In 1948 the Democratic Convention was held in Philadelphia and was televised. My father was a fan of Harry Truman and, much against his natural instinct not to spend money on new-fangled gadgets, he purchased a television set, a boxy thing with a round screen. Everyone was very impressed, but let me tell you, the Convention and cooking shows were the only things that were worth watching, and the Convention lasted only a few days! That was my introduction to Politics and Political Conventions, and through the years, I became hooked. I watched them all. I found the hoopla and excitement of the Conventions exciting. My most distinct Convention memory is watching a very handsome John F. Kennedy’s attempt to become Adele Stevenson’s Vice President in 1956.

In 1979 when Joe Barkley and I were getting together, we discussed things that we wanted to do in the coming years. (Now they call it the Bucket List.) My first wish was to become a delegate to a Democratic Convention. It took a while, but thanks to some terrific people who voted for me to become a Bernie Delegate, and some even more terrific people who not only voted for me, but also encouraged their friends to vote for me, I won the right to a delegate’s seat at the 2016 Democratic Convention, which was, of all places, in Philadelphia where I was born and first became addicted to Democratic Conventions. I do not know who all those people were, but I needed every vote. I thank each and every one.

It was a very exciting and thoroughly exhausting week, but I am so glad we were there to become a part of history! I know you tuned in and listened to the speeches. The first evening brought Joe Biden, Corey Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Michelle Obama and Bernie Sanders, all praising Hillary and encouraging the nomination of the person who will be our first woman President!

Earlier that day, Bernie delegates were invited to meet with him. The auditorium was full and Bernie started out with his list of all the things his Revolution needed to accomplish. Then he said what I, and many other delegates, had been thinking, that we all had to work together to defeat Donald Trump and elect Hillary Clinton. This was not what these delegates wanted to hear. He was getting them ready for his speech that evening encouraging the delegates to nominate Hillary and defeat Donald Trump. Most of us were relieved. He made it easy for us.

That same evening we would vote on a Platform more Progressive than even those when FDR was running for office. I think you know that our own Wanda Schwerer was part of the
Platform Committee. She is proud of the work that was done, and so should all of us be proud. That Platform is a product of all parts of the Democratic Party: Bernie’s people, representatives of Hillary and representatives of the Democratic National Committee. It is a truly Democratic, Progressive Platform. I, and most other delegates, shouted out approval of the Platform.

A delegate’s first duty is to show up around 8:00 am and pick up your credentials. Once you were credentialed, there was a massive breakfast and a host of speakers. On Tuesday morning, in walked Bernie Sanders to again shout out that we had to stop Donald Trump and elect Hillary Clinton. He was followed by a host of speakers: Al Franken, Nancy Pelosi, Bill Nelson, Bob Graham, Jesse Jackson, Kathy Castor and Eric Holder to name a few. Throughout the week nationally known speakers showed up at the Florida breakfast, each one, in essence, saying the same thing: A win in Florida for Hillary will put her in the White House. Florida will be pivotal in electing Hillary President. When we arrived at the Wells Fargo Center in the late afternoon, we began to see that the Democratic Party recognized how important Florida will be. Only New York, Hillary’s state, had better seats.

After the chaos and darkness of the Republican Convention, we were treated to an upbeat organized presentation which covered all the issues. High level Democrats like Bill Clinton, important Republicans like Mayor Bloomberg, Generals and a host of ordinary American told their stories and explained why Hillary should be our next President. They talked about Hillary’s early years and about how she had helped them personally. I cannot speak about the convention without mentioning Khizr Khan. As I listened, I realized that his very moving speech would be remembered. I find it only fair that he should be the one who started the downfall of Donald Trump.

