

# The Delray Democrat

November 2023 (# 64)

## It's 2016 All Over Again

*Michael K. Cantwell*

The So-Called Liberal Media is making a horserace out of what should be a slam-dunk by obsessing on inflation and Biden's age while ignoring what has been a historic presidency.

Biden has done far more than help the country recover from the economic and moral train wreck that was the Trump presidency. He is the first president in four decades to effectively challenge Reagan's malignant trickle-down economics. He's accomplished [more with less](#) than any of his predecessors.

That's because his age has been an asset rather than a liability. When elected, he'd been around the block much longer than Bill Clinton and Barack Obama had been when elected, and it has shown in his ability to manage Republicans in a manner reminiscent of the way Reagan managed Democrats.

Biden's "middle out, bottom up" economy is not a new idea. It formed the basis of FDR's New Deal, a social contract that Republican as well as Democratic presidents followed for half a century before being replaced by Reagan's Raw Deal. It created a middle class that was once the envy of the world.

If the race is between Biden and Trump, it is a no-brainer. New Deal or Raw Deal? Continue to plunder workers (some [\\$50 trillion](#) has been transferred from the bottom 90% to the top 1%) or end the Class War with reparations? Resurrect our democracy or give up on the grand experiment that was America?

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## Peace Proposal for Israel and the Palestinians

*Respectfully Submitted by Rabbi Barry Silver*

### For the Palestinians in the West Bank

For the Palestinians in the West Bank, Israel will announce its support for the immediate creation of a free and independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and will stop all further settlements there, once the West Bank Palestinians acknowledge the right of the Jewish people to a homeland in Israel with its capital in Jerusalem. The boundaries of this capital shall include, but not be limited to the Western Wall and the area which currently comprises the Jewish section of Jerusalem.

The current Arab section of Jerusalem shall be part of the Palestinian state

and if they so choose, shall become the capital of Arab Palestine. Israel shall continue to have physical control over the Western Wall, the Temple Mount and the al-Aqsa Mosque. Muslim authorities shall continue to have religious and spiritual autonomy over the al-Aqsa Mosque as they do today.

Both parties will seek to have Jerusalem acknowledged by the General Assembly of the United Nations as the physical capital of the nation of Israel and the eternal spiritual capital of the Jewish people and the capital of the Palestinian state on the West Bank.

*(Continued on page 2)*

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### Upcoming Meetings

*December 21, 7:00 PM*  
*Debbie Mucarsel Powell*

### Sign the Abortion Petition, Scan Below



**Time's Running Out**  
**See p. 3 for more**

### Re-enroll in Vote by Mail

Phone: (561) 656-6208

Fax: (561) 656-6230

In person: click [here](#) for locations of SOE.

