From the President’s Desk

The question is - can the Democrats field and support enough good candidates in 2018 to make a difference, despite huge number of alternate facts being legitimized and the large amounts of money pouring into Republican coffers? Can we get good Democrats elected although truth and facts are reported equally with lies and “alternate facts?” Both are reported by the same “Main Stream Media” Trump repeatedly calls out as the “enemy” of the American People. That is the same media which, to increase their audience, gave the Trump Campaign thousands of free TV hours. He should be grateful.

Donald Trump woke up on March 4th and was upset that the stories about his links to Putin and Russia were leading the news cycle. I believe he made a conscious decision to introduce a hideous lie into the conversation to dispel the attention being paid to the Russian stories. In his ignorance of real facts, and having been exposed to the alternate universe of Breitbart News, he made the announcement that Former President Barack Obama had wire-tapped his Trump Towers residence to spy on him. He actually claimed that the former President had committed a felony, but he had no proof. He didn’t even try. In fact, even if President Obama had wanted to do such a thing, he could not have done it since wire-tapping must go through a process and would only be allowed if he proved that there were reasons to believe Trump had broken the law.

Regardless of that, Obama’s “wire-tap of Trump” became the lead story. Now, more than a week later, we have two main stories being discussed and repeatedly reported in the Press – Did Russia intervene in our election with assistance from the Trump Campaign? and Did Obama wiretap Trump? There is plenty of evidence that the first question may well be true, and absolutely no evidence of any truth in the second. However, few Republicans in Congress or even the head of the FBI have the courage to stand up against the policies and the lies of the Trump Administration.

As to the huge amounts of money, we may be able to win this one. 2 1/3 Million people contributed to Bernie Sanders’ campaign and the average contribution was $27.00. 76% of his contributions were in small amounts. This shows that,

asmus

> Next page
if the American people get excited by a candidate, they will contribute and that enough small contributions add up to record highs.

A problem for Democrats is the divisions between the Hillary supporters and the Sanders followers. I hear many of my friends who are still in deep sorrow over Hillary’s loss, refuse to recognize the mistakes made by the Campaign and by the Candidate. On the other side, Sanders backers, many of whom were not politically motivated before Bernie came on the scene, simply dismiss the Democratic Party and any candidate Democrats may put forward because of the abuses of top Party officials. They see the election of Tom Perez as more of the same. They look to the Green Party or other small groups focused on a single issue. The problem is that backing one of these Parties assures the success of the Republicans who, despite the absolute horror of their current Administration, stand behind it simply because it is called Republican. (Remember, Democrats fall in Love and Republicans fall in Line.) Gerald Ford and Dwight Eisenhower and Nelson Rockefeller must be turning in their graves.

Another concern is that historically Democrats generally ignore the midterm elections. There is hope here. The good news is that all Democratic Clubs and Caucuses as well as the DEC have had huge increases in people attending their meetings. Hopefully those people will get more and more involved with the Party and its candidates in the future. Many of these people as well as many long time Democrats have been demonstrating and calling out the politicians who are not doing the job we have elected them to do. (Note here that Marco Rubio lost his lease.) It is very heartening to see so many attending the few town hall meeting the Republican officeholders have held. Angry constituents have spoken up and demanded their Representatives start representing their constituents. They have made calls and sent letters and postcards demanding action. This is the real bright spot in the whole political spectrum. Locally, it was good to see Charlie Crist voice the same concerns as the activists who attended his town hall.

We must keep up the activism, keep calling alternate facts what they are – LIES, and keep showing up and addressing the issues. We must get Democrats or people leaning democratic registered and then we must get people to the polls on every election day. We must educate them and convince them that State and Local candidates have more power over their lives than the President. If we can consistently do all that, we will win!

I will continue to send out information on “bad Bills” and activities that people may be interested in. Also there are two blogs that Club Members have put together: http://largodemocrats.typepad.com/local_events_meetings/ and http://largodemocrats.typepad.com/issues_and_legislation/. (Note those are not spaces but are underline. You may need to cut and paste.