A 73 year old woman who had been comforted by President Obama was the person who introduced him. Amazing! Whenever President Obama speaks, I am mesmerized, and this was no exception. He is an amazing man who has acted with class and dignity while accomplishing so much. All this was done in spite of the hate and lies thrown at him by people who saw only the color of his skin. Hillary’s arrival at the end of his speech brought down the house. The last speech was Hillary, introduced by her daughter. Hillary has never been an eloquent speaker, but one who repeatedly explains the details. But on Thursday evening she out did herself. She was everything she needed to be. Then the balloons fell and it was over.

In spite of all that was going on, every once in a while I would look around me and realized that I was a delegate to the Democratic Convention.

If you ever decide to become a delegate, know that you will end the week completely sleep-deprived and your feet will hurt from all the walking, but it will be worth every bit of it. The credentials and breakfasts begin every day. They are followed by caucuses and other meetings or time to enjoy the city of the Convention. We arrived at the Wells Fargo Center around 4:00 when the gavel came down to begin, and remained there until around 11:30 when we trekked back to our hotels or B&Bs. There were dinners on several evenings but they did not start until 11:00, ending at 2:00 in the AM. Sleep was not something we got a lot of.

All in all, it was a once in a lifetime experience. Joe and I seem to enjoy it even more in retrospect Thank you, Philadelphia, thank you, Democrats.
**Highlights of July Meeting**

*by Wanda Schwerer*

U. S. Senate candidate, Pam Keith, was our speaker in July. The fact of getting a SENATE candidate to speak at a club meeting was a coup, and Pam exceeded all of our expectations. We set a new record for attendance, and first time visitors! Folks eagerly turned out to hear from this otherwise overlooked candidate. And they weren’t disappointed.

She is a dynamic speaker, and used her time to explain how her background qualifies her to run for this seat, as a first-time candidate.

Many of us had heard Keith speak at Democratic Party state events, where she would give a 5 - 7 minute speech on the topic most relevant to the caucus or meeting. Speaking to the Environmental Caucus, she would speak on major environmental issues facing Florida, and how she would work to correct them. Speaking to the Veteran’s Caucus, one near to her heart as a Navy Veteran, Keith spoke on issues concerning the VA and potential solutions.

This was an opportunity for Keith to fully introduce herself, and explain how her upbringing in a Diplomatic family, growing up overseas, moving around the Country when she returned to the States, gave her a unique perspective on what it means to be an American, to be African-American, a woman, and a Veteran in our country in 2016. She also has a unique perspective on diplomacy, Foreign Policy and criminal justice, having served as a JAG officer with command responsibilities for justice on multiple Carrier Groups in the Middle East, during wartime, she has a hands-on perspective on taking our Country to war.

The Primary is August 30, and I know many of you have already returned your mail ballots. For those who have not, please take a few minutes to acquaint yourself with this candidate. You will understand what a treat you missed if you were not at our July meeting.

**Speakers for our upcoming meetings**

AUGUST 15, 2016  MITCH PERRY  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2016  RICK BOYLAN  
OCTOBER 17, 2016  ROB LOREI  
NOVEMBER 21, 2016 DR. RICH PIPER

**Mitch Perry to speak at August meeting:**

Mitch Perry has been a reporter with Extensive Enterprises since November of 2014. Previously, he served as five years as the political editor of the alternative newsweekly Creative Loafing. He also was the assistant news director with WMNF 88.5 FM in Tampa from 2000-2009, and currently hosts MidPoint, a weekly talk show, on WMNF on Thursday afternoons. He began his reporting career at KPFA radio in Berkeley. He studied Speech and Communication Studies at San Francisco State university. He’s a San Francisco native who has now lived in Tampa for 16 years and can be reached at mitch.perry@floridapolitics.com.

In Florida, when activists, donors, elected officials lobbyists, operatives, reporters, supporters, volunteers -- and most important -- voters talk about a story they read “in the blogs” they are likely talking about SaintPetersBlog, one of Florida’s most influential political websites with more than 25,000 unique visitors per day.

SaintPetersBlog is recognized by the Washington Post as one of the best blogs in the country and is edited and published by Extensive Enterprises Media.

