

# The Delray Democrat

February-March 2024 (# 66)

## Here Comes the Sun

Michael K. Cantwell

For nearly two years, the corporate media was obsessed with the record inflation that resulted from a perfect storm beyond President Biden's control. They parroted economists who almost gleefully argued that inflation could only be cured by causing a recession.

Instead, Bidenomics ate and spit out 11 Fed Rate hikes between June 2022 and June 2023 while inflation dropped from 9.1% to 3.0%. See chart below. Media coverage shifted from Greek choruses to cautious celebration and declarations of victory:

- *The New York Times* acknowledged that the economists were wrong: Economists Predicted a Recession. So Far They've Been Wrong.
- *Fortune* magazine declared that the Fed is "on the cusp of defeating inflation" without causing a recession.
- *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the personal consumption expenditures price index—"the Fed's preferred inflation measure"—rose by only 1.7% in the last quarter of 2023, down from 2.6% in the prior quarter.
- *The New York Times* characterized the 3.3% growth in GDP in the last quarter of 2023 as "stunning and spectacular." It also noted that consumer confidence was spiking, but asked "Will That Help Biden?"
- Rate decreases will be coming in 2024.

What could go wrong? Plenty. The Fed could wait too long to lower rates and thus cause the recession we avoided. Republicans could trigger a government shutdown. The wars in the Middle East and Ukraine could cause oil prices to spike again. And count on the deficit scolds to begin yapping again. See page 2.

At the end of the day, however, I believe we're on the cusp of a transformation that will replace Reagan's Raw Deal with Biden's Real Deal for the American people.

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### Club Meetings

Bill Baird, March 21, 2024 (7:00 PM)

Sen. Lori Berman, April 18, 2024 (7:00 PM)

### Re-enroll in VBM

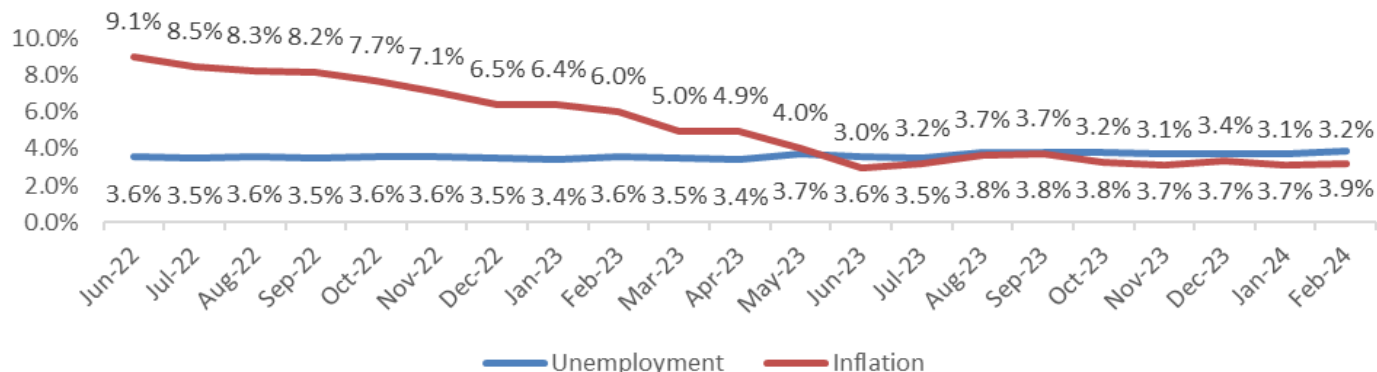
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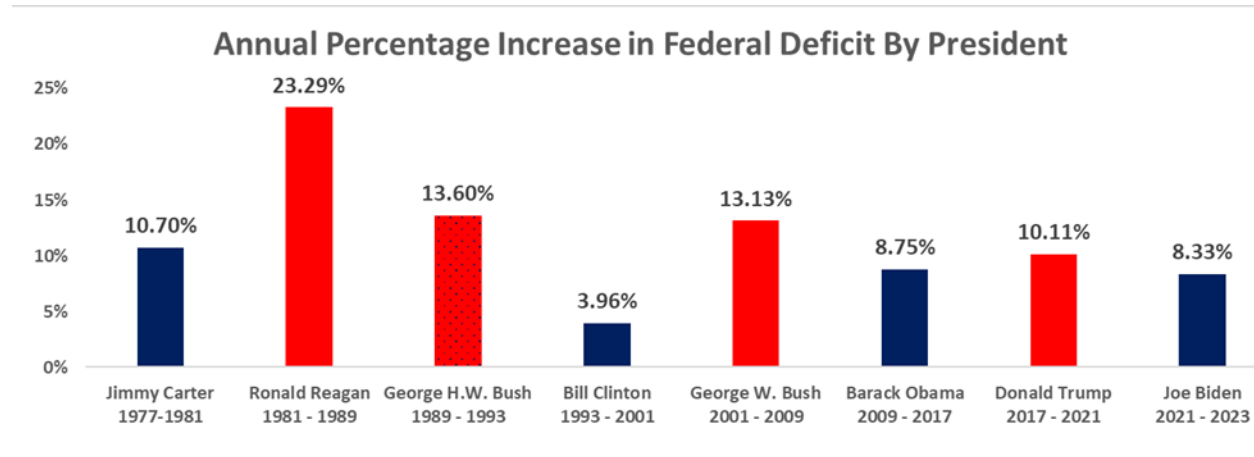
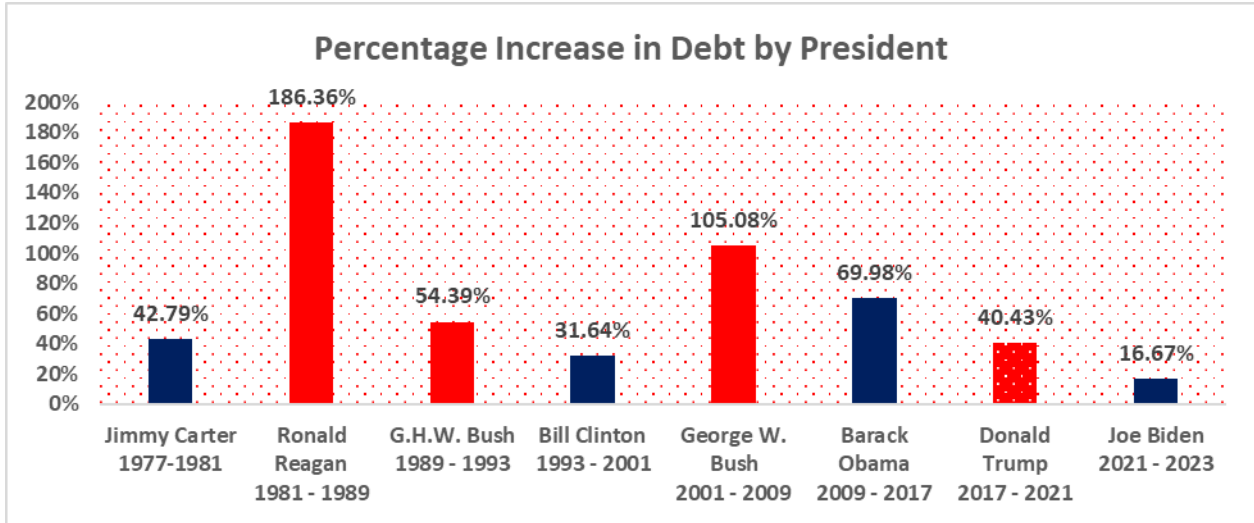
### Eleven Rate Decreases Cut Inflation by 2/3, Barely Touch Unemployment



