must** make sure the "Bad Amendments" do not pass. We did this against all odds with the medical Marijuana and environmental Amendments, and we can do it again! We will be working with you to make sure that we are all on the same page, and we ask that you enlighten at least 10 people you know about the games the Republicans have played in Tallahassee.

Winning big this year will not put us on top. It will be a long, hard struggle but we can't give up. Our Democracy is at stake. ✨

AVE From Page 1

Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. She is an advocate for women's health and equality. Anna is also a PhD student in Public Affairs at the University of Central Florida, She has also been featured on the cover of *Time magazine*, (see insert) and is a candidate for HD 47.

Anna serves on local boards, including Valencia College's Peace and Justice Institute, and is a founding member of the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence, a gun safety advocacy coalition that formed after the Pulse nightclub massacre. ✨



UPCOMING SPEAKERS

August, 2018

Come hear from four (4) additional candidates.



Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners

Amy Kedron — Candidate for PCBOCC District 6/ Dr. Amy Kedron was born in Buffalo, NY . Amy left frosty Buffalo for sunny Florida in 2010 and began working as a professor at USF St. Petersburg and Ringling College, teaching students how to build stronger businesses, organizations and communities.



Pinellas County School Board

Jeff Larsen — Candidate Jeff Larsen is a middle school reading teacher at a Title I school. He is proud to call Tarpon Springs home and has served the city as a Commissioner and Vice Mayor for the past six years.



FL House District 66

Alex Heeren — Alex is an educator with Pinellas County Schools. He is running for the Florida House of Representatives in District 66. His life has been dedicated to serving our community, and he now wants to serve by taking our voices and our values to Tallahassee.



FL House District 67

Dawn C. Douglas— Most of us know Dawn as Lorena Grizzle’s Campaign Manager (during her run for HD 66), well, this time she’s decided it is her time to be the Candidate. Dawn has been a classroom teacher for many years and has a passion for our shared and inalienable rights, which have been regularly trampled by our Republican-controlled State Legislature.

Former President of the Florida Democratic party, Sally Boyton Brown will be our speaker in [September](#).
[October](#) will be a discussion of the Ballot Initiatives.
[November](#) we plan to hear from one of our winning candidates.



Pinellas County Democratic Party News

The Grassroots Uprising for Andrew Gillum



choose. He also has an excellent record on environmental issues. Under his leadership, Tallahassee is getting a 120 acre solar farm. Yada yada yada, you can read about the rest of his outstanding credentials on his website, andrewgillum.com

The official campaign organizer in Pinellas for Andrew Gillum is Qiana Horsley. She is relatively new to the campaign, but we're absolutely delighted to have her as our "go to" person for the campaign. Her phone number is 727-643-7936.



Gillum is the only candidate in this primary who is not a millionaire or billionaire. That means that he understands regular Floridians. It also means that until recently, it has been entirely up to unpaid volunteers in Pinellas who resonated with his values to get the word out about him.

Andrew is the current Mayor of Tallahassee. He's taken on the gun lobby in court twice, and won! He's the only candidate in the primary who was bold enough from the beginning to state that he supports Medicare for ALL. He's a strong supporter of public schools, LGBT rights, equality, and a woman's right to

phone banks in South St Petersburg, at the home of Winnie Foster. The address is [311 57th Ave S](http://31157thAveS.com), in St Pete. Winnie is a legend in the activist community. She is now 91 years old. She's been standing up for progressive values and civil rights since she moved to St Petersburg the 70s. The phone banks at Winnie's house are Sundays, 4-8pm. For other events in your neighborhood, go to andrewgillum.com, click on the "events" link.

We have also been having informational meet ups about Andrew Gillum frequently, usually **Wednesdays at Pinellas Ale Works, 7pm. The address is [1962 1st Ave S](http://19621stAveS.com), in St Petersburg.**

(Contact Sharon Janis, 727-557-5549,

We have been having weekly



Highlights from June Meeting

Our speaker was Mike Sutton, CFRE, Chief Executive Officer, Habitat for Humanity of Pinellas County. One of the most important Democratic issues is that of a shortage of affordable housing. Tonight, Habitat for Humanity is here tonight to talk to us about how important affordable housing is for the future of Pinellas County and how Habitat for Humanity is leading the charge for affordable housing in such a densely populated county.