Florida Politics is a statewide, new media concern covering campaigns, elections, government, policy, and lobbying in Florida, also published by Peter Schorsch.
Moms Demand Action

by Rod Snedeker

While on vacation in Michigan this past week (August 2-9) members of our family pitched in together and made several CareCards for survivors of gun violence and those who have lost loved ones to gun violence.

During July our local group attended the showing of “Making a Killing: Guns, Greed and the NRA” at the Clearwater Public Library. It was sponsored by the North Pinellas Democratic Women’s Club. Those attending from our group were Elizabeth and Rod Snedeker, Joan Johnson, Diane Guthrie, Charlotte Maas, Cathy Ewing, Lois Fries, Raemona Mae Clark, and Ginny Nelson. Following the movie Elizabeth Snedeker had the opportunity to speak about the goals of Moms Demand Action and the importance of the up-coming election.
Letter from club member Linda Varonich to Rep. Jolly

(tell us how you really feel, Linda!)

Hello Representative,

I called your office to express concern that the gun vote did not need to coddle watch list persons by extending the due process nonsense. We need complete background checks for all methods of sale. We need to ban assault rifles and ammo. U S Senate Candidate Pam Keith wants to see the U.S. Military prohibited from buying from gun manufacturers who continue to profit from sales of inappropriate firearms to the general public.

What did you do, Mr. Jolly, to earn the reported $4950 from the National Rifle Assn in 2014? www.opensecrets.org

If you would watch MAKING A KILLING: Guns, Greed and the NRA shown by the League of Women Voters recently at the Free Fall Theatre, you would do way more than put on a pretense of enacting sensible gun control as my elected member of Congress. Why couldn’t you convince Paul Ryan he was morally obligated to NOT take early vacation and TAKE a Vote back in June??

I watched from the House Gallery from 10:15 to midnight on June 21 the brave House Members sitting in. And then adding insult to the stalwart NO VOTE NO BREAK Reps, including Kathy Castor and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, I read that Ryan thinks they can be charged with some offense and for allegedly damaging furniture there. What a crock!! He’s the numbskull who pulled the C-Span connection and threatened to cut off the Air Conditioning. Are you and the Speaker’s ilk MAD with imagined power?

Surely, more lives need not be sacrificed. You taking NRA money makes you complicit with the gun lobby. That is WRONG. Help them find other means of wreaking havoc, not prospering off body counts. To wit: In 2015 there were more gun deaths than vehicular deaths, one toddler per week killing someone, 697 kids and 2689 teens killed/injured, 13,403 non-suicide deaths and 27,000 related injuries.

At the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, the Convention Center was crowded with different groups “tabling”. The busiest table I saw in the four days I roamed the Convention Center, was the “Moms Demand Action” table; there was always a crowd surrounding the table. - Wanda
TRUMP AND HIS BIG MOUTH – A WINNER FOR DEMOCRATS!

From a NYTimes Editorial, Aug. 8

Three months from the presidential election, and one day after his running mate promised “specific policy proposals for how we rebuild this country at home and abroad,” Americans find themselves asking whether Donald Trump has called for the assassination of Hillary Clinton.

On Tuesday at a rally in North Carolina, Mr. Trump falsely charged, as he has before, that “Hillary wants to abolish, essentially abolish, the Second Amendment.” Then he added: “If she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks. Although the Second Amendment people, maybe there is, I don’t know.”

Directly behind him, a supporter’s jaw dropped. Afterward, Mr. Trump’s campaign issued an utterly mystifying statement about the “power of unification,” suggesting that Mr. Trump was referring to the political power of Second Amendment supporters, and was not advocating violence. The National Rifle Association, which has endorsed Mr. Trump, concurred with his statement on Supreme Court justices and did not specifically address the rest of his remarks.