We hope to see you on March 20th at 7:00 at the Acropolis Restaurant. Our Speaker will be Susan Smith, the co-founder and President of the Progressive Caucus of Florida.
Susan Smith is president of the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida. Since 2003, Susan has been a full-time progressive activist, serving as an organizer for DFA Tampa Bay, and Chair of the Campaign and Legislative Committees for the Hillsborough Democratic Party. She currently serves as an at-large member of the Hillsborough DEC Steering Committee. Susan is the former Training Resource Coordinator of the Democratic Women's Club of Florida.

Susan is a member of the Advisory Board of Progress Florida and a board member of the Organize Florida Education Fund. She formerly served as secretary of Tampa Tiger Bay Club. Susan volunteers with Planned Parenthood, gun safety advocacy groups, and the parent-led public education support community. She recently served as Vice-Chair of the Florida Democratic Party Legislative Committee and as a member of the Committee for Clubs, Organizations and Caucuses.

Susan is married to Norwood Smith, and is the mother of two adult sons. She graduated from the University of Tennessee and is a former teacher.

Please note: officer & director elections are this month!

In January, 2017 the Nominating Committee presented a slate of recommended Officer/Board Candidates, the Election will be held in March. Nominations for all offices may be made from the floor.

Per the by-laws, to be eligible to vote, you must have paid your dues no later than February 5, 2017 (45 days prior to election).

The nominating committee has confirmed the following candidates are willing to serve if elected:

- For President .................Mary Lou Ambrose
- For Vice President.........Billy Walker
- For Recording Secretary    Becky Heeren
- For Corresponding Secretary ...Open
- For Treasurer...............Charlie Tucker
- For Parliamentarian ......Lorena Grizzle

For Board of Directors

- Lois Fries
- Bob Glass
- Ginny Nelson
- Lodewijk van den Berg
- Peggy Tucker
- Heidi Sanchez
- Wanda Schwerer
- Charlotte Maas
Kofi Hunt was our speaker in February. Kofi is a Political Organizer at Fight for 15 Florida and Movement Builder at Awake Pinellas. Past: Saint Petersburg, Florida and Service Employee International Union - Florida
**Upcoming Speakers! 2017**

**April**

**Pam Keith**

Pam was a candidate for U.S. Senator from Florida in the August primary. Despite not having won that race, Pam is not giving up on her role as activist. We SHALL see her running for office again in the not too distant future.

**May**

**Janet Long**

In addition to being an early, if not founding, member of the Largo Club, Janet served as a member of the Florida House of Representatives for House District 51. She was a member of the Seminole City Council from 2002 to 2006. She was first elected to the Florida Legislature in 2006, and was re-elected in 2008. She was elected to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners in 2012, and is currently the Chair of the Board.

**June**

**Sylvia Acevedo**

Director at Florida Center for Survivors of Torture & Refugee Resettlement Programs; Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services. Under my leadership I am responsible for overseeing the delivery of service, program implementation and direction of the agency’s Refugee Programs, which includes the only torture rehabilitation center in the state of Florida.

**Outstanding invitation to speak:**

Renee Flowers, member of Pinellas County School Board

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**Local Action Meet-up**

Every Tuesday at 9:00 am

at the Largo Mall Panera Bread

We meet to write postcards and/or sign pre-printed letters together to send to our representatives. We talk politics and some of us choose to visit our representative’s offices together. The pre-printed letters are from the Progressive Democrats and contain ideas for topics if you would rather write your own letter. There is a new letter every month so your representatives can hear from you every month!

Just show up for an hour! It is fun!

Questions? Call Peggy Tucker 727-460-5345 or Ginny Nelson at 727-400-6068 and leave a message

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**8th Annual Democratic Picnic**

Saturday, April 22, 2017

**Politics in the Park**

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. 

Pavilion 4

Taylor Lake Park

(across from Pinecrest Golf on 8th Ave) 

Largo

Statewide and local Democratic office holders and candidates will be on hand to meet voters and speak.

