

The Delray Democrat

April 2023, part 2 (# 56)

DeSantis Plays, Florida Pays

Michael K. Cantwell and Char Lane

Governor DeSantis certainly likes his clichés. In his clownish attempt to punish Disney for exercising its First Amendment rights, he's warned "there's a new sheriff in town," promised "you ain't seen nothing yet" and, most recently, insisted that he'd win, "come hell or high water."

Disney has been dignified in response, paying silent heed to yet another cliché: "when your opponent's in a hole and digging, do not take away his shovel."

Last year, in a hissy fit triggered by Disney's criticism of his "Don't Say Gay" law, our thin-skinned governor lashed out by dissolving the Reedy Creek Special District and stripping Disney of its self-governing status. The effective date of the law was June 2023. That was fortunate because he subsequently learned that his knee-jerk reaction would burden taxpayers with over \$1 billion in debt taken on by the special district as well as require taxpayers to fund the police and fire departments and pay for other services provided by Disney.

Advised of his blunder, DeSantis arranged for his minions in the state legislature to revoke the dissolution, rename the special district, and give him the power to name the members of the governing board.

This time he was played by Disney. He was so busy celebrating another victory in his culture wars that he missed notices posted by the old Disney-controlled board of a meeting at which they passed an agreement that effectively gave Disney control of the district for decades. The board that DeSantis appointed the next day had been neutered.

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**ALL CURRENT VBM REQUESTS EXPIRED ON 12/31/22
RE-ENROLL TO VOTE BY MAIL FOR 2023/2024**

By Phone: (561) 656-6208

By QR Code at right 

Online: <https://palmbeach.electionsfl.org/vrservices/mbrs#>

By Email: votebymail@votepalmbeach.gov

By Fax: (561) 656-6230

In person at any SOE office ([CLICK HERE](#) for locations)

Online, you can download the form [HERE](#) to email, fax, or return in person.

***NOTE: Your vote-by-mail request must now include your**

- **Driver's License/FL State ID number OR**
- **The last 4 digits of your Social Security Number.**



Trump the Grifter, DeSantis the Opportunist

June Sandra Neal

Given Donald Trump's precarious legal status headlining this issue, many Republicans are looking at Governor Ron DeSantis as the better choice for their party's presidential nomination. After all, he's more disciplined, appears more controlled, and he can complete a sentence.

But where it counts, the two share the same fatal flaw: A Messiah Complex. Remember Trump, looking at the sky: "I am the chosen one..."

And DeSantis' shameless "God Made a Fighter" ad, with a Morgan Freeman-like voice claiming DeSantis to be just what the Lord ordered.

And neither man holds fealty to any ethos or ethic.

"Trump's political party affiliation has changed numerous times. He registered as a Republican in Manhattan in 1987, switched to the Reform Party in 1999, the Democratic Party in 2001, and back to the Republican Party in 2009.

"Trump in '04: 'I probably identify more as Democrat'" headlined CNN.

DeSantis was always a Republican, but, like Trump, he governs by windmill, to the dominant political breeze. (Connecticut's former, twice-convicted, Republican Governor John Rowland did the same so often that cartoonists drew him wearing a beanie with a little propeller on top.)

Both Trump and DeSantis are anti-science. When Trump's panel of Covid-19 experts threw his ignorance into high relief, he discredited them and instead played Pin the Tail on the Virus, blindly stabbing at anything rumored to help, even when the scientists warned his recommendations were dangerous.

During the greatest public health crisis in our time, DeSantis governed according to Republican decibel levels. "Initially, as the virus began spreading in

Florida, DeSantis had ordered a statewide lockdown, in accordance with Dr. Anthony Fauci's recommendations. Three weeks later, he changed his mind. 'We will never do any of these lockdowns again.' 'Any public distrust of this administration has been well-earned,' the Miami *Herald* editorial board wrote. 'We can't trust the governor with our lives.'"

DeSantis wouldn't tell us whether he'd been vaccinated. (Bet he had.)

Both men espouse a dangerous nationalism, the same kind of isolationist philosophy that kept the United States from entering World War II. This time, the world is inextricably interwoven.

Both are rabidly anti-immigration. Trump called Mexicans rapists and wanted a ban on Muslim immigration. DeSantis tricked asylum-seeking Venezuelans by offering them jobs in Florida, then inhumanely dropping them in Martha's Vineyard to prove he was tough on immigration, thus further afflicting the already afflicted.

Trump's racism runs so deep he's never stopped questioning President Obama's American citizenship, never let off accusing the Central Park Five, even after they were exonerated, never apologized for having called for their execution. DeSantis has made his opposition to teaching Critical Race Theory a religious calling, even though CRT is not and has never been taught in any public Florida school. He's purged the Florida school curriculum of all traces of true Black history and boasts about his war against "Wokeism" (which is no threat to anyone), threatening Florida teachers with felonies if they go a step beyond his censorship.