Was it a threat? Mr. Trump’s campaign has been marked by extraordinarily combative rhetoric. At another rally, he said he would like to punch a protester in the face and see him leave “on a stretcher.” His supporters have shouted “kill her” when he mentions Mrs. Clinton. The Republican convention heard cries of “lock her up.” A New Hampshire delegate, Al Baldasaro, called for Mrs. Clinton to “be put in the firing line and shot for treason.”

That comment wound up on the Secret Service’s radar. Mr. Trump’s comment should as well.

Seldom, if ever, have Americans been exposed to a candidate so willing to descend to the depths of bigotry and intolerance as Mr. Trump. That he would make Tuesday’s comment amid sinking poll numbers and a wave of Republican defections suggests that when bathed in the adulation of a crowd, Mr. Trump is unable to control himself.

TRUMP’S TROUBLES IN THE BLACK BELT

Charles M. Blow Aug. 8, 2016

There has been much talk this election about the fundamental transformation of voters in the Rust Belt and what that portends for Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump.

But there is another belt also worth keeping an eye on for its remarkable electoral transformation: The Black Belt, a series of counties with large black populations, that stretches from the Deep South to the Mid-Atlantic (Florida is not a Black Belt state.)

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll released Thursday found that a measly 1 percent of registered black voters overall support Trump.

That’s extremely problematic in states with high numbers of black voters. The more black voters Clinton gets, the fewer white ones she needs.

The northernmost of these states have already voted Democratic in recent elections — Maryland since 1992; Virginia since 2008. North Carolina even flipped in 2008. But now, with Trump as the G.O.P. standard-bearer, the Black Belt states in the Deep South also look shaky.

On Friday, a headline on AL.com in Alabama blared: “Poll shows Clinton leading in Georgia: Is Alabama next?” It’s a question worth pondering in a state where 27 percent of the registered voters are black, according to a January Pew Research Center report. But it should be noted that Alabama is doing its very best to disenfranchise as many of those voters as possible.

As John Archibald pointed out on AL.com in the fall, “Take a look at the 10 Alabama counties with the highest percentage of nonwhite registered voters.” He pointed out that the state “opted to close driver license bureaus in eight of them.” As he put it: “Closed. In a state in which driver licenses or special photo IDs are a requirement for voting.” Furthermore, “Every single county in which blacks make up more than 75 percent of registered voters will see their driver license office closed. Every one.”

Welcome to the South, folks. And thank you very much, Chief Justice John Roberts, for your opinion in the disastrous Shelby County vs. Holder case. How did you put it: In the South, “Things have changed dramatically?” Yeah, right

CAN TEXAS TURN BLUE

By George F. Will

Submitted by: Bob Glass

Will Texas Become Another Brick in the Democrats Blue Wall

Political conventions are echo chambers designed to generate feelings of invincibility, sending forth the party faithful with a spring in their steps and hope in their hearts. Who would want to be a wet blanket at such moveable feasts?
Steve Munisteri would. Although he
calls himself “the eternal optimist,” he
respects reality, which nowadays is not
conducive to conservatives’ cheerful-
ness. He served as chairman of the Texas
Republican Party from 2010 to 2015
because he discerned “a seismic shift
in demographics” that meant his state
could “turn Democratic sooner than
most people thought.”

The fact that Republicans have won
every Texas statewide office since 1994
— the longest such streak in the nation
— gives them, he says, “a false sense of
security.” In 2000, Republican candi-
dates at the top of the ticket — in state-
wide races — averaged about 60 percent
of the vote. By 2008, they averaged less
than 53 percent. And Republican down-
ballot winners averaged slightly over 51
percent.

Texas is not wide-open spaces filled
with cattle and cotton fields. Actually,
it is 84.7 percent urban, making it the
15th-most-urban state. It has four of
the nation’s 11 largest cities — Houston,
San Antonio, Dallas and Austin. Texas’s
growth is in its cities, where Republicans
are doing worst.