Scan the QR code below



## For the Palestinians in Gaza

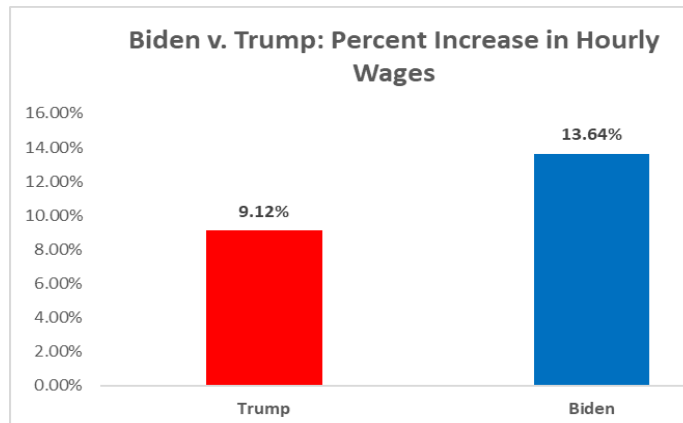
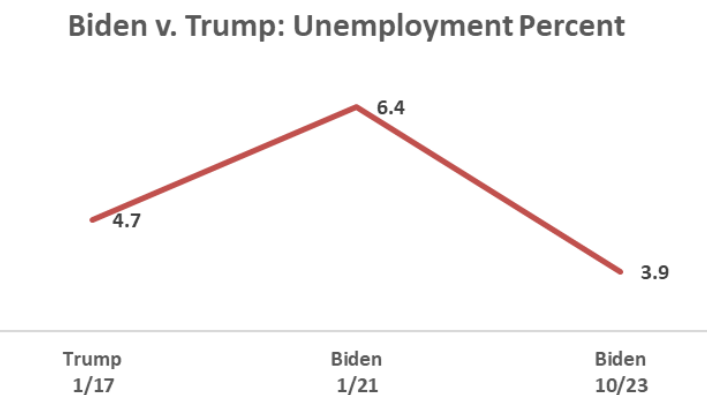
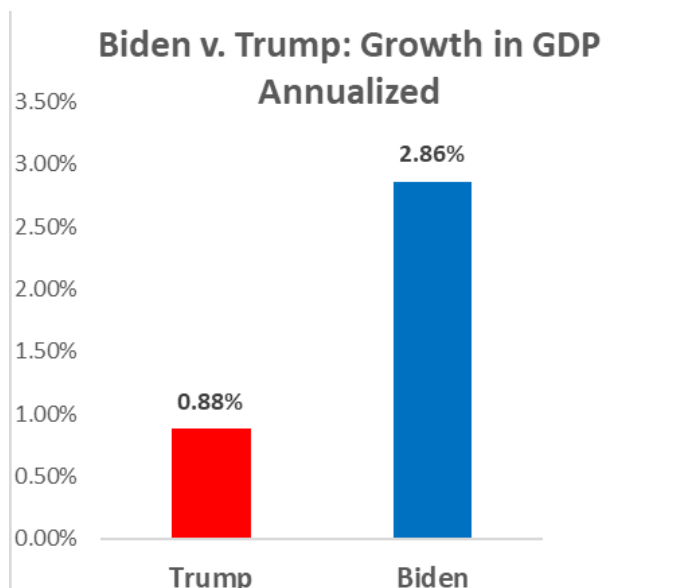
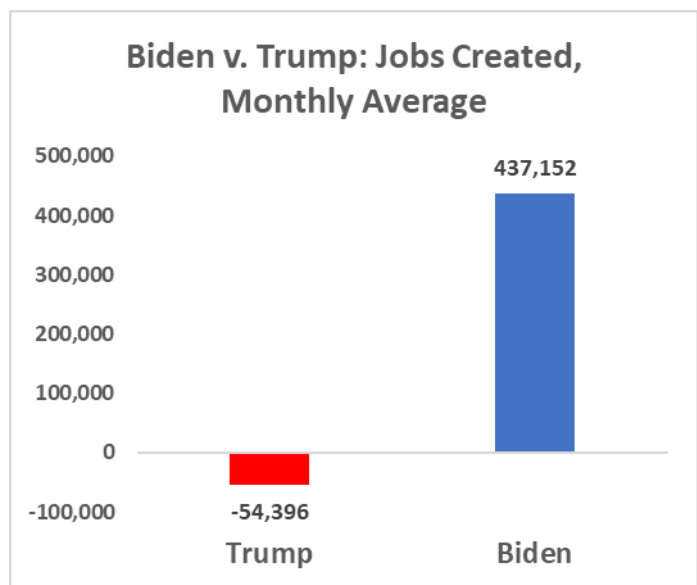
Israel will agree to an immediate cease fire and a withdrawal of its forces from Gaza, once Hamas returns the hostages, destroys its weapons, and agrees to live in peace with Israel. If all of the above is accomplished, and Hamas disbands, and/or changes its Charter to remove all anti-Semitic references, all calls for violence against Jews and Israel and recognizes the right of Jews to live in a free and independent homeland with its current boundaries, then Israel will agree to the establishment of Gaza as part of a free and independent Palestinian state.

If Hamas is unwilling to do all of the above, then Israel will invite America and the free world to join its efforts to free the hostages and to liberate the Palestinian people from control by the terrorist regime of Hamas. At first, this will be attempted by complete and total isolation of Hamas from all military, financial and moral support from any outside power, including, but not limited to the United Nations and Iran. If the above measures cannot be implemented, or do not result in the return of the hostages forthwith, then Israel will continue to use whatever means it deems necessary to protect its people and the world from terrorism and violence.