# “There You Go Again”

Michael K. Cantwell

With the economy generating nothing but good news, get ready for Republicans to begin yowling about the deficit. But they are the real budget busters. Next to blowing up the economy, it’s what they do best.



Not only are the three worst budget busters Republicans (while the three best stewards are Democrats), the Republicans don’t only rack up deficits while in office. They contribute to their predecessors’ deficits by leaving them economic disasters to clean up.

For example, despite inheriting three straight annual budget surpluses from Bill Clinton, the feckless George W. Bush bequeathed Barack Obama the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression. Nearly 3.5 million jobs were lost in the final 6 months of Bush’s term, and an additional 5 million were lost before Obama’s stimulus began to right the economy. When 8.5 million fewer people are working, they are not paying taxes and government is spending money to help them.

Despite the 5 million jobs lost in his initial year, Obama left office with 12.5 million more Americans working than when he entered office, a jobs record that at the time was exceeded only by Bill Clinton and Ronald Reagan. No president had presided over a longer expansion than Obama since 1939.

See the pattern? As did Bush, Donald Trump inherited a strong economy from his predecessor and left his successor an economy that was in tatters. He cannot be blamed for Covid (which I once correctly mused might be the *deus ex machina* that would end the Greek tragedy that was his presidency), but his colossal incompetence in responding to the pandemic left Biden with the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression and the worst public health crisis in over a century.

# Why Public Defense Matters . . . for Everyone

*Daniel Eisenger*

The majority of Americans will likely never need a Public Defender. Their family and friends may never need a Public Defender. They may go their entire lives never having to personally interact with the criminal justice system, except perhaps every few years when they get called to jury duty. Indeed, many people hear “Public Defender” and mistakenly think it is the prosecuting agency “defending the public.”