Admission is $10.

Tickets may be obtained from:

Mary Lou Ambrose 443-4045 or

Bob Glass 319-6081
HERE'S THE SCOOP

Please Join American Promise-Tampa Bay & Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's & Head Stamper of Stamp Stampede for an Ice Cream Social

Allendale United Methodist Church
3803 Haines Road North
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33703

Friday, March 24, 2017
7:00 P.M.

Stamp Money Out of Politics
On January 24, during the confirmation hearing of Rep. Tom Price to be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Senator Nelson asked Rep. Price about his views on certain key provisions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), including a provision that saved Florida’s seniors nearly $1,000 on the cost of their prescription drugs in 2015, and a provision that allows individuals with pre-existing conditions to receive health coverage. In Florida, more than 7.8 million people have pre-existing conditions. To view the hearing visit: http://bit.ly/2kjMbPJ.

On February 6, at a hearing of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Nelson questioned Mrs. Seema Verma, nominee for Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, about provisions included in the Affordable Care Act that lowered the costs of prescription drugs for seniors. Senator Nelson also asked Mrs. Verma whether she supports efforts to turn Medicare into a voucher program. To view the hearing visit: http://bit.ly/2lHzjzh.

On January 25, Senator Nelson and Senator Crapo lead a group of 63 Senators in sending a bipartisan letter to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) encouraging CMS to support and build on the Medicare Advantage (MA) program. According to the letter, enrollment in the MA program has increased by 60 percent since 200, while 90 percent of beneficiaries report satisfaction with their selection. The letter highlights the importance of the MA program in offering affordable out of pocket spending caps, vision and dental coverage, and prescription drug coverage. In Florida, 1.6 million seniors are enrolled in Medicare Advantage.

On February 1, Senator Nelson and 14 Democratic Senators introduced S. 252, the Medicare Drug Savings Act, which would require drug manufacturers to pay drug rebates to Medicare for dually eligible beneficiaries in Medicare and Medicaid, and some low-income individuals on Medicare Part D. Prior estimates from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office indicate that this bill would save more than $100 billion over ten years.

The Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Politics in the Park PICNIC will be on Saturday, April 22, Taylor Park, Shelter 4. We’ll have good food and lots of Politics for you to enjoy.

Tickets will be available at the March meeting.

The Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club Holiday Pot Luck is tentatively planned for Saturday, December 2, at Randolph Farms Community Center.

NOTE: this is a CHANGE from the originally announced date, due to conflicts with the clubhouse schedule.
Russia: Attack On Our Democracy

by Eric Swalwell, Dem. US Rep. from California

submitted by Heidi Sanchez.

On October 7, 2016, the seventeen agencies of our intelligence community concluded with high confidence that Russia was meddling in our elections through hacking, leaks, and the dissemination of fake news.

On January 6, 2017, the office of the Director of National Intelligence released a declassified report on Russia’s actions and intentions in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The report concluded that:

1. These attacks were ordered by President Putin;

2. Russia’s goals were to undermine faith in our democracy, to harm Secretary Clinton’s chances of winning, and to help President Trump’s election chances; and

3. President Putin and the Russian Government favored President Trump.

In addition to covert intelligence operations that supplied a constant stream of material to WikiLeaks, the Russian government worked to achieve these goals by using government agencies, state-funded media outlets, and paid social media trolls. Using these tools, Russia launched a dangerous fake news campaign intended to make it difficult for Americans to tell the difference between accurate reporting and blatant lies about both presidential candidates and about our own country.

But the most disturbing finding is that Russia intends to do this again.

Russia will use the lessons learned from their 2016 attack on our democracy to future attacks on both our democracy and other sovereign nations worldwide. It’s clear that President Putin intends to do this again. Republican Senator John McCain has warned that Russia will continue to use cyberattacks “as a part of Vladimir Putin’s ambition to regain Russian prominence and dominance in some parts of the world.” The American people cannot ignore Russia’s actions against us, because doing so will leave our democracy vulnerable to the next attack.