*Rabbi Barry Silver is the Spiritual leader of Congregation L’Dor Va-Dor and the Founder of the Palm Beach County Chapter of the Temple of Understanding.. Rabbi Silver can be reached at [barryboca@aol.com](mailto:barryboca@aol.com)*

## Biden v. Trump on the Economy

*Michael K. Cantwell*



## **Abortion Access Petition Campaign Update: We Are at a Critical Point but We Can Succeed!**

*Arlene Ustin*

Once again Florida's fascistic legislators and Governor are seeking to restrict women's rights. This time it's in terms of women's healthcare, specifically, banning abortion access! Most Americans and most Floridians believe women have the right to control their bodies without interference from any form of government! And every time this issue has been on the ballot, voters have voted in favor of a woman's autonomy. Voters in California, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Montana, and Ohio have either supported enshrining the right to an abortion in the state constitution or rejected attempts to further restrict abortion.

When we get our Abortion Access Citizen Initiative on the 2024 ballot, it is expected that more than 60% of voters will approve it. Women will then have the protection of the Florida Constitution to make their own personal healthcare decisions. In addition, this issue should increase voter turnout significantly, critical to save our democratic values.

Florida has always depended on its volunteers to fight for the rights and freedom for all, especially those whose voices are ignored or not heard. In this current situation, we are fighting to stay ahead of outrageously blatant bills and laws that continue to restrict our mechanisms for justice. For example, the 2023 law regarding the citizen initiative amendment process changed the method of paying petition

gatherers' to be by the hour, not by the petition. Doing so puts more pressure on volunteers to be as creative as possible - we need to carry clipboards to movies, MD offices, family gatherings, county events, all public places are in play, so we can cross the finish line.

Our citizen initiative process for Abortion Access began in mid-May. Many parts of Florida, particularly PBC, have been enthusiastic in this effort. In total we need 892,000 valid petitions and as of November 7, 2023, we have 491,589 (more than half). There are also hundreds of thousands in the pipeline awaiting certification. But we must allow for those that will be rejected. We can do this but we need everyone's help to cross the finish line by December 31, 2023.

To fill out and sign a petition, go to <https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/petition/>. Carefully read the instructions—no abbreviations, it's "county," not "country," etc. The pdf is fillable online and can then be printed, or you can also print out a blank form and fill it in by hand. In either case, be sure to sign and date the form by [hand](#). Within 5-7 days send paper petition(s) to Floridians Protecting Freedom, Post Office Box 4068, Sarasota, FL 34230. Print more copies and ask other Florida voters to sign them - five in an envelope costs one regular stamp. **IT IS NOW UP TO US!**

### **What They're Saying About the Threat Posed by Trump**

"This turn inward has sounded new alarms among experts on autocracy who have long worried about Mr. Trump's praise for foreign dictators and disdain for democratic ideals. They said the former president's increasingly intensive focus on perceived internal enemies was a hallmark of dangerous totalitarian leaders." [Trump's Dire Words Raise New Fears About His Authoritarian Bent](#), Michael C. Bender and Michael Gold, *The New York Times*.

"At a recent rally, former President Donald Trump used language in a speech that echoed Adolf Hitler, comparing his political opponents to 'vermin.'" [Why Trump's authoritarian language about 'vermin' matters](#), Danielle Kurtzleben, *npr*.

"Trump's antics bring to mind the prediction of Sinclair Lewis in "It Can't Happen Here" that if fascism came to America it would come wrapped in the flag and whistling "The Star Spangled Banner." [Letter: Donald Trump threatens fascism under the guise of patriotism](#), Richard Barsanti, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

#### **Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors**

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

## A Pattern Emerges

### Bill Clinton

*Inherits a federal debt that had quadrupled under Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush and bequeaths three straight annual surpluses to*

### George W. Bush

*Who doubles the deficit, launches trillion-dollar wars, lets the bankers run wild and bequeaths the greatest economic collapse since the Great Depression to*