To the contrary, the Public Defender is the lawyer elected by the public to defend poor people accused by the government of committing a crime who cannot afford to hire a lawyer to represent them in court. The Public Defender is the constitutional officer who makes sure poor people have the same rights as wealthy people when they are brought into court. The Public Defender is the guarantee of equal justice for all.

I am running to be Palm Beach County’s next elected Public Defender because the criminal justice system falls apart without a strong, experienced Public Defender to make sure that all people are treated with equal justice under the law. I am committed to continuing the exceptional work of my boss and mentor, current Public Defender Carey Haughwout, in crafting one of the most highly-respected Public Defender offices in the country. As a life-long Palm Beach County resident, I want to give my personal pledge to ensure equal justice for all in our community as your next Public Defender.

Justice has many facets. It can mean punishment by incarceration for some. But it also means setting people up for successful reentry into the community after they get released from incarceration. To that end, in my current role as Chief Assistant Public Defender I assisted our office’s collaboration to set up a reentry program for Palm Beach County residents returning to the community after having served their time. At the Florida Department of Corrections’ Sago Palm Re-Entry Center, we have clients participating in academic and literacy programs, vocational training, work-release, family re-integration programs, and victim impact engagement. Our communities are safer when formerly incarcerated people can successfully reintegrate into the community and with the tools to help them not reoffend.

Justice can mean mentally ill defendants receive mental health services instead of punitive

incarceration because, without a doubt, our communities are safer when our most vulnerable citizens are healthy and functional. According to Sheriff Ric Bradshaw the county jail is the largest mental health provider in Palm Beach County. Often these defendants are arrested for low-level, non-violent offenses, such as trespassing on property or disorderly conduct.

In the jail setting, these inmates are warehoused indefinitely with little to no meaningful treatment while their cases drag on because they are too mentally ill to resolve the case. I spearheaded an initiative with the courts and the State Attorney’s Office that addresses this problem in a safe, economical way by creating a misdemeanor mental health court where these low-level offenders can receive treatment and other social services in a setting that gets them out of the jail and ensures they have a carefully laid-out plan to follow to resolve their cases.

Justice also means that everyone accused of a crime has a right to receive due process of law with the assistance of an effective lawyer and advocate. To realize the guarantee of equal justice, the Palm Beach County Public Defender’s office has concentrated its efforts on providing its lawyers and staff with high-quality training on every aspect of defense representation, from trial practice skills to legal theory to forensic science.

We pride ourselves on being a training ground for new lawyers looking to hone their legal skills, and we recruit new hires with a range of diverse backgrounds and experiences from all over the country, as well as from our own community. As the Chief Assistant, I feel it is important to lead by example, and I am in the courtroom every day representing clients, trying cases, and teaching younger lawyers what it means to be a Public Defender.

While the majority of Americans may never need a Public Defender for themselves or their loved ones, our community depends upon a functioning criminal justice system. The criminal justice system depends, in turn, upon an experienced Public Defender to ensure equal justice for all the people in our community.

I am asking to be your next elected Public Defender for Palm Beach County.

## Who's Worse, Robert Hur or *The New York Times*?

*Michael K. Cantwell*

There's no doubt that Robert Hur's gratuitous and false swipes at President Biden's memory was the work of a toad, or that *The New York Times* probably did more damage to Biden's reelection than the entire rightwing disinformation network by obsessively and meretriciously covering what should have been dismissed as the work of a hack.

*The Times* published no less than ten stories in the three days after Hur announced the conclusion of his investigation of Biden:

["My Memory Is Fine," a Defiant Biden Declares After Special Counsel Report](#), February 8

[Biden Lashes Out at Special Counsel for Raising Beau's Death](#), February 8

[Eight Words and a Verbal Slip Put Biden's Age Back at the Center of 2024](#), February 9

[As Her Husband Faces Tumult, Jill Biden Is a Protective Force](#), February 9

[White House Calls Special Counsel Report on Biden Politically Motivated](#), February 9

[Other 80-Somethings Have Thoughts About Age and the Presidency](#), February 10

[Inside Biden's Protective White House](#), February 10

[How Old Is Too Old to Be President? An Uncomfortable Question Arises Again](#), February 10

[Why the Age Issue Is Hurting Biden So Much More Than Trump](#), February 10

[Other 80-Somethings Have Thoughts About Age and the Presidency](#), February 10

I couldn't help but feel that *The Times*'s management was pleased that Hur's comments about Biden's significant memory problems validated a story that they'd been pushing for months, namely, that Biden should step aside. And when Hur testified before Congress, another avalanche of stories followed.

But the title was a trick question. If you answered "Merrick Garland," you get extra credit. He's the one who chose a Trump appointee to investigate how a handful of classified documents ended up in Joe Biden's garage, documents whose existence the president immediately disclosed and returned. And not just any Trump appointee but a hack who cut his teeth prosecuting Democrats.