Warning: Color within the lines.

Both believe the law is what they decide it is. Trump tried everything to steal the election, by removing

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Editorial Board: Michael K. Cantwell (Editor), Sandra Elaisen-Cantwell, David Kulick, Char Lane, June Neal, and Rob Resnick.

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postal center mail sorters, eliminating drop boxes, and strongarming election officials to change their vote counts. DeSantis did all he could to disenfranchise Black and Brown people by restricting mail-in balloting, gerrymandering, even bragging at a press conference held in August, 2020, that the FL police arrested more than a dozen people of voting illegally in the election. (They didn't.)

Each refuses to oppose White Supremacists.

made good on that pledge – as of July 1, 2023, anyone who can legally own a gun in Florida will be able to carry a concealed gun in public without any training or background check. Floridians opposed the law by nearly a four-to-one margin (77% versus 21%) in a recent poll, but with a supermajority of his minions in the legislature, DeSantis governs by fiat.

Trump made it easier for people with outstanding arrest warrants to buy guns by eliminating nearly 500,000 names from the FBI's "fugitives from justice" program. And he rescinded a rule which

Any public distrust of this administration has been well-earned,' the Miami Herald editorial board wrote. 'We can't trust the governor with our lives.'"

Remember Trump to the Proud Boys after Charlottesville: "Stand back and stand by"? And when neo-Nazis in Orlando, FL waved flags and shouted antisemitic comments, DeSantis did nothing while his press secretary tweeted "Do we even know they're Nazis?"

While our other great public health crisis, slaughter by guns, is raging, DeSantis bragged that Florida will soon be a no-permit, open carry state. DeathSantis

would have allowed the Social Security Administration to submit the names of individuals suffering from severe mental illness.

Of course, DeSantis is smarter than Trump (who isn't?) but academic knowledge is no substitute for wisdom or emotional intelligence or fidelity to the Constitution and our democratic values. Neither man can pass the test.

Worth Reading

Senator Bobby Powell, Labeling Problems "Woke" a Whole Lot Easier Than Fixing Them, *Palm Beach Post*: "Unfortunately, Florida's governor has long-since checked out from the problems that keep my constituents up at night, eyeing instead how to take out Donald Trump for the Republican presidential nomination. Like Nero fiddling while Rome burned, Gov. DeSantis dreams up ways to keep himself in the national news while storm-battered Floridians watch the mold grow along with the cost of their policy renewals."

Matthew Korfhage, Smear, banned, exiled: Paul Robeson finally gets Philadelphia street in his name, USA Today: "He was the tallest tree in our forest," said historian Gerald Horne, author of a book on Robeson. "It's not surprising that a mega-celebrity like him receives a mega-persecution when he is perceived to cross the line. Therefore, when there was an attempt to bring him down, he fell precipitously."

Bryce Covert, The Fed's War on Inflation Is a Class War, *The New York Times*: "But 'a soft landing that involves millions more people unemployed, is that really a soft landing?' . . . or is it that 'we threw thousands of people out of the plane so it would land lighter?'"

Paul Krugman, Plutocratic Power and Its Perils, *The New York Times*: DeSantis seemed to be surging [because] big G.O.P. donors saw him as a saner alternative to Donald Trump — someone who would serve their financial interests while attracting working-class support with his social conservatism and willingness to play footsie with conspiracy theories. But some of those donors are now bailing, because it looks increasingly as if DeSantis's intolerance and conspiracy theorizing weren't a political show — they're who he really is. And the big money was looking for a charlatan, not a genuine fanatic.

The New York Times Editorial Board, The Ethics of Nine of the Most Powerful People in America: If Chief Justice Roberts doesn't conduct a court investigation of the matter, the Senate Judiciary Committee should call on both Justice Thomas and Mr. Crow to testify. It will take effort and resolve from all branches of government to repair the tarnished reputation of the nation's highest court, but the stakes are far too high to continue ignoring it.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Michele Gitu

Good evening, Fellow Democrats

I want to begin by thanking our Chair Mindy for placing her confidence in me and my Vice Chairman Brandon Williams to lead this crucial committee. DEI is under siege and being attacked all around the state of Florida. Misinformation is a leading factor, as is frequently the case when new terminology enters our common speech.

A perfect example is an article that appeared in the Sunday, March 26th Op Ed page of the *Sun Sentinel* where DEI is characterized as a “Marxist leaning theology.” This couldn’t be further from the truth.