### Barack Obama

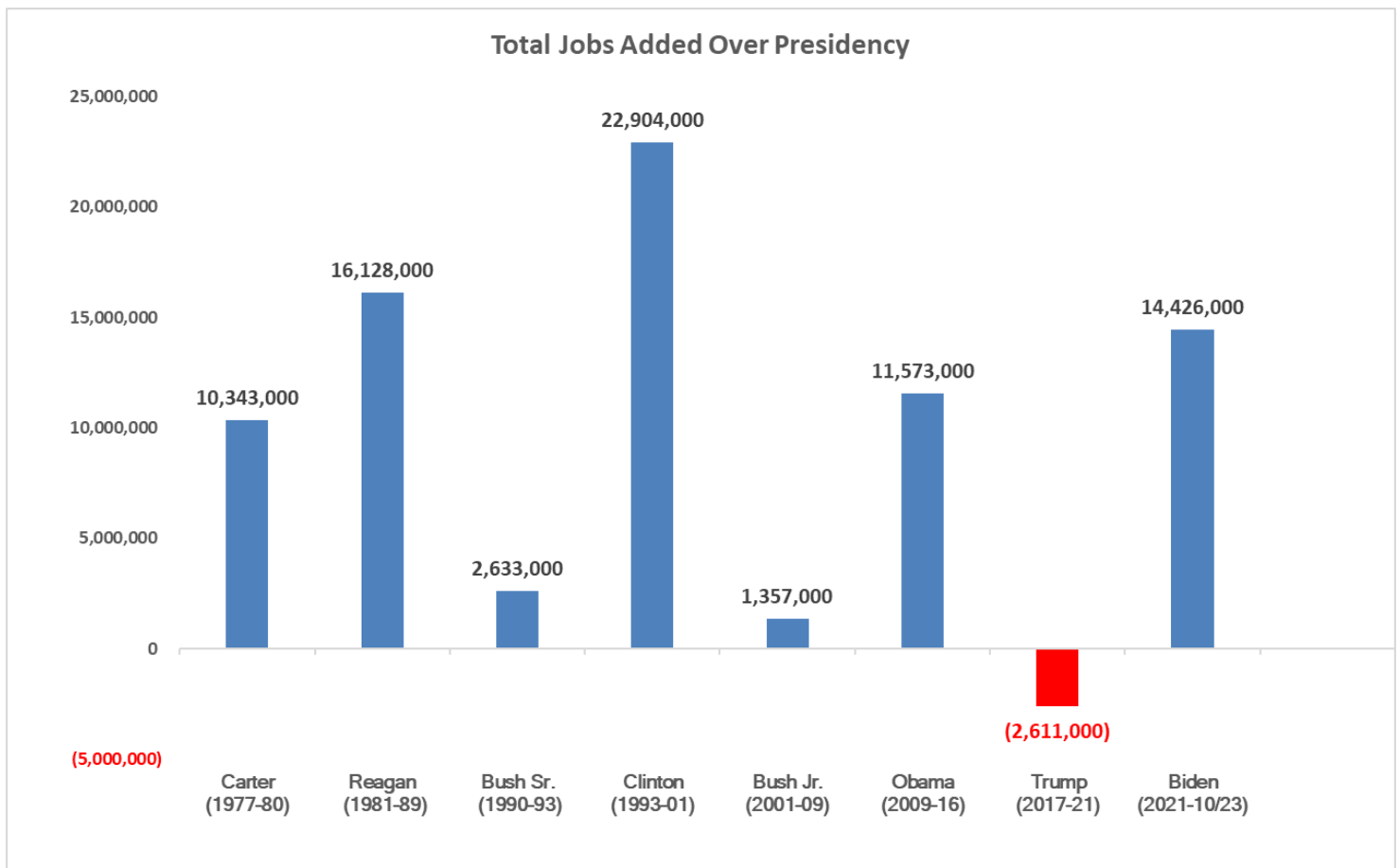
*Who prevents a Great Depression II, creates 11 million jobs, and bequeaths the longest post-War expansion to*

### Donald Trump

*Who bragged of creating the greatest economy in the history of the country while actually creating fewer jobs in his first three years than Obama created during his last three years and who, when confronted with his first real crisis, responds with spectacular incompetence, becoming the first peacetime president to preside over the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Americans and to leave office with fewer people employed than when he entered office, bequeathing a ravaged economy and sick nation to*

### Joe Biden

Who oversees the vaccination of 200 million Americans in his first hundred days, creates more jobs in his first year than any president in history and is on track to create more jobs than any first-term president and more than any president except Reagan and Clinton created in two terms (and he'll surpass "St. Ronnie" sometime next year.