Dallas has gone from solidly Republican
to solidly Democratic. A recent poll
showed Harris County (Houston), which is
about 69 percent minority, with a
majority identifying as Democrats. The
San Antonio metropolitan area is about
three-quarters minority. Travis County
(Austin, seat of the state government,
the flagship state university and a bur-
geoning tech economy attracting young
people) voted 60.1 percent for President
Obama in 2012.

Asian Americans, Texas’s fastest-grow-
ing minority by percentage, were about
3 percent of Texans in 2000 and about 4
percent in 2010. They are projected to be
more than 8 percent in 2040.

In the 2014 gubernatorial election,
Hispanics were 25 percent of Texas’s
registered voters but only 19 percent of
turnout. Two years later, Hispanics are
29 percent of registered voters. Now, sup-
pose the person at the top of a Republican
national ticket gives Hispanics the moti-
uation to be, say, 25 percent of turnout.
Although it is, Munisteri says, “theoreti-
cally possible” for Texas Republicans to
win by increasing the white vote, this
“political segregation” is, aside from being
morally repulsive, politically “a sure-fire
long-term losing proposition.”

The “blue wall” — the 18 states and
the District of Columbia that have voted
Democratic in at least six consecutive
presidential elections — today has 242
electoral votes. Texas, which is not a brick
in this wall, has 38 electoral votes. After
the 2020 Census, it probably will have
40, perhaps 41. Were Texas to become
another blue brick, the wall — even if the
2020 Census subtracted a few electoral
votes from the current 18 states — would
have more than the 270 votes needed to
elect a president.

Since 1994, when it passed New York
(which has now sunk below Florida to
fourth place), Texas has been the nation’s
second-most-populous state. Munisteri
notes that it is the Republican Party’s only
large “anchor state.” The Democratic Party
has two — California and New
York, with a combined 84 elec-
toral votes. Or three, if you count
Illinois (20 electoral votes), which
in the past four presidential elec-
tions has voted Democratic by an
average of slightly more than 16
points.

Munisteri’s conservative cre-
dentials are unassailable. He
was a precociously conservative
teenager — a member of Young
Americans for Freedom in high
school in 1976 — when Ronald
Reagan was trying to wrest the
Republican nomination from
President Gerald Ford. Munisteri, now
working with the Republican National
Committee, became a Reagan volun-
teer and had an exhilarating experience:
Reagan, having lost eight of the first
ten primaries, revived his candidacy
by winning all of Texas’s 100 convention
debates.

Munisteri’s politically formative years
were the conservative movement’s salad
days — the late 1970s and the 1980s,
when many conservatives acquired a
serene certainty that this is and always
will be a center-right country. Munisteri,
however, is “a numbers guy,” so serenity
is illusive.

He notes that beginning with Franklin
Roosevelt’s first victory in 1932,
Democrats won seven of nine presi-
dential elections, and if they had suc-
ceded in their effort to enlist Dwight
Eisenhower as a Democrat, they prob-
ably would have won nine in a row.
Trends can be reversed, but until they
are, Republicans risk protracted losing
in a center-left country, which America
now is, and in a purple Texas, which
soon could be. ❑

Charlie Justice for Pinellas
County Board of County
Commissioners

At the July 26 fundraiser for Pinellas
County Commissioner Charlie Justice
were, from the left, Kathie Brown,
Kathleen Jamison, board secretary Judy
Sellers and Becky Heeren. The get
together at the Sand Key Sheraton was
hosted by Commissioner and club mem-
ber Janet Long and Commissioner Ken
Welch. Of the three, Charlie is the only
one with an opponent, so we need to do
everything we can to get him reelected. ❑
In the coming weeks, I will be announcing the creation of successor organizations to carry on the struggle that we have been a part of these past 15 months. I hope you will continue to be involved in fighting to transform America. Our goal will be to advance the progressive agenda that we believe in and to elect like-minded candidates at the federal, state and local levels who are committed to accomplishing our goals.