Why, I ask, when we don’t understand a popular new philosophy must we always default back to “Oh, it must have communist origins??”

Ladies and gentlemen, I submit that as Democrats we are in pursuit of a more perfect union and the votes that get us there. That involves facing the truth about our history and standing up for what is right in response to fierce and sometimes dangerous opposition. It involves “Walking the walk, not just talking the talk.”

The above eloquent address was delivered at the April 11, 2023, meeting of the Palm Beach County Democratic Executive Council by Michele Gitu, our new chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee. Please contact her if you are interested in helping in this important work. Editor

There is an incomparable amount of work to be done in that regard right here in Palm Beach County. As I see it, the party must dedicate more time to being “Present” in the small enclaves and semi-rural areas that are seldom a focal point of our work. If we expect to win in the next year and a half, we will have to listen more and talk less, and when we do talk be able to offer solutions, tangible help, and support for local issues.

I encourage any Democrat in this room or on the zoom who has a sincere interest in this work to join our efforts to change some attitudes, and more importantly step into our values in a way that fully embodies our core principles.

The bulk of this work will NOT, and I emphasize NOT, be sedentary. Plan on burning some gas. We will be stepping out and going places.

However, there will always be a seat at this table for the thoughtful ideas and contributions of the less mobile. We will always exemplify the meaning embedded in our name. Please notify me of your interest with an email to michelegitu@yahoo.com. I will be in contact with additional information soon.

The Case for Voting By Mail

Janet Zweiback

Campaigning and voting for Senator Barack Hussein Obama for President was a thrill for me and I couldn’t wait to be in the voting booth. Shortly after midnight on November 2, 2008, I was taken to the hospital for emergency, lifesaving surgery. As nurses were rushing me to the OR, I feebly said that I had to vote in two days and that I couldn’t have the surgery just yet. Of course I had the surgery and woke up the night of November 4, at the exact time a President elect was chosen.

So why am I telling you this?

A Hurricane, tornado, the flu, anything is possible to prevent you from voting in person. Make sure you get a mail-in ballot; fill it out, and if you decide to vote in person, bring it to your polling location and hand it in. This way you’re covered.

Remember that receiving a ballot is no longer automatic; you must request one every election cycle.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!

(DeSantis Plays, Florida Pays, continued from page 1)

Now, DeSantis is threatening to impose new taxes and tolls on Disney. A person does not need to receive an education at Harvard Law School (as did DeSantis) to recognize that passing laws that target speakers whose message you don't like is a classic example of a First Amendment violation.

Florida taxpayers bear the cost of cleaning up the Disney blunders and defending lawsuits resulting from the racist, homophobic, and unconstitutional bills promoted and signed by DeSantis. A list of the latter includes but is not limited to the following:

Anti-riot (HB 1) – this infamous legislation, a major DeSantis priority as evidenced by its bill number, permits the conviction of anyone at a political protest where there is violence, even if they have nothing to do with the violence. The bill also targets nonviolent acts of civil disobedience, such as marching down streets or blocking traffic, popularized during the Civil Rights movement and immunizes anyone who runs over a protestor.

Federal judge Mark Walker held that the law was unconstitutionally vague and overbroad and issued an injunction. DeSantis appealed, but the appellate court has let the injunction stand pending input from the Florida Supreme Court as to what conduct is prohibited by the statute.

Ballot Initiatives (HB 921) impose a limit of \$3,000 in contributions from donors to a committee trying to gather signatures for a Florida ballot initiative. A preliminary injunction was issued and the legislature amended the law so that it applies only to contributions from out-of-state donors. The same federal court issued a permanent injunction against the revised law as violative of the First Amendment.

Redistricting (2B/2C): The decennial redistricting began with the Republican-dominated legislature preparing a map projected to give Republicans a 16-12 edge. DeSantis redrew the map to eliminate a minority district and extend the projected Republican advantage to 20-8. A circuit judge blocked the new map but was reversed, and the Florida Supreme Court refused to intervene, handing Republicans four of the five seats they needed to flip the House. DeSantis failed to have a parallel case dismissed in federal court and a trial will begin this September.

Constitutional Carry Measure (HB 543) allows concealed carry in public, with no permit or training required. It is certain to engender lawsuits. When

shamelessly sanctioning what Chief Justice Warren Burger characterized as “one of the greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on the American people . . . that I have seen in my lifetime” (namely, the claim that the Second Amendment created a personal right to gun ownership), even Justice Antonin Scalia recognized that the Second Amendment does not confer an absolute right.

