

# The Delray Democrat

September-October 2018

## Congratulations, Andrew!!

Mayor Andrew Gillum ran an unapologetically progressive campaign, energizing the base and bringing out new and dormant voters. While all the Democratic gubernatorial candidates were head and shoulders above Trump lackey Ron DeSantis, we believe that Andrew represents our best chance to win back the Governor's mansion in 20 years.

DeSantis's election-night dog-whistle salvo about voters "monkeying around" with a "socialist agenda" was not only racist - it was counterproductive. It will do nothing to turn out his base, who need no motivation to vote against a black candidate, and it will motivate our base as well as previously unmotivated Democrats. And with Andrew leading among independents by double digits, it seems racism and red-baiting don't play well with those voters either.

There's much work to be done before Andrew's ship comes in, but we look forward to the election of Andrew Gillum on November 6.

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## What's At Stake

Michael K. Cantwell

What To Expect if We Fail to Retake At Least One House of Congress in November	What To Demand if We Retake One or Both Houses of Congress in November
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Repeal of the Affordable Care Act, depriving up to 20 million Americans of healthcare and resulting in the deaths of tens of thousands</li><li>• Another round of tax cuts that will further fatten the obscenely wealthy and explode the deficit</li><li>• Cuts in Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security to pay for the tax cuts</li><li>• A virtual shutdown of any investigations into Donald Trump</li><li>• Firing of Jeff Sessions, Rod Rosenstein, and Robert Mueller</li><li>• If Ruth Bader Ginsburg (age 85) retires or dies, Trump nominates her replacement</li><li>• If Stephen Breyer (age 80) retires or dies, Trump nominates his replacement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Issue all the subpoenas that the Republicans refused to issue over the past two years</li><li>• Investigate Trump's receipt of emoluments, business dealings, and possible campaign finance violations</li><li>• Investigate Russian involvement in the 2016 election and oligarchs' investments in the United States</li><li>• Investigate Wilbur Ross's financial dealings and Ben Carson's spending</li><li>• Investigate Jared Kushner's conflicts of interest</li><li>• Investigate corruption and misuse of funds at the EPA under Administrator Scott Pruitt</li><li>• If the Democrats take back the senate, DELAY HEARINGS on any Supreme Court openings until after the 2020 elections.</li></ul>

## A New Way to Reach Voters

*Misha Nadel*

The current Zone Leader-Precinct Leader model that the Palm Beach County Democratic Party uses is flawed. Not because of a lack of effort or commitment from those who are a part of it, but because it relies too heavily on single individuals to cover large precincts with lots of voters without much material support.

Long-time precinct leaders or experienced organizers may do a great job covering their precincts, but many newer precinct leaders — or those who might become one — feel overwhelmed by the task and unsure of how best to tackle it. As a new precinct leader myself, the guidance given on how to lessen the workload — call your “super” voters or Hillary 2016 volunteers — felt incomplete. What was I supposed to ask these people to do? Canvass? Call a list? It felt very “figure it out on your own.”

Because the task seems so challenging, few people are willing to take it on and many precincts go uncovered. Additionally, the door-to-door canvassing required as part of the process to get “warm” Democratic voters signed up for vote-by-mail is often not possible in gated communities, unless the precinct leader lives in it or can find a person who does to take on the job. Again, this leaves substantial areas of the county untouched.

*Palm Beach Indivisibles, the local chapter of Indivisible, has created a program called N2G2 that solves these issues.*

Palm Beach Indivisibles, the local chapter of Indivisible, has created a program called the Neighbor Network for Good Government, or N2G2, that solves these issues. It can both be used by existing precinct leaders to complement the work they are already doing — particularly in gated communities — and as a way to expand coverage into uncovered precincts.

N2G2 is a multi-level network of volunteers that connects with “warm” Democratic voters and encourages them to sign up for vote-by mail, the same goal currently in place for precinct leaders. It does this by utilizing house parties to recruit committed volunteers — those same “super” voters precinct leaders are encouraged to contact — to join the program and then host their own house parties with Warm Dems. Each level of the network is provided material support — presentations, invitation templates, lists of voters to contact — so that implementing the program is easy and straightforward.

By splitting the work among the various participants, the workload of each person is more manageable. And by bringing voters together at a house party, a greater sense of community and engagement is created than through phone calls or canvassing. This is the essence of community organizing and will have long-term benefits as voters get to know each other and feel more involved in the political process. It also creates the possibility for these new networks to get together for other activities such as phone-banking, postcard writing, or canvassing.

I would encourage everyone to learn about N2G2 and how they can utilize it in their precinct or community.

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# Trump Making an Unsafe World

*Mariane Kulick*

The world is, indeed, a dangerous place. President Trump and his cohorts in Congress have made it more dangerous.

It took a lot of work on the part of many countries, including the Obama Administration of the United States, to begin to address climate change.