## What We're Reading

[How Hur Misled the Country on Biden's Memory](#), by Adam Serwer, *The Atlantic*: "First impressions stick. After a big story hits, the initial conclusions can turn out to be wrong, or partly wrong, but the revisions are not what people remember. They remember the headlines in imposing font, the solemn tone from a presenter, the avalanche of ironic summaries on social media. Political operatives know this, and it's that indelible impression they want, one that sticks like a greasy fingerprint and that no number of follow-ups or awkward corrections could possibly wipe away."

[How Trump's Allies Are Winning the War Over Disinformation](#), by Jim Rutenberg and Steven Lee Myers: "Projects that were once bipartisan, including one started by the Trump administration, have been recast as deep-state conspiracies to rig elections. Facing legal and political blowback, the Biden administration has largely abandoned moves that might be construed as stifling political speech."

[Netanyahu Is Making Israel Radioactive](#), Thomas L. Friedman, *The New York Times*: "Israel today is in grave danger. With enemies like Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis and Iran, Israel should be enjoying the sympathy of much of the world. But it is not. Because of the way Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his extremist coalition have been conducting the war in Gaza and the occupation of the West Bank, Israel is becoming radioactive and diaspora Jewish communities everywhere increasingly insecure."

# Selling the Crypto-Fascists the Rope

Michael K. Cantwell

Lenin never actually said, “the capitalists will sell us the rope we hang them with.” It’s likely a paraphrase of a longer statement that concluded, “*To put it in other words, [the capitalists] will work on the preparation of their own suicide.*”

A century later the pursuit of profits and relevance by the “So-Called Liberal Media” that is giving the crypto-fascists the weapons they need to destroy the liberal democracy the SCLM purports to cherish and represent. And the death warrants they’re signing are for the planet as well.

Trump has already promised to do that. The Heritage Foundation and other rightwing groups are amassing a list of up to 20,000 apparatchiks to replace the thousands of civil servants Trump has announced he’ll fire if reelected.

*The New York Times* devotes one story to that and no less than 12 in the 3 days after Special Counsel Robert Hur gratuitously raised doubts about Biden’s memory during 5 hours of interviews held during the two days following Hamas’s attack in Israel.

*The Times* gleefully pounced on the fact that Biden, in an angry press conference, misnamed the country governed by Egypt’s president even though it was clear from the context. That is about as irrelevant to his competence as Trump’s confusing Sioux Falls with Sioux City (or was it the reverse? I forget).

That the media finds either to be newsworthy is evidence of their appalling degeneration since Rupert Murdoch first showed them how much money can be made by turning news into entertainment.

As profits depend on eyeballs and bad news attracts more eyeballs than good news, the SCLM has consigned Biden’s historic employment, GDP, and unemployment figures to the day they’re released while obsessing over inflation almost daily for nearly 2 years. When that became old news, they began obsessing on Biden’s age.

More befitting its former status as the Fourth Estate would be to focus on how the candidates would govern. Both have records and have made promises.

Trump	Biden
He tried but failed to repeal a government program that provides health insurance to tens of millions of Americans.	He signed long-overdue bipartisan bills on the infrastructure, gun safety, and veterans benefits.
Every week he promised that it was going to be “infrastructure week” and yet he failed to provide any relief for our aging infrastructure.	His Inflation Reduction Act caps the cost of insulin to \$35 per month and allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies.
His sole legislative achievement was a tax cut that principally benefited the top 0.1% and exploded the deficit.	It was also the greatest investment in Green Energy in American history.
He inherited the longest post-War expansion from Obama and he left office as the only president to lose jobs during his tenure.	His economic record is unrivaled, with the exception of inflation, which has now been tamed.
In his first three years (pre-Covid), his economic record trailed Obama’s final three years.	His experience enabled him to negotiate a favorable deal to raise the debt limit while avoiding the government shutdowns that occurred during the Clinton and Obama administrations.
He promises to fire the career civil servants who keep government running and replace them with his apparatchiks.	He rallied NATO members to aid Ukraine against Russia’s invasion.
He threatens to withdraw from NATO and let Russia “do whatever the hell it wants.”	He promises to Finish the Job of building an economy from the bottom up and middle out and meaningfully address the crisis posed by climate change.