Curriculum Transparency (HB 1467) The bill requires teachers to ensure that all books available in their classrooms have been selected by a certified media specialist, which has led teachers to empty their classroom libraries. Although the bill itself does not expose teachers to a felony, school district leaders reminded teachers that a separate bill already provides that anyone providing reading material containing “explicit and detailed verbal descriptions or narrative accounts of sexual excitement, or sexual conduct and that is harmful to minors” is guilty of a third degree felony.” It also sets a 12-year term limit for school board members. The Florida Education Association (Florida's largest teachers union), Florida Freedom to Read Project, and Families for Strong Public Schools have filed an administrative claim challenging the law.

Disney (HB 9B) To retaliate for criticism by Disney of his “Don't Say Gay” bill, DeSantis had his minions in the legislature dissolve the Reedy Creek Special District in which Disney had self-governed for over half a century. After he learned this would burden taxpayers with over \$1 billion in Disney debt, DeSantis ordered his minions to pass a law renaming the district and giving him the authority to appoint its board. The day before he did so, Disney held a public meeting at which it signed a contract with the old board that effectively neutered the new board.

DeSantis threatened Disney with various punitive actions, and Disney filed a federal lawsuit accusing DeSantis of a “relentless campaign to weaponize government power against Disney in retaliation for expressing a political viewpoint.” The new board sued Disney in state court to have its agreement with the old board declared void. DeSantis has requested a 250% increase in his litigation budget. He'll get it and will need it. Florida taxpayers will be stuck with the bill.

Election Administration (SB 7066) This bill required returning citizens to pay all outstanding court costs and related legal obligations before regaining the right to register and vote, effectively neutering the impact of Amendment 4, passed in

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(DeSantis Plays, Florida Pays, continued from page 5)

2018, which would have automatically restored voting rights upon completion of sentence. The law was held to be an unconstitutional “poll tax” by a federal court, but the decision was reversed by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Election Laws (SB 90) includes restrictions on Vote-by-Mail drop boxes, requires election cycle (2-year) renewal of Vote-by-Mail requests, does not allow water or food to be distributed when voter lines are long and does not allow third parties to return more than two Vote-by-Mail ballots, all of which were intended to make it more difficult for an individual, especially a Democrat, to vote. The bill was opposed by the SOEs in all 67 of Florida’s counties and held unconstitutional and enjoined by a federal court. The state appealed and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit has stayed the lower court’s opinion while the appeal is pending.

Immigration – Ban on sanctuary cities (SB 168), part of which was struck down as discriminatory and the fact that sanctuary cities were not specifically defined. The appellate court recently dismissed the lawsuit in its entirety.

Individual Freedom Act (HB 7) Promoted by DeSantis as the Stop-Woke bill, this law specifically prohibits teachers and employers from offering teaching or training that the State has condemned as “woke.” It has spurred a series of lawsuit. In the first, a disparate group of plaintiffs sought a preliminary injunction. Judge Mark E. Walker, of the federal court for the Northern District of Florida denied the motion as to all of the plaintiffs with the exception of a university professor, as to whom he reserved judgment.

In other suits involving different groups of plaintiffs, Judge Walker granted preliminary injunctions to (1) employers and DEI consultants and (2) professors and students at Florida universities. In holding the law unconstitutional he observed that, “rather than combat ‘woke’ ideas with countervailing views in the ‘marketplace of ideas,’ the State has chosen to eliminate one side of the debate.” The State has appealed, but the Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit has allowed the preliminary injunction to stand pending its decision.

Parental Rights in Education (HB 1557/ SB 1834) “Don't say gay” bans discussions surrounding sexual orientation and gender identity in our schools. A

suit was dismissed because the plaintiffs lacked “standing” (i.e., could not show how they were harmed by the bill) but subsequently refiled.

Reducing Fetal and Infant Mortality (HB 5) bans all abortions at 15 weeks and after, unless it’s proven it will be dangerous or fatal to the mother or the fetus is proven to have a fatal abnormality. It includes no exceptions for incest or rape. This law is now pending at the FL Supreme Court.

The Heartbeat Protection Act (SB 300) further banning abortions at 6 weeks. The Senate passed it on 4/03/23, the House passed it 4/13/23 and DeSantis signed it at 11 PM on 4/13/23 as announced on Twitter. It will take effect only if HB 5 is upheld by the FL Supreme Court and then would likely garner more lawsuits as it’s even more restrictive than HB 5.

Social Media Platforms (SB 7072) The Big Tech Law provided substantial fines to social media companies if they removed conservative ideas from their sites. A federal court granted a preliminary injunction, which was largely upheld by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

DeSantis Fired (“indefinite suspension” per governor’s office) Andrew Warren, an elected Democratic prosecutor, in August of 2022 because Warren had said he wouldn’t enforce the abortion restrictions and new gender rules. Warren sued and the firing was upheld by the federal district court. Warren has appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Flying immigrants to Martha's Vineyard – In September 2022 the Florida governor flew two planes of some fifty immigrants from Texas to Florida to Martha’s Vineyard, allocating \$12M from Florida’s budget for this purpose to send immigrants to Democratic states. The class action suit filed by and for the affected immigrants is proceeding in Federal Court in Massachusetts.