President Trump has also surrounded himself with people who do business with and are sympathetic to Russia. The New York Times reported that members of Trump’s 2016 campaign and other Trump associates had frequent contact with senior Russian intelligence officials throughout the campaign. In addition to these questionable communications, here are a few other associates with ties to Moscow:

Ed. Note: For the full article, see our Web site: www.largodemocrats.com

Trump & His Team’s Ties to Russia
I, along with most of America, watched in horror as Mr. Trump regaled against the media, Hillary Clinton and “leakers” during his Thursday afternoon circus of a press conference. This jaw dropping display of immaturity, ignorance and hubris should strike fear and determination into those of us who advocate for an informed electorate. I implore journalists to do your job! Democracy depends on a well-informed - that means an understanding of facts-electorate who votes and advocates for change with well-informed intent. To my friends and neighbors, please do not be afraid to discuss politics and social issues. Keeping your opinions closely guarded does not allow you to develop an understanding of another’s outlook. Only in open discussion and clarification of facts will we all come to appreciate the nuance and complexity in so many of the challenges facing us. A firm grasp of the facts and a determination to effect change will empower those of us who fear the ramifications of passively watching our country, this beacon of hope, inclusion, acceptance and compassion, be twisted into one focused on hatred and fear.

**How Do We Defeat Trump?**

New York Times, Monday, February 20, 2017

By David Leonhardt

Ever since Donald Trump announced his presidential campaign and shot to the top of the polls, some political analysts have blamed liberals and liberalism for his rise. (For a long list of examples, type the words “Trump liberals fault” into Google.) I find this argument to be pretty silly. Trump grew out of the political right, including Fox News and the false “birther” conspiracy theory. He was able to become president because the Republican establishment ultimately rallied to him. Liberals clearly failed in their attempts to stop Trump, but they did not create him.

My Times colleague Sabrina Tavernise took on many of these issues in a piece this weekend entitled, “Are Liberals Helping Trump?” (www.nytimes.com/2017/02/18/opinion/sunday/are-liberals-helping-trump.html?emc=edit_ty_20170220&nl=opinion-today&nlid=74362062&te=1) I encourage you to read both the article and the comments on Facebook, (www.facebook.com/nytopinion/posts/159850698686630918) where many readers took issue with the premise of the piece.

As you read them, keep in mind that there is a big difference between being responsible for Trump and helping him. Liberals are not responsible for Trump. But they should be reflective about the fact that they haven’t yet come up with an effective strategy for beating him.

Doing so will depend on winning over a significant number of Americans who voted for him. Simply calling him beyond the pale won’t persuade most of them. They heard that argument for much of 2016, and it didn’t sway them. The effective argument will need to be different.

Perhaps the smartest piece I’ve yet read on opposing Trump is still a November Op-Ed by Luigi Zingales, (www.nytimes.com/2016/11/18/opinion/the-right-way-to-resist-trump.html?emc=edit_ty_20170220&nl=opinion-today&nlid=74362062&te=1) talking about the strategies that worked.
While much of the country was focused on the top of the ticket, the DNC Chair, I, along with many of my colleagues were also concerned about the other officer positions. Now that we are shut out of the White House, the Senate, and the House of Representatives the DNC is not just going to be our voice and face, they are our arms and legs for moving forward. I can tell you from my perspective, I could NOT be happier with our new leadership team. And I am so impressed with Tom Perez and Keith Ellison joining together to lead our party united as one. That is leadership we can all be proud of.

My closest friends on the DNC took this responsibility very seriously. Over the last few months we spent literally hundreds of hours researching, reading, chatting, watching and engaging to reach a decision about these positions. The choices where made even more difficult because so many of our close friends were running. Some we were able to support (and they won :)). It was a very, very tough call. But I believe we now have a team in place to rebuild the party. But just a handful at the top can’t do it alone.