# Ron's No. 1 – in Inflation, That Is

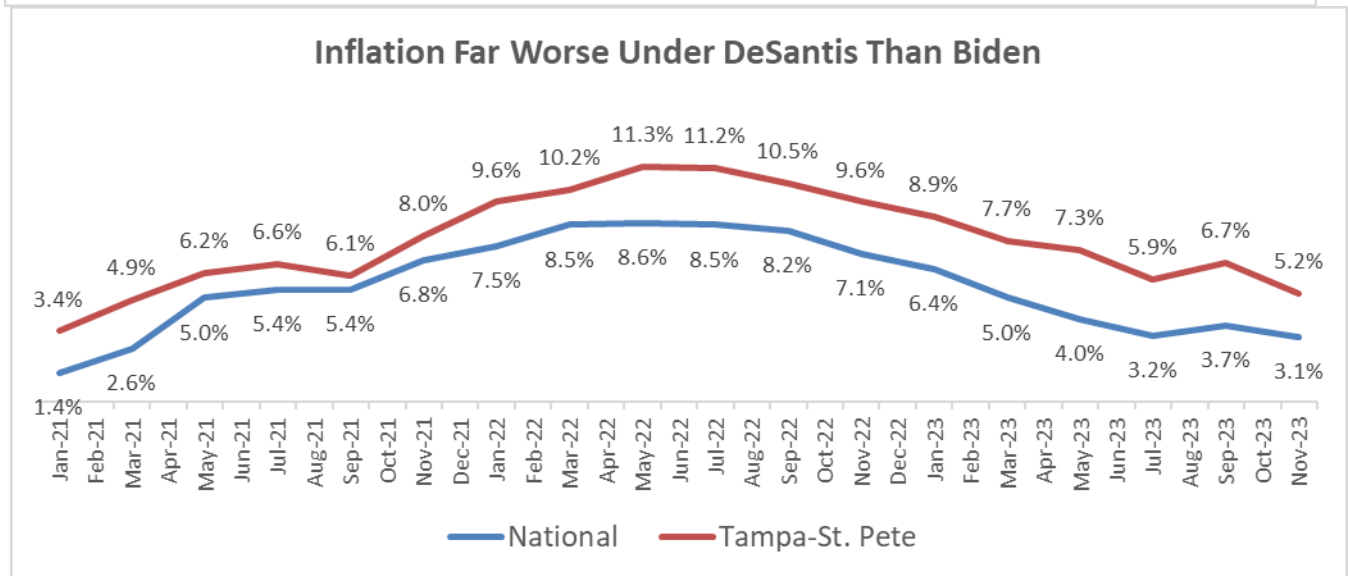
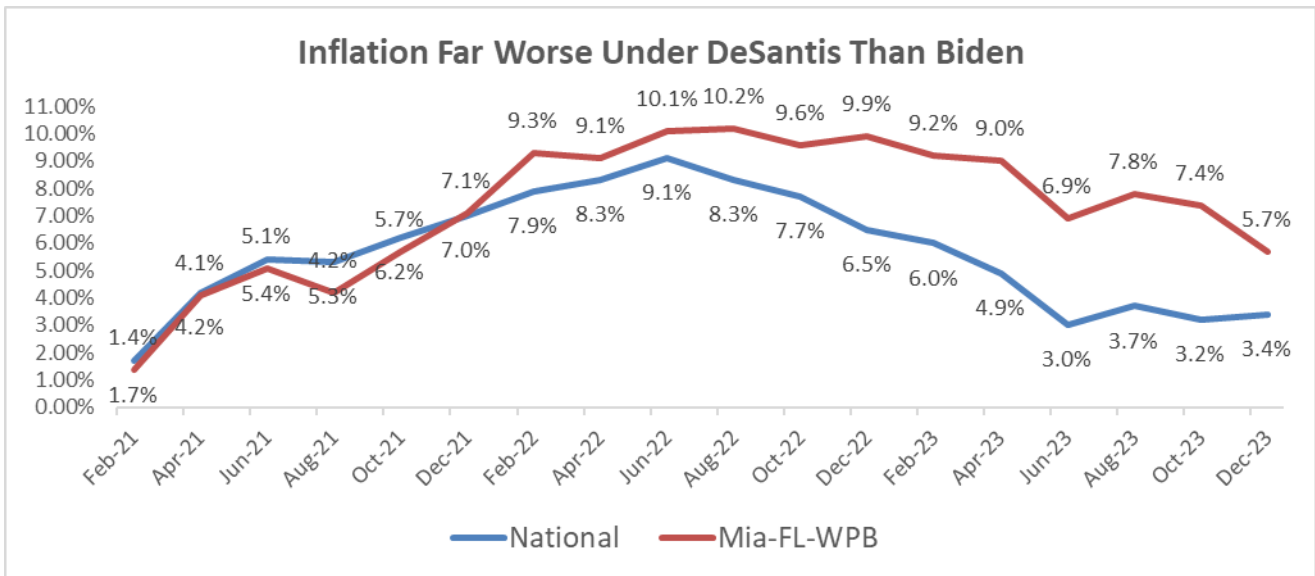
*Michael K. Cantwell*

It's bad form to further ridicule someone who's just been humiliated, but it's worth making an exceptions for a man who "has always loved embarrassing and humiliating people," as one of Ron DeSantis's teammates on the Yale baseball squad remembered him in a New Yorker article.