Ironically, due to the way the immigrants were inhumanely manipulated, DeSantis probably helped them avoid deportation, as they may be able to apply for a U Visa (available to victims of fraud) and thus have the opportunity to apply for citizenship in a few years. Ron DeDoofus strikes again.

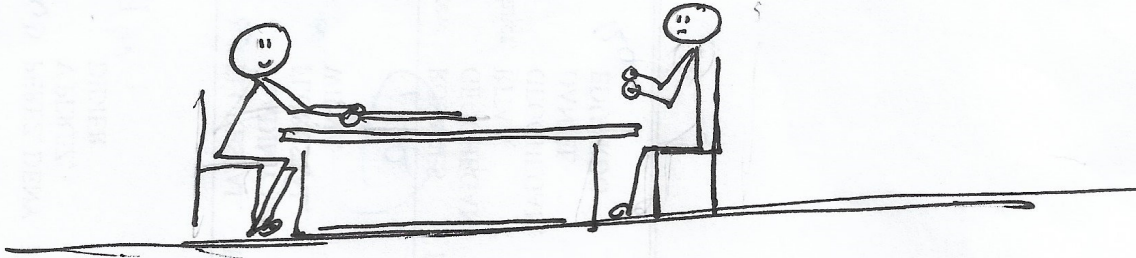
Bottom line. Florida taxpayers are bearing the cost of Florida Man’s flagrantly unconstitutional laws and cheap political stunts.

One Day in Tallahassee

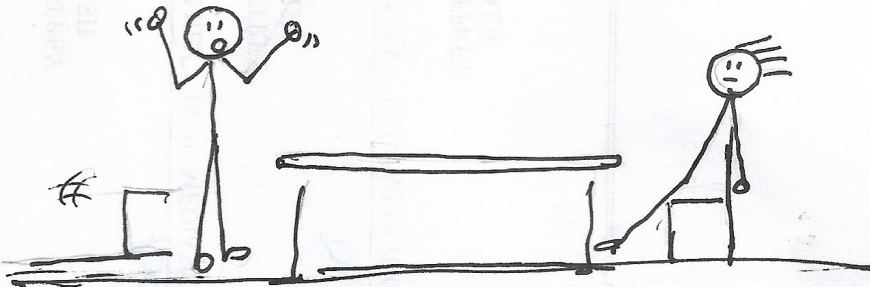
Jeff Kash

This is my official
order decreeing and
commanding the end
of all mandates.

But...
Isn't that
a mandate?

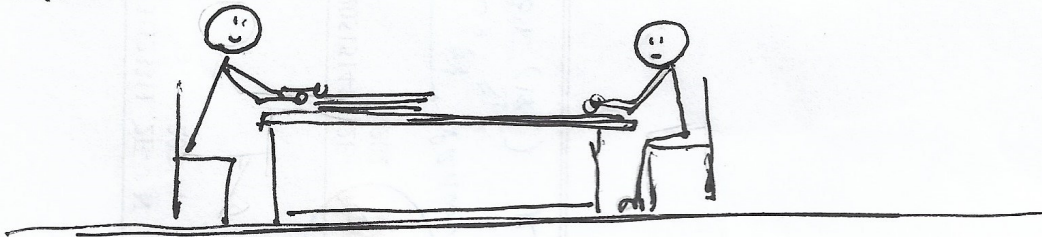


No! It's
FREEDOM!

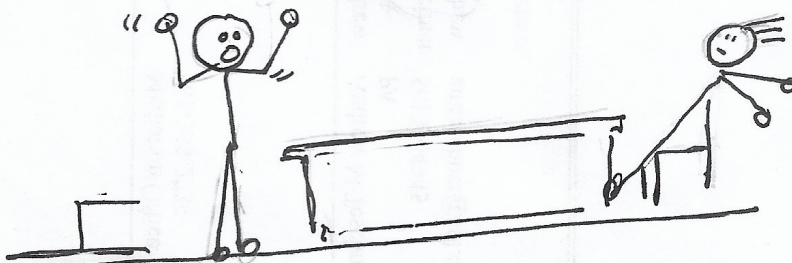


And this is my order
that schools teach only
that America has always
been white, straight, Christian
and great. That will end
indoctrination.

I hate to ask,
but, isn't that
indoctrination?



No! It's
FREEDOM!!