BREAKING NEWS - President Ambrose explained that the breaking news on Habitat's newest project - they are going to build 75 new homes!

Mr. Sutton began describing the housing climate in Pinellas. Pinellas County is the most densely populated county in Florida. Many people



who work in Pinellas County cannot afford to live here. For example, 75% of law enforcement officers employed in Pinellas live in other, more affordable counties. The current monthly rent for a one bedroom/one bath apartment here is \$1,100.

He continued by explaining that Habitat for Humanity works hard to try to impact this shortage one house at a time. Habitat has built 470 affordable homes in Pinellas. These homes are built by volunteers with a large outlay of sweat equity from the prospective owner. Habitat for Humanity offers a 30 year fixed, interest-free mortgage. Of the 470 homes, only six have been foreclosed.

What does this mean for the homeowner? For example, a household of three with a combined income of \$42,984 goes from a monthly apartment rent of \$1,650 or 38% of income to a mortgage cost of \$719 or 20% of monthly income.

Going forward, Habitat for Humanity will be building 75 homes in Pinellas Park. Visit our website for additional information. 🏠



Key Dates

You Should Know for 2018 FLORIDA Elections

IT'S AN IMPORTANT YEAR UP AND DOWN THE BALLOT. ARE YOU READY TO VOTE?

JULY 30TH
PRIMARY REGISTRATION DEADLINE

AUGUST 28TH
STATE PRIMARY ELECTION DAY

OCTOBER 9TH
GENERAL ELECTION REGISTRATION DEADLINE

NOVEMBER 6TH
GENERAL ELECTION DAY

CRC update

DPCF DEMOCRATIC PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS OF FLORIDA 2018 Ballot Amendments

RECOMMENDATIONS

- #1 **NO** Increases the amount of a home's value exempted from property tax (Will force local governments to cut public services or raise local taxes)
- #2 **NO** Makes the cap on non-homestead (2nd homes and commercial) property assessment increases permanent (Will continue to limit resources available for public services)
- #3 **YES** Requires voter approval of casino gambling (Removes authority to expand gambling from the legislature and returns it to voters)
- #4 **YES** Restores right to vote for most people with felony convictions upon completion of sentences (Gives 1.5 million Floridians the right to vote after paying their debt to society)
- #5 **NO** Requires 2/3 vote of legislature to impose or increase tax or fee (Will tie the hands of future legislatures making it nearly impossible to address budget needs, such as teacher raises and natural catastrophes)
- #6 **NO** Adds a Marsy's Law (victims' rights) to state constitution, increases judicial retirement age; prohibits judges from deferring to admin agencies to interpret law (Victims' rights already protected in the Constitution; Eliminates an existing provision that protects the constitutional rights of the accused)
- #7 **NO** Requires death benefits for first responders and military members, a supermajority vote for college fees, and adds state college system structure to constitution (3/4 majority vote to increase fees makes it very difficult to meet university needs)

Continued—next page



Political cartoon by Lorena Grizzle

CRC update—page 2

#8 NO	Establishes school board term limits; allows state to operate non-board established schools; requires civic literacy (DPCF opposes term limits; amendment takes authority for charter school approval and oversight from local school boards and gives it to Tallahassee politicians)
#9 YES	Bans offshore oil and gas drilling and vaping in enclosed indoor workplaces (Concern for the environment overrides concern about putting vaping in the Constitution.)
#10 NO	Prohibits counties from abolishing certain local offices, changes start date of legislative sessions, and adds an executive office and executive department to constitution (Takes away control granted to charter counties limiting ability to respond to local conditions)
#11 NO	Repeals some obsolete language; repeals a provision saying that changes to a criminal statute are not retroactive (Impact of criminal statute portion is unclear and disputed. Other repealed provisions are already unenforceable or expired)
#12 NO	Prohibits public officials from lobbying for compensation while in office and 6 years thereafter (Applied too broadly at local level; will not solve problems of money and influence in politics)
#13 YES	Prohibits betting on dog races (Ends legal wagering on inhumane dog racing)