# With Democracy Hanging in the Balance Two Davids Desert and One Surprises

Michael K. Cantwell

Recently three respected members of the So-Called Liberal Media addressed the question of whether Biden is the Democrats' best candidate in 2024.

David Ignatius, the well-known *Washington Post* columnist, caused quite a stir by [claiming](#) outright that President Biden is too old to run again. Ignatius has enjoyed close access to the White House, so his column was not only a betrayal but feckless to boot. (Is Ignatius so arrogant he thought his column would change Biden's decision?) All he accomplished was to discourage Democrats and increase Trump's chances of winning.

David Axelrod was arguably worse. His relationship with the president goes back to the Obama White House, a time when then-Vice-President Biden was [mocked](#) by members of the Obama administration.

Perhaps it's because Axelrod and other has-beens from Obama's team miss their time in the limelight. Or perhaps because Biden's accomplishments in his first two years make a mockery of their mockery.

In any event, the day after a *New York Times/Siena College* poll showed Trump ahead in five of six battleground states, Axelrod weighed in with a [tweet](#) that was simultaneously smarmy and supercilious. Attempting to shame Biden into stepping aside, he suggested Biden was putting his personal interest above the country's:

What [Biden] needs to decide is whether [staying in the race] is wise; whether it's in HIS best interest or the country's?

That's a question Axelrod might have asked himself before tweeting. Undermining Biden and helping Trump is hardly in the country's best interest nor, it seems, was it in Axelrod's. The next day he clumsily sought to walk back the tweet, [claiming](#) he hadn't "told him to drop out." Right. All he did was imply that a refusal to drop out would be unwise as well as selfish. The only one shamed by the tweet was Axelrod himself.

Ironically, it was David Brooks, the lone Republican among The Three Davids, who emerged as the adult in the room. In a thoughtful and reassuring [column](#), Brooks does what Axelrod and Ignatius should, could, and would have done if they weren't more interested in promoting themselves than in protecting democracy

Unlike Axelrod and Ignatius, who paid lip service to Biden's record, Brooks gives concrete examples:

Household debt is way down. The average family's net worth increased by an inflation-adjusted 37 percent between 2019 and 2022 . . . Income increased almost across the board, benefiting urban and rural people, homeowners and renters, white people and Black people.

Brooks then debunks the poll that caused Axelrod to panic: "Americans increasingly use polls to vent, not to vote." Results, especially a year from an election, are no indication of how people will actually vote, as progressive political strategist Michael Podhorzer explains in a mocking [riposte](#) quoted by Brooks:

Americans know the difference between answering a survey and casting a ballot, even if the polling industrial complex and pundits don't.

Podhorzer also questions the validity of a poll that showed Trump winning in states that voted against MAGA candidates only a year ago. He's not alone.

Even *The Times* second guessed its poll in an [article](#) by its chief political analyst Nate Cohn, who allows "the possibility that the usual poll questions simply failed to reveal the importance of abortion, democracy and perhaps other issues as well." Oops.

Trump's contempt for democracy and embrace of Nazi metaphors will continue to haunt him. There have been a half-dozen [pieces](#) warning of the threat posed by Trump in the last week alone.

The economy can also be turned to an asset, now that inflation has fallen to 3.2% from a high of 9.1% in June 2022. Brooks puts Biden's stewardship of the economy in perspective by quoting Mitch Landrieu, who oversees the rollout of the bipartisan infrastructure act:

When history renders its verdict, this will be comparable to Works Progress Administration, or the Eisenhower highway construction program or rural electrification,

The jobs created by Biden's investments in America also allowed the economy to withstand 11 interest rate increases *without* falling into the recession economists claimed was needed to "tame" inflation.