We Don't Vote, We Lose

Michael K. Cantwell

I have often ridiculed White working-class Republicans for voting against their economic interests.

But what about Democrats who vote against their economic interests by “not voting”? A recent [article](#) reported that Democratic turnout was only 49%; that is, more than 2.6 million registered Democrats did not cast ballots last November.

Some of them may have thought that they were sending a message to the Democratic leadership by “not voting,” but they were effectively voting for DeSantis, Rubio, and the rest of wolf pack known as the modern Republican Party. As David Foster Wallace, pithily put in, “you either vote by voting, or you vote by staying home and tacitly doubling the value of some Diehard’s vote.”

If but half of the registered Democrats who failed to cast ballots had voted for Val Demings, she would have beaten Marco Rubio by some 100,000 votes. And if 1.6 million of the 2.6 million Democrats who stayed home had gone to the polls or voted by mail, Charlie Christ would have been our “once and future” governor. And rest assured, there would be no supermajority of Banana Republicans in Tallahassee passing unconstitutional and hateful laws while ignoring the insurance, housing, and healthcare crises plaguing the state.

In addition to self-styled progressives who flat-out refused to vote for Charlie Crist because he had been a Republican a decade earlier, only 42% of Black Democrats and 35% of Latinx Democrats cast ballots. I am a self-styled progressive, a member of what the late Paul Wellstone referred to as “the Democratic Wing of the Democratic Party,” but I learned from 1980, 2000, and 2016. “Some babies,” as Bob Dylan once sang, “never learn.”

What progressives could have learned from each of those elections is the utter folly of staying home because you are disaffected with the

Democratic candidate. Ronald Reagan replaced the New Deal with his Raw Deal and appointed Antonin Scalia, Sandra Day O’Connor, and Anthony Kennedy to the Supreme Court, three of the five “justices” who selected George W. Bush in 2000. Bush launched illegal wars, violated international human rights laws, doubled the deficit, and appointed the odious Sam Alito and the villainous hypocrite John Roberts to the Court, maintaining the 5-4 conservative majority (instead of a 6-3 liberal majority had Gore been in the White House).

Obama spent 8 years undoing only part of the damage done by Bush. I spent the 2016 election arguing with people like the imbecile who called Hillary a “psychopathic fascist.” By refusing to vote for Clinton, they gave the real fascists the opportunity to seat trust-fund baby Neil Gorsuch, alleged rapist Brett Kavanaugh, and handmaiden Amy Coney Barrett. Let us hope that the answer to the refrain, “When will they ever learn,” will be 2024.

As to the poor turnout around the other portion of the Democratic base, there is some truth to the claim that apathy and cynicism in minority communities is fueled by Democrats coming around every two years and asking for their vote without explaining why. But the fault lies on both sides.

One person interviewed in the Post article said she was “motivated to see Donald Trump not get reelected” in 2020 but she didn’t feel as hostile toward DeSantis because “her main news sources — CNN, NPR, Reuters and Vox — didn’t cover DeSantis daily.” Had she picked up a copy of the *Palm Beach Post* or the *Sun-Sentinel* even occasionally, she would have learned enough about Mao DeSantis and his Cultural Devolution and De-Education Camps to never stop throwing up. That failure is on her, but the failure of the Democratic Party to educate her is on us.

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Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors

Michael Cantwell, President; Char Lane, Vice-President; Mary Fader, Secretary; David Kulick, Treasurer; Robert Averack, Parliamentarian; Peter Camacho, Charlie Holbrook, and June Neal, Directors; Sandra Elaisson-Cantwell, Director Emerita; and John Ramos and Robert Resnick, Directors Emeritus.

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Similarly incredible is the justification of the Gen Z voter who cast ballots in 2018 and 2020 but not in 2022 because, “The poll numbers showed that Florida was going to be decisively Republican in the presidential, governor and Senate elections so I didn't feel like it was worth taking time away from work.” Here is someone who apparently never learned about voting by mail.

Second, we tell them what Democrats have done for the American people, dating back to the New Deal. We bring and leave Thank a Democrat flyers whenever and wherever we canvass.

Third, we engage our neighbors, and people we meet shopping. I have a variety of t-shirts that promotes dialogue, such as “There is no Planet B” and “We Vote, We Win” and “The Delray Democrat” and “Keep the Immigrants, Deport the Racists.”

If but half of the registered Democrats who failed to cast ballots had voted for Val Demings, she would have beaten Marco Rubio by some 100,000 votes.

So how do we reach these voters, and what do we tell them?

First, it's obvious that we need to get out more, but for those who cannot, there are phone banks. It's mindboggling that there are Democrats unaware that he could have voted without missing work if he voted by mail. And it's likely that hundreds of thousands of Democrats who voted by mail in 2022 do not know that their VBM requests expired last December and they must reapply.