Secretary Tom Perez, DNC Chair,
- Son of Dominican Republic immigrants.
- First Latino elected to the Montgomery County Council
- Served as U.S. Secretary of Labor in President Obama’s President Obama’s Cabinet.
- Put himself through college as a garbage man.
- After graduating with a law degree from Harvard, he became a civil rights attorney at the U.S. Department of Justice.
- Special counsel to Senator Ted Kennedy, advising him on civil rights, criminal justice, and constitutional issues.
- Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights under Attorney General Janet Reno.
- Led the Office for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services at the end of the Clinton administration.

Representative Keith Ellison, DNC Deputy Chair,
I struggle to lead an intro with religious affiliation, but Keith’s success has been significant firsts in American history. First elected in 2007, he was the first Muslim to be elected to Congress and was the first black man or woman elected to the U.S. House from Minnesota. Keith has served in Congress for ten years and has been an outspoken voice for progressive politics.

Pinellas County Precinct Training
We are pleased to announce the April opportunities to take the Precinct Committee Person training. As a Precinct Committee Person, this training will help you:

- Build a business plan
- Learn the ropes
- Know your territory
- Become the “go-to” expert for the Democratic voters
- Recruit and train staff
- Reach out to your target customers

You will receive a handbook personalized for your precinct. We ask for a donation of $10 to cover the cost of materials and printing.

Due to the personalized nature of this training we are limited to 15 people per class. Therefore, it will be “first-come first-serve” seating.

To reserve a space in an upcoming class to be offered at the DEC H Qs (2250 1st Ave. N, St Pete) contact Deb Anderson via email to deborah.anderson.mb@gmail.com.

Some of the Florida DNC delegation at the DNC election
Florida Legislature and Issues Update

The following table is excerpted from the Legislative Priorities spreadsheet being maintained by the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida. It is updated on a regular basis. This information is as of 3/15/17. Further information on any specific bills can be obtained at myfloridahouse (https://www.myfloridahouse.gov/default.aspx) or FLSenate. (http://m.flsenate.gov/). This is a partial list. There are many Immigration and Reproductive Rights Bills that are not included here. Please refer to the above links to investigate bills of interest to you.

**Category: Criminal Justice**
Bill Numbers: HB 205; HB 213; SB196 Description: Juvenile Civil Citation and Similar Diversion Programs. Requires establishment of civil citation & similar diversion programs for juveniles; Requiring the establishment of civil citation or similar diversion programs for juveniles, etc.
Position: Support
Status: House: 205 Passed Criminal Justice Sub 5-0 3/8/17, & 213 Referred to Cmtes; 196 passed Crim Justice Cmte 5-0

**Category: Economy/Equality**
Bill Numbers: HB 319; SB 410 Description: Equal Pay for Equal Work
Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act" Position: support
Status: House: Ref to 3 Cmtes; Senate Ref to 4 Cmtes

Bill Numbers: HB 945; SB 60 Description: Minimum wage
Minimum Wage; Revising the formula for the adjusted state minimum wage, etc.
Position: support
Status: House: Ref to 3 Cmtes; Senate Ref to 4 Cmtes

**Category: Education**
Bill Numbers: HB 67; SB 78 Description: Public School Recess
Requires district school board to provide K-5 students with minimum number of minutes of free-play recess each week & minimum number of consecutive minutes of free-play recess per day..
Position: supportt
Status: House: Ref 3 Comms; Senate: Passed Approps Sub (8-0)

Bill Numbers: HB 265; SB 104 Description: Coding in Place of Foreign Languagee
Authorizing high schools to offer students opportunities to take specified computer coding courses beginning with a specified school year; providing that high schools will not be required to offer such courses; requiring the Commissioner of Education to identify the computer coding courses that satisfy two credits of sequential foreign language instruction under certain circumstances..
Position: Oppose ?? Should consider supporting - FL colleges recognize it as foreign language but other states may not. Suspect this bill is to benefit vendors.
Status: Referred to 3 Cmte; Senate: Passed Education 8-0
Category: Education (continued)
Bill Numbers: HB 303; SB 436  Description: Religious Expression in Schools
Citing this act as the “Florida Student and School Personnel Religious Liberties Act”; Prohibiting a school district from discriminating against students, parents, or school personnel on the basis of religious viewpoints or expression; prohibiting penalty or reward for a student’s religious expression in coursework, artwork, or other specified assignments
Position: Oppose
Status: Senate: Passed Education (5-2)