For more information on the Amendments: www.progressivefl.org

Political Advertisement Paid for and Approved by Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida
Sources: Ballotpedia; League of Women Voters of Florida



[Lawsuit challenges education amendment on Florida ballot](#)

Tampa Bay Times — THE BUZZ July 12, 2018

A constitutional amendment on the November ballot that would allow charter school organizers to bypass local school boards to get approval is "intentionally misleading" because it doesn't directly explain to voters that the amendment is designed to circumvent local control and intentionally leaves out the word "charter," a lawsuit filed Thursday in Leon County Circuit court claims. The League of Women Voters, and two individual voters, are asking the court to remove the amendment, known as Revision 8, from the November ballot after it was placed there by the Constitution Revision Commission.

Opinions

By Dan Rather

(from his Facebook post)

President Trump and the GOP bemoaning a lack of civility is a hypocritical farce. It spurs an almost uncontrollable bout of forehead slapping in disbelief.

But let's be clear about what incivility really looks like:

Incivility is lying to impugn the citizenship of the first African American president.

Incivility is threatening and mocking reporters and attacking the First Amendment protections of our free and independent press.

Incivility is destroying the environment and ignoring climate change.

Incivility is countenancing corruption and venality in the highest reaches of the White House and its cabinet.

Incivility is our government's response to Puerto Rico.

Incivility is undermining a merited investigation by respected law enforcement officials and maligning the notion of an independent judiciary.

Incivility is cozying up to dictators and attacking our allies and friends.

Incivility is ripping children - even those too young to know their parent's name - from immigrants legally claiming asylum.

Incivility is endeavoring to have millions of Americans lose their health insurance.

Incivility is creating a false equivalence between Nazis and counter protesters.

Incivility is using peaceful dissent from NFL players as a pretense for stirring the deep waters of racial injustice.

Incivility is using Twitter to lie and bully.

Incivility is just having the pathology to constantly lie in the first place.

Incivility is gas lighting your fellow citizens on issues big and small.

Incivility is trying to bar entry to the United States on account of religion.

Incivility is ignoring science and reason.

Incivility is trying to run roughshod over our constitutional protections.

These are but a few of the real incivilities that plague our moment in history. They are the actions of a man and his enablers who feel no compunction about destroying the bonds that have held this improbable nation together. We will only succeed if we have a civil society. And anything or anyone who attacks that cherished American ideal must be considered... uncivil. ☹

Progress Florida

Do you know how your state representative or state senator voted on the major issues impacting you, your family and community? Too often this information is hard to find or scattered around. This makes it frustrating and difficult to get a comprehensive picture of how your legislators are actually voting. Are they representing the people...or just the powerful? That's why we launched the People First Report Card last year and are proud to announce our 2018 Report Card today.

<http://floridareportcard.com/>



Rep. Larry Ahern

Republican - Seminole

District 66

F (38%)



Sen. Jeff Brandes

Republican - St. Petersburg

District 24

F (44%)

At Trump's campaign rally, 3 in 4 claims fail the truth test

From The Washington Post, FACT CHECKER, July 13, 2018

We did the math on President Trump's recent campaign rally in Montana. It's not pretty.

After analyzing each and every statement of fact made by the president, we counted 98 total and found that 76 percent were false, misleading or unsupported by evidence. Let that sink in. [For every accurate or mostly accurate statement, Trump said three things that were false, misleading or unsubstantiated.](#)

Here's a breakdown: 45 statements were false or mostly false, 25 were misleading, 24 were accurate or mostly accurate, and four were unsupported.

The Fact Checker's database has been tracking all of Trump's false or misleading statements since he took office. But we had never measured the proportion of false statements to accurate statements. The president's July 5 rally in Montana seemed like a good chance to see which side would win. As we said, the results weren't pretty.

We fact-checked and categorized all 98 statements, which include a lot of Trump's greatest hits on immigration, trade and the Russia investigation. He also threw some new falsehoods into the mix, crowing that he gets bigger crowds than Elton

John and claiming he was the first Republican to win Wisconsin since 1952.