I've had nothing but positive experiences, which I attribute in part to the fact that Republicans are slow readers, although that last comes with a note of caution. With the permitless carry law having been passed by DeSantis's minions, it's worth adding that “past performance in no guarantee of future results.”

On the other hand, that threat itself is a reason that every rational person needs to cast a ballot in 2024. It just might be that last time to get to vote.

Worth Quoting

“Whenever you happen to be in Florida, focus on your actual job: Running a massive state government where people are dying every day of drug overdoses and mass shootings that you barely acknowledge. Where school boards across the state are grimly awaiting the final price tag of the economically reckless voucher bill you just signed. Where insurance rates are skyrocketing and damage claims from back-to-back hurricanes are being summarily denied. Where, every day, we're discovering more cracks your machinations have inflicted on the fundamental integrity of Florida's own government.” *Orlando Sentinel*

“The more parking lots you have the more the water will pond and stay, with nowhere to go. It doesn't take a genius to figure that out. The rainwater cannot be absorbed by parking lots.” Ralph Zeltman, a retired county engineer who serves on Fort Lauderdale's Infrastructure Task Force. *Sun-Sentinel*

“It is excellent To have a giant's strength, but it is tyrannous To use it like a giant.” *Measure for Measure*

“Labor is prior to and independent of capital. Capital is only the fruit of labor, and could never have existed if labor had not first existed. Labor is the superior of capital, and deserves much the higher consideration.” Abraham Lincoln on Labor versus Capital.

I do not expect to see monopoly restrain itself. If there are men in this country big enough to own the government of the United States, they are going to own it; what we have to determine now is whether we are big enough, whether we are men enough, whether we are free enough, to take possession again of the government which is our own. Woodrow Wilson

The absence of effective State, and, especially, national, restraint upon unfair money-getting has tended to create a small class of enormously wealthy and economically powerful men, whose chief object is to hold and increase their power. The prime need to is to change the conditions which enable these men to accumulate power which it is not for the general welfare that they should hold or exercise. We grudge no man a fortune which represents his own power and sagacity, when exercised with entire regard to the welfare of his fellows. Teddy Roosevelt

A Message from Congresswoman Lois Frankel About Medicaid

Jack Goldstein

During the three years of Covid 19, Congress prohibited states from removing anyone from Medicaid. As of April 1, 2023 states are once again able to determine Medicaid eligibility. If you fail to update your information by April 30, 2023, you may lose your coverage starting May 1st.

To be eligible for Florida Medicaid you must:

- make less than \$19,392 as a single person household
- make less than \$26,228 as a household of 2
- make less than \$39,900 as a household of 4

You must be one of the following:

- pregnant
- blind
- responsible for a child under 18
- 65 years of age or older
- have a disability or a family member living with you who is disabled

Please call Congresswoman Frankel's local office at (561) 998-9045 if you have any questions,

Remember that all beneficiaries must be recertified and you will have to respond every 6 months to stay on the books. If you receive SNAP benefits you might have already been certified.

You can recertify by going on line to your DCF account. You should have received an envelope from DCF but make sure you fill out the form and return it to:

Access Central Mail Center
PO Box 1770
Ocala, Fl. 34478

Donald, Get Ready, There's a Trial A Comin'*

Michael K. Cantwell

“If it be now, 'tis not to come. If it be not to come, it will be now.
If it be not now, yet it will come—the readiness is all.” *Hamlet*

It *is* now, Donald, but it is also *to come*. Alvin Bragg is the first but will not be the last. Fani Willis and Jack Smith are waiting in the wings.

But being convicted or even going to the slammer may not be your biggest worry. Your legal woes are helping propel you to the Republican nomination once again, and that presents an existential threat to the Republican Party.

Of course, the Party of Big Lies is lining up behind you at this point because it has no choice. You already lead DeSantis by more than 30 points in the latest poll, and a substantial majority of Republican voters see no problem with a man under indictment (or even convicted) running for president (so long as that man is you). Clearly, you are the presumptive nominee, and I hope you get the nod.

Other than the wingnuts in the Freedom Caucus (“whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad”), most Republicans facing reelection will be considerably less sanguine about your third run. They understand the Hobson's choice that awaits them if you're their standard bearer.

They can distance themselves from you and lose the knuckle-dragging Neanderthal vote. Or they can repeat your Big Lies and lose everyone else.

Now, just imagine *you* ran a criminal enterprise and someone was threatening to destroy it. What would you do? That's what you should be worrying about.

*Originally published in the Sun Sentinel on April 3, 2023 under a different title.