Our little Ronnie is now home from perhaps the most disastrous run for the presidency since Scott Walker's flameout in 2012. But he's not a total loser.

In fact, Ron holds the No. 1 spot in the nation—in inflation, that is. Let's recall how he bashed Biden for the inflation that had both the rightwing disinformation networks and the So-Called Liberal Media in a lather for the good part of a year:

So, the question is about gas prices and inflation, you know what I could do, if you could give me a time machine to go back to January 2021, we would just do the opposite of what Biden has done, and we'd be in a better spot.



## 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, June Neal, Directors; Sandra Elaisen-Cantwell, Director Emerita; and John Ramos, Director Emeritus.



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- Conde Center Chiropractic
- Kiwanis Club Delray
- PB Eye Specialists/Anup Kubal MD
- Brent Schillinger MD/Dermatologist

## The Democratic Club of Delray Beach Is Going to All People's Day!

*Char Lane*

The Club will have a booth to offer Democratic information to voters, to register voters, and to instruct voters on how to enroll or reenroll in the Vote-by-Mail program. We'll have a cornhole game for players to qualify to spin our Prize Wheel that will offer many great prizes. Stop by to win a DCDB shirt or DCDB bag or DCDB pen or DCDB stress squeeze star or DCDB bottle opener key chain or many other DCDB items. And, of course, we will have copies of The Delray Democrat to distribute, and they were an absolute hit at the 2023 event.

The entertainment was amazing last year, as was the food which was from a variety of cultures. The many booths will offer cultural and other gifts, community information and an array of gift items. It's a great way to spend an (early) afternoon. You'll be fed, entertained, and have a very enjoyable time. Might even get in some shopping, too.

## Letters by Our Members

Our prolific June Neal had two important pieces in the local press recently—an op-ed in the *Sun-Sentinel* and a letter in the *Orlando Sentinel*. Both appear below with June’s permission!

### Woodward and Bernstein at FAU Remind Us of Journalism’s Importance | Opinion

*June S. Neal*

I didn’t expect to feel so emotional. Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward were sitting in front of me, crossed-legged, offering juicy anecdotes about Watergate and jeremiads about the 2024 presidential campaign. They summoned the pride I felt when I wrote for a big newspaper and magazine. The Fourth Estate, guardian of our First Amendment.

And frankly, I had some inchoate hope the legendary journalists would reassure us that a free press and our Constitution could save us — like Watergate. That lasted five minutes.

Speaking at Florida Atlantic University February 8, the two confirmed the fears of millions of Americans: The 2024 election may cost us our democracy.

“We have a different country now,” Bernstein warned. “Trump is the first seditious president of the United States willing to encourage a coup. He will do anything to sabotage the legal transfer of [presidential] power.”

For the first time, the U.S. is on the list of “backsliding” democracies, beginning in 2016, fired by “January 6 and a poorly functioning legislature.”

In Watergate, our Constitution and our laws worked. “The question now is, will it work again?” Woodward said. He answered his own question: “Unfortunately, there’s a lot of doubt.

“Trump called me at home,” Woodward continued. “He wanted to talk about the coronavirus; 140,000 people had already died. Trump said he had it under control. I asked, ‘What is your plan?’ Trump said he’d have one in 105 days. I asked ‘Why the delay? People are dying.’ ”

Only later did Woodward realize that 105 days would be Election Day.

Also frightening is the number of Americans threatening to surrender their precious right to vote — because of ennui, anger or a fiction that their votes don’t count.

Along with getting out the vote, what can we do?

Write to the national media and hold them accountable for their disproportionate coverage of Donald Trump’s garbage sandwiches.

According to a CNBC report, “Today, some of the largest newspaper groups in the country ... are owned, controlled by or in debt to hedge funds or private equity groups.” The independence that was the marrow of good journalism is largely gone. Profit is the editor-in-chief.

Back in 2016, Les Moonves, then president of CBS, presciently defended his coverage of Trump’s anti-democracy candidacy by saying, “It may not be good for America, but it’s damn good for CBS.” Profit is an agile argument — but for the news media, a false one. The media are unlike any other industry, shaping decisions on the rise and fall of governments, economies and war. The 24/7 coverage of Trump’s lies abets the erosion of the public’s faith in their government. Yes, he is a presidential candidate. But he’s also our Tokyo Rose.