Category: Environment
Bill Numbers: HB 45; SB 442  Description: Advanced Well Stimulation Treatment (Fracking Ban)
Prohibiting the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments; clarifying that permits for drilling or operating a well do not authorize the performance of advanced well stimulation treatments, etc.
Position: support
Status: House: Ref 3 Comms; Senate passed Environmental Pres & Conserv (5-0)

Bill Numbers: HB 35; SB 98  Description: Well Stimulation Treatments (Fracking)
Well Stimulation; Citing this act as the “Stop Fracking Act”; prohibiting persons from engaging in extreme well stimulation, etc.
Position: support
Status: Referred to 3 Cmte; Referred to 4 Cmte

Category: Government
Bill Numbers: HJR 1; SJR 482  Description: Supreme Court Justices/District Courts of Appeal Judges
Proposing amendments to the State Constitution to create a minimum age requirement and term limits for Supreme Court Justices and judges of the district courts of appeal and require 1 year of prior service as a judge for appointment as Supreme Court Justice, etc.
Position: Oppose
Status: House: 2nd Reading; Senate: ref to Comms

Bill Numbers: HB 17; SB 1158  Description: Local Regulation Preemption
Prohibits certain local governments from imposing or adopting certain regulations on businesses, professions and occupations, preempts to state regulations concerning same. Very broad bill, preempts home rule on businesses
Position: Oppose
Status: House: Passed 1 cmte; referred to Commerce. Senate: Ref to 4 Cmtes

Category: Healthcare
Bill Numbers: HB 7; SB 676  Description: Certificates of Need
Revises & deletes certain provisions relating to local health councils, rural hospitals, health facility licensing, & certificates of need; provides duties of AHCA & DOH.; Availability of Health Care Services: Repealing provisions relating to the issuance of certificates of need by the Agency for Health Care Administration; establishing local health councils as public or private nonprofit agencies serving the counties of certain districts; removing a requirement that hospitals must submit certain data related to certificate-of-need reviews; removing a requirement that the agency adopt by rule a process by which a rural hospital may deactivate general hospital beds, etc..
Position: Oppose
Status: House: Healthcare Appropriations Subcommittee 03/07/17, 1 pm; 2/16/2017; Senate: Referred to Health Policy; Appropriations Subcommittee on Health and Human Services; Appropriations; Rules Location: In committee/council (HP)

Bill Numbers: PCB HIS 17-01  Description: Medicaid Block Grants
Legislature if beginning preparations to lobby the Feds for a Per Capita Block Grant for Medicaid vs. (plain) Block Grant. Very serious long term implication for Medicaid Funding and recipients.
Position: Watch the process carefully
Gun Control News:

**Category:** Health & Safety (Guns)
**Bill Numbers:** HB 6001; SB 140
**Description:** Concealed Weapons & Firearms.
**Position:** Oppose
**Status:** Referred to 3 Cmte.; Referred to 3 Cmte.

**Bill Numbers:** HB 6005; SB 140
**Description:** Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms
**Position:** Oppose
**Status:** Referred to 3 Cmte.; Referred to 3 Cmte. No movement

**Bill Numbers:** SB 142
**Description:** Safe Storage of Loaded Firearms.
**Would tighten language in an existing law that requires guns to be locked in a gun safe or have a trigger lock when around children age 16 or younger.
**Position:** Support
**Status:** Referred to 3 Cmte

**Bill Numbers:** SB 170
**Description:** Prohibited Places for Weapons & Firearms
Would prohibit concealed weapons permit holders from carrying in performing arts centers or theaters.
**Position:** Support
**Status:** Referred to 3 Cmte