Thank a Democrat

1964 Civil Rights Act	Food Stamp Act	National Science Foundation Act
1965 Voting Rights Act	Freedom of Information Act	National Voter Registration Act (a.k.a) Motor Voter Act
Affordable Care Act	GI Bill of Rights	Social Security Act
AmeriCorps	Medicare and Medicaid	Unemployment Compensation Act
CDC	Minimum Wage Act	Workers Compensation Act
Family and Medical Leave Act	National Labor Relations Act	

American Rescue Plan Act, Signed March 11, 2021

- Provided \$1400 to every taxpayer and each of his or her dependents
- Expanded coverage and reduced premiums under the Affordable Care Act for 9 million Americans.
- Expanded and extended unemployment benefits.
- Increased SNAP benefits
- Increased and expanded Child Tax Credit
- Made largest investment in child care assistance since World War II
- Increased the Earned Income Tax Credit for frontline workers who helped their communities through the COVID crisis
- Invested \$160 billion to provide supplies and vaccines to combat COVID's heavy toll
- Distributed \$360 billion in emergency funding for local governments to help keep front line public workers on the job and paid
- Provided emergency grants and loans to hard-hit small businesses
- Established a special sign-up period for the Affordable Care Act, adding 800,000 previously uninsured to the ranks of the insured.

Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Signed November 15, 2021

- The largest federal investment in public transit
- Makes the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak
- Makes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system
- Makes the largest investment in clean drinking water and waste water infrastructure in American history, delivering clean water to millions of families
- Ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet
- Helps us tackle the climate crisis by making the largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in history; electrifying thousands of school and transit buses across the country; and creating a new Grid Deployment Authority to build a resilient, clean, 21st century electric grid

Inflation Reduction Act, Signed August 16, 2022

- Invests \$369 billion in energy security and fighting climate change
- Invests \$64 billion to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies
- Authorizes Medicare to negotiate with drug companies and expands Medicare benefits, capping costs and out-of-pocket drug expenses
- Provides \$80 billion for tax modernization and enforcement, which is estimated to reduce the deficit by recovering as much as \$203.7 billion from tax cheats
- Closes tax loopholes by imposing a 15% minimum tax payment on companies with over \$1 billion of income and a 1% excise tax on stock buybacks
- Expands Medicare benefits: provides free vaccines (2023), caps insulin costs at \$35/month (2023) and caps out-of-pocket drug costs to an estimated \$4,000 or less in 2024, settling at \$2,000 in 2025
- Provides \$4 billion for drought resiliency in western states

2023 Membership

Char Lane

It's 2023 and time to renew your DCDB membership if you've not already done so. Membership is on a calendar year basis and your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as The Delray Democrat, our meetings, other working supplies and signage for our sign waving events. Meetings are currently the third Wednesday (subject to room availability) of each month at the Pompey Park Recreation Center.

Our goal is to educate people as to why they should vote Democratic and use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. We'll have to work hard to help keep our democracy intact and protect it from the manifesting lunacy. We planned to help turn Florida BLUE in 2022, but were thwarted by the circumstances as noted in the articles by Michael Cantwell and Jeff Kash in the November issue of *The Delray Democrat*.

If you're a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach, please renew. If you're not a member of the Club, please consider joining.

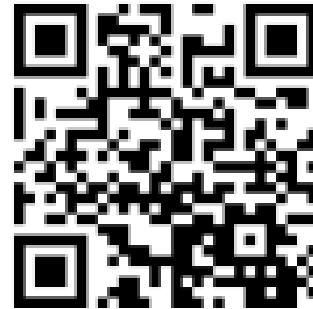
Please visit us at www.demclubofdelray.org,

Read our monthly publication *The Delray Democrat*

at www.thedelraydemocrat.com,

Visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>

Become a member of the DCDB by going to <https://www.demclubofdelray.org/membership> or filling out and mailing the application below or by scanning the QR code below:



Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2023 Membership Application and Renewal



Date _____ New _____ Renewal _____

Name/names of household members _____

Address _____

Community/Condo Name _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone number _____

(E-mail addresses are shared with the Palm Beach County Democratic Party so our members will be kept abreast of the latest County Democratic Activity. If you do not wish to receive this information, please initial here _____ and we will not share your E-mail address.)

Preferred method of contact: E-mail _____ Mail _____ Phone _____ Text _____

Send newsletter by: E-mail _____ Hand delivery _____ U.S. Mail _____

I/we are in South Florida from _____ to _____ each year or are a permanent resident _____.

Payment: Individual \$25 _____ Household \$35 _____ Donation _____

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to P.O. Box 8224, Delray Beach, FL 33484. Thank you and welcome to our Club.