It’s true that all politics is local, yet many Americans live in news deserts. “Local newspapers are vanishing across the country: Nearly 1,800 U.S. newspapers have closed since 2004,” then-Berkshire Hathaway Vice Chairman Charlie Munger told a shareholders’ meeting in 2022. For decades, their business model was advertising. Now those ads — and 75% of the profits — go to Google and Facebook (Meta).

“Craigslist really hit hard,” said Joel Engelhardt, a former investigative reporter for the Palm Beach Post. At a recent League of Women Voters lunch, he described the bomb that hit his paper. “By 2008, paid advertising dried up overnight, especially the big revenues from real estate agencies and car dealerships. Between 2010 and 2012, the Post went from 1,100 to fewer than 300 employees and could barely make a profit.”

With the death of local papers, there’s a concomitant reduction in civic engagement and voting. “Our local-news situation is even worse than we think,” warns the Columbia Journalism Review.

*(Continued on page 9)*



“When newspapers shed journalists, some political operatives cheer,” wrote Orlando Sentinel columnist Scott Maxwell in a piece after 115 Los Angeles Times employees were laid off. “But let me tell you who also cheers whenever local journalist positions are cut? Bad guys. Corrupt politicians. Greasy lobbyists. Predators. Evil thrives when there’s no spotlight shining.”

Floridians are fortunate to have some outstanding local papers such as the *Sun Sentinel*, the *Orlando Sentinel*, *The Miami Herald* and others.

Subscribe to those in and outside of your county. You’ll get a comprehensive story of what’s going on statewide. Consider the cost a donation to democracy.

As noted in “The Paper: The Life and Death of the New York Herald Tribune” by Richard Kluger: “Every time a newspaper dies, even a bad one, the country moves a little closer to authoritarianism.”

**June S. Neal**, *Sun-Sentinel*, March 5, 2024

## A Free Press Is Vital

*June S. Neal*

Congratulations to your editorial boards’ well-argued opposition to House Bill 757 (“Florida anti-free speech bill would chill robust debate,” March 6).

In 1679, Benjamin Harris, journalism’s first bad boy, ran into trouble with British government officials for his criticism — of them. He took off for Boston and published “Publick Occurrences, Both Foreign and Domestick,” but the colonial leaders “were not amused by his insinuations of incest in the French royal family.” They said publishers must obtain a license to write — from the very officials they were covering.

Thus, the first instance of government interference in America’s news business.

Mainstream newspapers already apply many protections against errors by publicly correcting

mistakes and offering space for opinions and letters to the editor. They don’t have to.

In 1974, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against a candidate for the Florida House of Representatives who demanded space equal to the paper’s criticism of him.

Such restrictions eliminate a newspaper’s editorial discretion, essential to the life of a free press. That’s why in 1987, the Federal Communications Commission repealed the Fairness Doctrine, the “equal time law.” It was President Ronald Reagan, himself the target of much media censure, who vetoed Congress’s attempt to retain the law.

It’s either a free press or propaganda.

**June S. Neal**, *Orlando Sentinel*, March 10, 2024

## Worth Quoting

“Sometimes I think that other planets use the Earth as their insane asylum. They send their crazy people here.”  
Jean-Ellen King.

“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.

“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

## Beating Rick Scott

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Beating Scott won't be easy. He has three advantages – he's White, he's male, and he's rich. In fact, he's the richest man in the U.S. Senate, and he's not shy about buying his elections.

In 2010, he spent \$75 million of his own money to become governor and he spent another \$63.6 million to be elected to the Senate in 2018, an amount equal to 75% of what he received in outside funding.

But he is also vulnerable. He may be the most odious and disliked member of the senate, despite the strong competition (Josh “Watch Him Run” Hawley and “Cancun Ted” Cruz come to mind). Even Mitch McConnell can't stand him. Moreover, all of his victories were exceedingly narrow and came in non-presidential-election years when turnout is low.

He's also the only member of Congress to have led a company that pled guilty to 14 felonies and agreed to pay the government \$1.7 billion in fines and damages for bilking Medicare. At the time, the Columbia/HCA Healthcare settlement was the largest healthcare fraud settlement in U.S. history. If he were an African American who passed a bad check, he would have lost his right to vote, much less the right to run for public office.

But Scott is an oily, slippery fellow. He was never charged in connection with the fraud. Instead he was forced to resign and given a golden parachute that he used to slither his way to two terms as Florida governor and one as Florida's junior senator.

Scott disclaims knowledge of the fraud, but John Schilling, the HCA accountant and whistleblower who alerted the government to the massive fraud, disagreed strongly: “I am a witness and I was an FBI informant. Fraud was in the DNA of Rick Scott's company from the very beginning and he was the father.”

Scott will no doubt argue that this is old news – he resigned in 1997 and the massive fraud under his watch was an issue during the 2010 and 2014 races. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell can make it current again by focusing on Scott's “Rescue America” plan, which originally proposed sunseting (read “ending”) Medicare and Social Security.