They underestimated Bidenomics. The SCLM needs to stop underestimating the president behind it.

## 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.

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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).

## Letters from Our Members and Friends

*Writing to newspapers can influence NPAs and give aid, comfort, and information to Democrats. Here is the latest crop from local Democrats.*

*And if we've missed one of your letters, please send it to us and, with your permission, we'll include it in the next issue!*

So, you think Joe Biden is too old to be president again?

Donald Trump, who will be 78 in 2024, promoted anti-masking and miracle cures for COVID-19 until professionals got him to fund vaccine research. 400,000 Americans died. He vowed to ban people from Muslim countries, called Mexicans “rapists and murderers” and neo-Nazis “good people.” Last week in Hialeah, he pledged to weed out the “vermin immigrants.”

He had the worst jobs numbers in modern history and spiked the deficit to \$7.8 trillion. Our military leaders feared he'd push us into nuclear war. He's been found liable for damages after allegations of sexual assault and is facing 91 felony counts.

President Biden's American Rescue Plan led us out of the COVID-19 horror. He's made the largest investments in history in clean water and infrastructure, expanded Medicare, reduced critical drug prices and targeted \$369 billion to fight climate change.

He led an international coalition to support Ukraine and stood by Israel while pressing for protection of Gazan civilians — all while dealing with an inane Republican-led Senate.

Joe Biden slurs some words due to a childhood stuttering problem. Trump sometimes can't finish a sentence out of sheer ignorance of the topic and a need to pivot to excoriating everyone who isn't him.

Martin Scorsese just produced another film masterpiece at age 80. Bob Dylan, 82, recently performed “Rough and Rowdy Ways.” And former Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, 85, is teaching at Harvard.

June S. Neal, Orlando Sentinel, November 16, 2023;  
Sun-Sentinel, November 17, 2023

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The media's coverage of President Biden is the principal reason the latest poll shows him behind Donald Trump in five of six critical states.

Mr. Biden inherited the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression and the gravest public health crisis in a century. He got off to the fastest start of any president since F.D.R., [creating over six million jobs in his first year](#) and reaching his goal of the [vaccination of over 200 million Americans in fewer than 100 days](#). Yet the bulk of the reporting for most of his presidency since then has involved inflation and his age.

Underreported is the impact of Mr. Biden's other achievements: the [largest investment in green energy](#) in American history; a [\\$1 trillion investment in infrastructure](#); the first [federal gun safety legislation](#) in nearly three decades; and the biggest [expansion of veterans' benefits](#) in over three decades.

Michael K. Cantwell, The New York Times,  
November 6, 2023

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

# 2024 Membership

*Char Lane*

Can you believe 2023 is almost over and the General Election is less than a year away?

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.

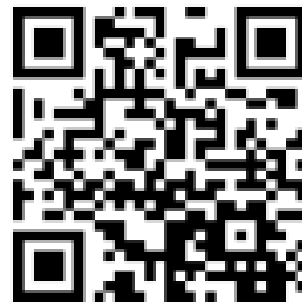
Getting out the vote is our most important mission. You can help by making phone calls, texting, writing postcards, canvassing, or becoming a precinct leader. You can register people to vote and help people sign up

or reenroll to vote by mail. You can volunteer for projects to benefit the community. There's so much to do between now and November 2024.

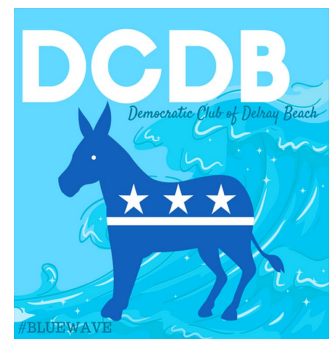
If you're a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach, please renew for 2024. If you're not a member of the Club, please consider joining. If you join now, you'll be a member for the remainder of 2023 in addition to 2024.

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 by completing and mailing the below Membership application or going to <https://www.demclubofdelray.org/membership> or by clicking 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.