**Bill Numbers:** HB 245; SB 128
**Description:** Self Defense Immunity
Stand Your Ground expansion; shifts the burden of proof to the prosecution once the defense has been claimed.
**Position:** Oppose
**Status:** Senate: Passed Judiciary 5-4 on 1/24/17; Passed full Senate on 3/15/17

**Bill Numbers:** HB 167; SB 254; HB 1409
**Description:** Prohibits Sale/Transfer of Assault Weapons or Large Cap Ammon
Prohibits sale or transfers of assault weapon or large capacity ammunition magazine; provides exceptions; prohibits possession of assault weapon or large-capacity magazine; provides exceptions; requires certificates of possession for assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines lawfully possessed before specified date; limits transfers of weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines represented by such certificates; provides conditions for continued possession of such weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines, etc.
**Position:** Support
**Status:** Favorable in one cmte

**Bill Numbers:** HB 6033; SB 1518
**Description:** Medical Privacy Concerning Firearms
Repeals Docs v Glocks.
**Position:** Support
**Status:** House: Ref to 3 Cmtes

**Bill Numbers:** SB 908
**Description:** Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms
Licenses to Carry Concealed Weapons or Firearms; Authorizing persons holding licenses to carry concealed weapons or firearms to carry concealed weapons or firearms in secure and restricted areas of seaports and at school-sponsored events or on school property; authorizing persons holding licenses to carry concealed firearms to carry concealed firearms in pharmacies, etc.
**Position:** Oppose
**Status:** Senate: Ref to 4 Cmtes

**Bill Numbers:** SB 618, SB 620, HB 803, SB 622, SB 140, SB 908, SB 626, SB 640, SB 644
**Description:** Various Concealed carry bills sponsored by Senator Stube (R).
**Position:** Oppose
**Status:** some have been referred to committee; other still pending
Website changes that may be of interest to you.

Please note that two new blogs have been added to the Largodemocrats.com website, also a new Events widget.

The first blog you may want to investigate is the [http://largodemocrats.typepad.com/local_events_meetings/](http://largodemocrats.typepad.com/local_events_meetings/). This blog list meetings and events scheduled in the Tampa Bay area, including protests, and social events (of a political nature). Also a new widget that pulls calendar information for Democratic Party meetings, including clubs and caucuses. If you know of any events or meeting that should be added, please submit to Admin@largodemocrats.com

The second is [http://largodemocrats.typepad.com/issues_and_legislation/](http://largodemocrats.typepad.com/issues_and_legislation/). This blog will track any current issues or legislation that may required your action.

Headlines of each blog will be highlighted on the largodemocrats.com homepage, with links to the individual item for quick review.

**Tracking the Issues**

The Florida Legislature is already holding committee meetings and filing bills to be considered during their upcoming session. In Washington, Congress and the new administration have an ambitious (and disturbing) agenda for the first 100 days. Peggy Tucker is putting together a small group to track the progress on key issues in areas such as healthcare, the environment, education, etc. and keep club members up to date on their status. **If you are interested in helping with this initiative, please contact Peggy at peggytucker55@hotmail.com or 727-460-5345. Thank you!**
For the most up-to-date information on your Federal, State, and County representatives including all contact information, go to:


HOW TO MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

Many of you expressed interest in making regular contributions to the LARGO/MID-PINELLAS PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. The Political Committee allows us to DONATE MORE TO CANDIDATES or issue advocacy than our club bylaws and state statute allow from our General Funds.

For example, many banks have repeating automated bill paying. That makes contributing automatic and easy each month. Contact us for the Account number for the electronic deposit.

Or you can send a check to:

The Payee Name must be: Largo/Mid-Pinellas Progressive Political Committee. OR LMPPPC

The mailing address is
Largo/Mid-Pinellas Progressive Political Committee or
Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club
P.O. BOX 1242
LARGO, FL 33779

https://www.facebook.com/Largodemocrats/
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

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.
- For membership information, email admin@largodemocrats.com

Stating in membership year 2017 our dues will be $5.00 per year. This is the first increase in dues since our founding in 2009.