Scott amended the plan after President Biden called him on it during his 2023 State of the Union address, and even Mitch McConnell distanced Republicans from it, referring to it as “not a Republican plan [but rather] a Rick Scott plan.” He now specifically exempts “Social Security, Medicare, national security, veterans benefits, and other essential services” and smarmily includes a “Note to President Biden, Sen. Schumer, and Sen. McConnell” that he never intended to cut off services on which all Americans, including Floridians, depend. Right.

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

## Thank Joe Biden

**The American Rescue Plan Act** begins the recovery from the Trump Depression:

- Local governments provided \$360 billion to keep front line public workers on the job and paid.
- Expanded and extended unemployment payments protect workers until the economy reopens.
- Over 200 million Americans are vaccinated against COVID in first 100 days, thanks to \$160 billion funding for supplies and vaccines.
- Investments in Affordable Care Act allowed more than 18 million Americans to obtain health insurance, savings tens of thousands from premature, preventable deaths.
- Increased and expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty by 35% in 2021.
- Helped create more jobs (6.7 million) during the first year of any presidency.

**The Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** passes with 17 Republican senators voting in favor. Florida's senators vote against the bill, although they and our governor are happy to take credit for the money and services it provides.

- The largest investment in infrastructure in over a decade.
- The largest investment in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in U.S. history.
- The largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in U.S. history.
- The largest investment in public transit in nearly six decades.
- The largest investment in bridges since the construction of the interstate highway system.
- More than 40,000 projects already off the ground.

**The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act** is the first gun safety legislation in nearly three decades.

**The PACT Act** is the biggest expansion of veterans' benefits in over three decades. The Act has already sparked \$200 billion in private investments in the United States.

**The Inflation Reduction Act** is the greatest investment in green energy in U.S. history. It reduces the deficit by authorizing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies, closing tax loopholes, and providing \$80 billion to the IRS for additional tax enforcement.

**The CHIPS Act** invests in microchip production to make America more competitive with China and reduce our reliance on foreign sources for a vital component used by the defense industry. The Act has already sparked \$200 billion in private investments in the United States.

Get *The Delray Democrat* delivered to your mailbox. Receive issues as they're published, along with updates. All links in the digital files are active, so you can go to the source. Send your email address to [editor@thedelraydemocrat.com](mailto:editor@thedelraydemocrat.com).

We're also always looking for writers (remember, you don't have to live in Delray Beach to read or write for *The Delray Democrat*. Send submissions to [editor@thedelraydemocrat.com](mailto:editor@thedelraydemocrat.com).

# 2024 Membership

Char Lane

It's March 2024 and the Primaries are in August and November's General Election is only eight months away. It's time for some serious work to elect Democrats to save our democracy.

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your DCDB membership for 2024. Membership is on a calendar year basis and your dues help provide funding for operational projects, such as *The Delray Democrat*, our meetings, other operational supplies, and signage for our sign waving events. Meetings are at 7 PM on the third Thursday of each month at the Palm Beach County Democratic Party office, located in the Congress Office Park, 220 Congress Park Drive, Suite 140, in Delray Beach. Our meetings are hybrid so you can also join via zoom. Meeting notices are sent out in the weeks before the meetings, and include Zoom links to register for and/or join the meetings and links to our various websites.

Our goal is to educate people as to the importance of voting, why they should vote Democratic and why they should use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. With all that's been going on we'll have to work exceptionally hard to help keep our democracy intact and protect it from being decimated by Trump and his cohorts.

Getting out the vote is our most important mission. You can help by making phone calls, texting, writing postcards, canvassing, or becoming a precinct leader. You can register people to vote and help people sign up or reenroll to vote by mail. You can volunteer for projects to benefit the community. There's so much work to do between now and November 2024 and we'll need your help.

If you're a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach and haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2024. If you're not a member of the Club, please consider joining.

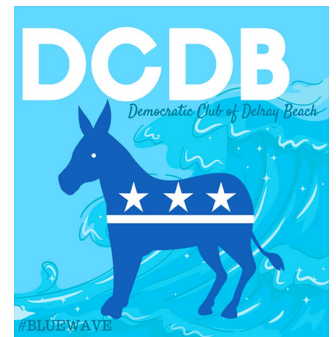
Please visit us at [www.demclubofdelray.org](http://www.demclubofdelray.org). Read our monthly publication *The Delray Democrat* at [www.thedelraydemocrat.com](http://www.thedelraydemocrat.com).

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

Become a member of the DCDB: complete and mail the Membership application or click on the QR code below. You can also give me your membership application/renewal at our meetings.



## Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2024 Membership Application and Renewal



Date \_\_\_\_\_ New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Name/names of household members \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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.