In terms of the presidential election this November, there is no doubt that the election of Donald Trump as president would be a devastating blow to all that we are fighting for. His openly bigoted and pro-billionaire campaign could precipitate the same decades-long rightward shift in American politics that happened after the election of Ronald Reagan in 1980. That rightward shift after Reagan’s election infected not just politics as a whole but led to the ascendency of the corporatist wing of the Democratic Party – an era from which we are still recovering.

I cannot in good conscience let that happen.

To have all of the work we have done in elevating our progressive ideals be dashed away by a complete Republican takeover of Washington – a takeover headed by a candidate that demonizes Latinos, Muslims, women, African Americans, veterans, and others – would be unthinkable.

Today, I endorsed Hillary Clinton to be our next president. I know that some of you will be disappointed with that decision. But I believe that, at this moment, our country, our values, and our common vision for a transformed America, are best served by the defeat of Donald Trump and the election of Hillary Clinton.

You should know that in the weeks since the last primary, both campaigns have worked together in good faith to bridge some of the policy issues that divided us during the election. Did we come to agreement on everything? Of course not. But we made important steps forward.

Hillary Clinton released a debt free college plan that we developed together which now includes free tuition at public colleges and universities for working families. This was a major part of our campaign’s agenda and a proposal that, if enacted into law, would revolutionize higher education in this country.

Secretary Clinton has also publicly committed to massive investments in health care for communities across this country that will increase primary care, including mental health care, dental care, and low-cost prescription drug access for an additional 25 million people. Importantly, she has also endorsed the enactment of a so-called public option to allow everyone in this country to participate in a public insurance program. This idea was killed by the insurance industry during consideration of President Obama’s health care program.

During the Democratic platform proceedings in St. Louis and Orlando, we were victorious in including amendments to make it a clear priority of the Democratic Party to fight for a $15 an hour federal minimum wage, expand Social Security, abolish the death penalty, put a price on carbon, establish a path toward the legalization of marijuana, enact major criminal justice reforms, pass comprehensive immigration reform, end for-profit prisons and detention facilities, break up too-big-to-fail banks and create a 21st century Glass-Steagall Act, close loopholes that allow big companies to avoid taxes by stashing their cash in offshore tax havens and use that revenue to rebuild America, approve the most expansive agenda ever for protecting Native American rights and so much more.

All of these progressive policies were at the heart of our campaign. The truth is our movement is responsible for the most progressive Democratic platform in the history of our country. All of that is the direct result of the work that our members of the platform committee did in the meetings and that you have been doing over the last 15 months.

But none of these initiatives will happen if we do not elect a Democratic president in November. None! In fact, we will go backward. We must elect the Democratic nominee in November and progressive Democrats up and down the ballot so that we ensure that these policy commitments can advance.

It is extremely important that we keep our movement together, that we hold public officials accountable and that we elect progressive candidates to office at the federal, state, and local level who will stand with us.

As part of that effort, we still have a tremendous amount of work left to do in the Democratic Rules Committee that will be meeting in the coming weeks. We have to enact the kinds of reforms to the Democratic Party and to the electoral process that will provide us the tools to elect progressive candidates, to allow new voices and new energy into the Party, and to break up the excessive power that the economic and political elites in the Party currently have. As with our fights on the platform committee, that will only be possible if we stand together.

Bernie, not forgotten
Bernie, not forgotten
SUPPORT SOLAR IN FLORIDA

Bi-Partisan Policy Lowers Energy Bills and Solar Costs for Homeowners & Businesses