The thinly sourced theories about Trump's loans and Justice Kennedy's son

Speculation abounded after Justice Anthony Kennedy announced his retirement from the Supreme Court. Some theorized that his son Justin's work with Donald Trump at Deutsche Bank more than a decade before had somehow compromised the elder Kennedy's independence on the Court or led him to retire.

Neera Tanden and Richard Painter, two prominent Trump critics with large Twitter followings, implied that something nefarious was afoot. Justin Kennedy worked at Deutsche Bank from 1998 to 2009, and [our reporting showed he worked on one Trump-related project dating to 2005](#): a \$640 million loan from Deutsche Bank and others to build a Chicago skyscraper.

Think about that. Why would a mostly conservative justice need any inducement to retire, at 81, with a conservative president in the White House? Why would he need to be co-

erced into voting for Trump's positions, when his record is mostly conservative? How could his son have known in 2005 that Trump would be president someday far off in the future?

These theories are incendiary — and there's no evidence to back them up. We gave Painter and Tanden's tweets Four Pinocchios.

The president's credibility gap

One-third of Americans think Trump tells the truth all or most of the time. The other two-thirds are more jaded about the president's utterances. That's according to a new poll by The Washington Post and the Scharr School of Policy and Government, which included an interesting question about Trump's credibility gap

The survey of 1,473 U.S. adults asked, "[In general, how much of the time do you think Trump tells the truth?](#)"

- Hardly ever: 36 percent.
- Only some of the time: 31 percent.
- Most of the time: 28 percent.
- All of the time: 4 percent.

Contact your Federal Representative!

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and County represent-
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All of the officers were elected
March, 2017. Next election is March,
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Additional contact information is avail-
able 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.



Check out our WEBSITE! WWW.Largodemocrats.ORG

Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

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Tampa Bay Times: Defending Trump, threatening shutdowns:...

July 5, 2018 For Immediate Release Contact: Kevin Donohoe kevin@floridadems.org KEY HIGHLIGHTS: There's no...

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In stark contrast to the Republican Party of Florida, the Florida...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE June 26, 2018 Press Contact: Caroline Rowland caroline@floridadems.org In...

1 Write a comment

ICYMI: WKMG Orlando: Daytona roller coaster crash becomes issue in...

For Immediate Release: June 24, 2018 Contact: Kevin Donohoe kevin@floridadems.org ICYMI: WKMG Orlando: Daytona roller...

1 Write a comment

Our own blog, with multiple contributing authors.

Introduction to Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

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Clubs & Caucuses (Pinellas)

JULY 2018

04 WEDNESDAY

6:30pm - 8:30pm St. Pete Dems

09 MONDAY

7:00pm - 8:30pm Exec Board Largo/Mid-Pinellas

16 MONDAY

7:00pm - 8:45pm Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

17 TUESDAY

6:00pm - 8:00pm North Pinellas Democratic Club

19 THURSDAY

6:30pm - 7:30pm Stonewall Dems

11:30am - 1:00pm DWcup

Calendar feed from the Pinellas Democratic Party Calendar

Tweeter feed from the Administrator of Largodemocrats.com

Administrator

Sadly, I think George Lakoff is correct. The "Conservative moral system" is rigidly hierarchical... https://t.co/KsnHfEEvFl 16 days ago

Administrator

RT @misterbumface: The Holocaust was legal. Slavery was legal. Segregation was legal. The brave woman who cared for and hid my 6 year-old... 18 days ago

Administrator

RT @billbuc: Trump is teaching us some serious lessons. Let's hope his alarming time in the White House is short, and more like a sobering... 20 days ago

Administrator

RT @SouthStPeteDems: Congratulations to these FL lawmakers for earning an 'A' grade on the #PeopleFirst Report Card! https://t.co/019tBeGMib 20 days ago

Administrator

He should be prosecuted just as Arpaio was - and jailed. https://t.co/XsBfjICzke 17 days ago

Administrator

RT @billbuc: Whenever you find yourself asking "why" conservatives do the things they do, consult this hierarchy and you will find the answ... 17 days ago