When Trump took our country out of the Paris Conference he casually threatened the lives of our children and grandchildren and generations to come. For the Republicans all that matters is their immediate gains. The fossil fuel industries care more about their profits than their children..

The Democratic Party, on the other hand, have some noteworthy goals in terms of environmental initiatives.

Firstly, would be doing away with subsidies and tax breaks for fossil fuel companies.

Secondly, would be promoting alternate forms of energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Thirdly, we would rejoin the rest of the world in our joint struggle to save it.

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## Corporate Welfare

*Sandra Elaiissen-Cantwell*

An email from U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders asks the question, “How does it happen ... that the wealthiest man in the history of the world, Jeff Bezos, is also one of the largest welfare recipients in America?”

Many of us have heard grapevine comments about Bezos – his enormous wealth and how it continues to grow in spite of the pittance he pays his employees. Many of us have seriously considered ending our contact with Amazon, the source of his fortune, only to “fall at the first hurdle” when we need something that isn’t available elsewhere, or mall shopping has become an onerous task.

It’s much simpler to refrain from shopping for substandard goods at Walmart and or cheap but unhealthy food at MacDonald’s and Burger King. Like Bezos, the Walton family that owns Walmart is enormously moneyed as is McDonald’s major stockholder John W. Rogers.

What do Bezos et al. have in common with many other hugely profitable corporations in the United States? It is the fact that Amazon workers are being paid so little that they need to apply for public assistance and live on “food stamps, Medicaid, and public housing.” They simply cannot survive on Amazon wages, while we are carefree making our purchases often daily with an Amazon click, enriching Bezos by \$260 million each day.

Over half of McDonald’s employees working in their eateries have to apply for “some kind of public assistance.” Indeed, their workers are encouraged to sign up for public assistance! Is this not shameful in a country priding itself on fairness and independence - a caring society? And who is paying for such assistance, which subsidizes the wealth of such as Bezos daily? Why it’s you and I, the middle class.

There is legislation afoot to end such corporate welfare and provide either living wages to the workers, or require these corporations to provide for all the public assistance the workers require to withstand the immorality and inconstancy of the American economy. Please do support Sander’s legislative bill when it is presented to Congress. Our own Congress people should be obliged to support it and we should be certain that they understand the election consequences if they do not.

## **Nancy Albano, Our New President**

Who is Nancy Albano? In June 2018, the Democratic Club of Delray Beach elected Nancy Albano as our new President. Born and raised in Western , MA, Nancy obtained a Masters in Public Administration at U/ Mass Amherst and later a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

Following a massive police corruption scandal, to restore the integrity of the Legal Department of BPD, she became the first woman Legal Advisor of the Boston Police Department (BPD), Several years later, she intentionally exchanged the harsh Boston winters for the warmth of Honolulu, and 24/7 free tennis. Not able to live on tennis alone, she took the Hawaii Bar exam and became a Deputy Attorney General of the State of Hawaii, in the Civil Rights Division, a position she held for ever 10 years.

Livid following the decision in Bush v. Gore, Nancy moved once again, this time to Delray Beach in June 2008, taking early retirement and moving to Delray to be a volunteer voting rights lawyer so that the GOP could not steal Palm Beach County again. The day she moved to Delray Beach, June 8, 2008, Nancy signed up on-line as an OFA volunteer and ultimately became the volunteer manager of the OFA Regional Headquarters on Atlantic and Military, where she became fast friends with many of our members, including Pat O’Hearne.

Shortly thereafter in 2008, Nancy joined the Democratic Club of Delray Beach. Several years later she moved to Highland Beach, where she became one of the original founders of the Highland Beach Coastal Democratic Club and served as its President for three years.

There are 5 things to know about Nancy:

1. She is a devoted, lifelong Democratic activist;
2. She will never relinquish her Hawaii area code cell phone number, 808 3899933, which you can always call to chat;
3. She is always looking for a good tennis doubles game to relieve stress;
4. She is dedicated to leaving it “all on the field” in the next 50 days to “BRING IT HOME.” and hopes all feel likewise;
5. She is very proud and honored to have been asked and elected to lead this Club to a new day.

And we’re proud to have her!

## **Why Republicans Love A Reckless Fool . . .**

*Mariane Kulick*

Donald Trump is an unbalanced, reckless man who should never be president. Most of the country knows that now. But let’s not overlook the responsibility of the Republicans in Congress. They may not like him personally but they love the things he’s done. He’s given the wealthy big tax breaks, and they, in turn, will put them to good use donating campaign money to those compliant senators and representatives. He tapped into the racism still existing in our country and fears of the changing demographics. He has warred against refugees from the Mideast and south of us. He tosses off, or rather, fails to understand, what climate change means.

But, remember, the dominant party in Congress went along with this.

It is up to us to field good candidates who know how to fight and use the bully pulpit – to explain to the American people that they are not enemies of each other, but all deserving of a share of the American Dream - for many, something that has been promised more than practiced. The Republicans will field candidates that are subservient to President Trump and we must defeat them.