Amendment 4 will amend Florida’s Constitution to exempt the value of solar panels and other renewable energy equipment from both the tangible personal property tax and the real property tax. To become law, Amendment 4 must be approved by a YES vote of at least 60 percent on the Aug. 30 primary ballot. Why Support Tax Reductions on Solar Equipment Several barriers are holding back the solar market in Florida, including the burdensome tangible personal property tax and the real property tax on solar equipment. Amendment 4 will remove those two barriers, lowering bills and energy costs, reducing pollution, and allowing more Florida homes and businesses access to affordable solar power. In addition to helping customers lock in energy cost savings, and reducing pollution for a more sustainable energy future, Amendment 4 will encourage solar companies to move into Florida, creating new jobs that support the local economy. The solar industry is creating jobs 20 times faster than the overall economy. The vast majority of those jobs are living-wage opportunities that cannot be outsourced, keeping energy dollars right here at home. It’s a win-win for the whole state. Florida has the most solar energy potential east of the Mississippi, yet isn’t a leader on solar power. Vote YES on Amendment 4 to lower bills and allow solar energy to flourish in Florida.

The full text of the Amendment 4 as it will read on the ballot: Solar Devices or Renewable Energy Source Devices; Exemption from Certain Taxation and Assessment – Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to authorize the Legislature, by general law, to exempt from ad valorem taxation the assessed value of solar or renewable energy source devices subject to tangible personal property tax, and to authorize the legislature, by general law, to prohibit consideration of such devices in assessing the value of real property for ad valorem taxation purposes. This amendment takes effect January 1, 2018, and expires on December 31, 2037.

Learn more and get involved at www.yeson4.org. Amendment 4 is a grassroots supported, bi-partisan proposal, not to be confused with the utility-backed proposal on the November ballot. This is paid for by Floridians 4 Lower Energy Costs, a non-profit 501 (c)(4) organization.

What will it do?

Amendment 4 would allow for a property tax exemption for people who install solar panels on their home or business. The value of the solar panels would be exempt from property taxes when assessing the value of the home or business, lowering the cost of solar and energy.

Why vote for Amendment 4?

Lower taxes on solar = lower bills, a sustainable future for Florida, increased access to more affordable solar, and new local jobs.

Amendment 4 Empowers Floridians To Be Energy Independent. Floridians WANT to go solar but are currently faced with barriers that can make clean solar energy seem out of reach. By lowering the taxes on solar, Amendment 4 makes solar energy more affordable for businesses and homeowners in Florida.

Amendment 4 Paves the Way for a Sustainable Florida.

Solar is clean and safe energy, with zero emissions and zero water usage. By lowering the cost of solar, more people will have access to this clean energy source, helping ensure a bright and sunny future for Florida.

Amendment 4 Reduces Monthly Power Bills

While every solar system is different, most solar customers, both business and residential, can lock in long term savings on their monthly power bill by going solar. Once Amendment 4 passes, a residential solar lease can save homeowner hundreds off their power bill through the life of the contract by locking in a lower rate, while utility rates continue to rise. One of the largest utilities in Florida just proposed a 24% rate increase over the next four years; affordable solar helps protect Floridians from rate hikes and provides financial stability and certainty.

Amendment 4 Creates Local Jobs

One out of every 83 new jobs created in the US last year was in the solar industry. Voting YES on Amendment 4 will allow the solar industry to grow in the Sunshine State, creating local jobs that cannot be outsourced.
For the most up-to-date information on your Federal, State, and County representatives including all contact information, go to:

What do we include in the Newsletter?

It's clear that we Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club members are an interested, involved, informed - and opinionated - bunch. And providing a forum for all that “good stuff” is an important function of our newsletter. The Board encourages articles and letters to the editor.

This newsletter is created by volunteers who make every attempt to publish factual information, and who encourage the free exchange of information and opinions. It should include input from all of us. However, the opinions and viewpoints expressed by contributors may not necessarily reflect those of the club. Please send submissions to newsletter editor, Lois Fries, at loisfries@gmail.com.

If you don't wish to receive this newsletter, let Editor Lois Fries know. She will also be happy to add more folks to our newsletter email list. (Please forward to anyone you know who may be interested in what we do and how to join.) Her address is: loisfries@gmail.com.

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

http://lmp-progressivecommittee.ruck.us/