# Trump Is the Symptom, the Republican Party Is the Disease

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Just as a deep, localized skin infection erupts to form a boil, Donald Trump is a manifestation of the underlying disease that is the modern Republican Party. Donald Trump has not “taken over” the Republican Party any more than the Republican Party has taken over Donald Trump.

Trump’s unapologetic racism embarrasses the Republican establishment, but only because he says out loud what Republican candidates have been whispering since Richard Nixon unveiled his “Southern Strategy.” Since then, Republicans have unashamedly used “dog whistle” appeals to racism to dupe white working class Democrats into voting against their economic interests.

Reagan wooed them with concocted claims of “strapping young bucks” using food stamps to buy T-bone steaks and “welfare queens” driving around in Cadillacs. Bush senior’s path to the White House was paved with the Willie Horton ads. Trump traded the dog whistles for a bullhorn, labeling Mexican

eliminated federal regulations that protect consumers, workers, and the environment. Last but far from least was his signature on his sole legislative achievement, the Orwellian-titled “Tax Reform” bill that rewarded the oligarchs who fund the Republican party with yet another massive transfer of wealth from ordinary Americans to the obscenely wealthy.

The bill remained in the news for a cycle or two last December as it was being debated, but they’ve largely passed from public view. Here are the dirty details:

Over the lifetime of the bill,

- over 80% of the tax cuts go to the top 1%,
- over 60% goes to the top 0.1%,
- and here’s the kicker – some of the tax cuts expire in 2025, and anyone earning less than \$75,000 ends up with a tax increase.

The bill also adds \$1.9 trillion to the federal debt, which Republicans are already using as an excuse to cut your Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.

*“Republicans may be embarrassed by Trump’s naked racism, incessant lies, manifest unfitness for any public office, inhumane punishment of innocent children . . . [but they] appreciate that his daily outrages divert public attention from their decades-old war on ordinary Americans . . . A war they are winning.”*

immigrants as “animals, rapists, and drug dealers.”

Republicans may be embarrassed by Trump’s naked racism, incessant lies, manifest unfitness for any public office, and most recently his shockingly inhumane punishment of innocent children. At the same time, however, they appreciate that his daily outrages divert public attention from their decades-old war on ordinary Americans. And like a compliant child, he has meekly done their bidding in that war.

Cheered on by crypto fascists like Mitch McConnell, Paul Ryan, and Mike Pence, Trump has stacked the federal courts with rightwing judicial activists and

Finally, the bill repealed the Individual Mandate, thus causing insurance rates to spike and ensuring that 3 million Americans will be unable to afford health insurance next year (rising to 13 million by 2027). This in turn will result in tens of thousands of premature and unnecessary deaths.

The irony is that many of the whose lives are cut short will have voted for Trump in 2016. It’s one thing to vote against your economic interests, it’s another to vote against your very life. If you know any Trump supporters, explain that to them.

# Republicans Returning to the Trough

*David Kulick*

Republicans now want to change the way capital gains are taxed. Currently, you deduct the purchase price from the selling price and pay taxes on the profit. Actually, many people don't do that because they don't have enough money to have capital gains profits. This mostly affects the wealthy although middle class people selling stocks get a bit from this. House sales, where most people get some capital gains, have a large one time exemption and don't fall under this.

What Republicans want to do is change the calculation to include the impact of inflation on the purchase price of the stock or artwork or whatever is being sold. And that actually makes some sense, after all, I paid for that Picasso using 1980 dollars and I'm selling it in 2018 dollars. Shouldn't the purchase price be adjusted for the rate of inflation since 1980?

Yes, I could argue that it would be fair to do so. But, the 2018 Republican Tax Scam actually cut the capital gains taxes and now they want to change the basis on which those taxes are based? Of course they do, because the Republican Party only cares about rewarding the billionaires who keep them in power. They will get more donations by doing this.

Of course, cutting revenue means that someone else has to make it up, or programs that benefit regular people will get slashed.

I'm willing to bet that the inflation calculation they come up with will be much more generous than the one that increases Social Security payments.

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## HAD ENOUGH? VOTE DEMOCRATIC

HAD ENOUGH of the Republican war on working- and middle-class Americans?

HAD ENOUGH Republican lies about middle class tax cuts that are actually tax *increases*?

HAD ENOUGH Republican "tax reform" that loots working Americans to further fatten billionaires, multinational corporations, and the idle rich?

HAD ENOUGH multi-trillion-dollar deficits caused by tax cuts to the wealthy and paid for by shredding the safety net?

DEMOCRATS have stood with and for middle class and working class Americans for a century. Stand with us in the midterms.

# What Andrew Gillum's Victory Means for Florida...and the Democratic Party

*Misha Nadel*

I knew that Andrew Gillum was the right candidate for Governor of Florida immediately.

I had recently returned to the United States after 15 months of traveling abroad and settled in Florida with the specific aim of doing what I could to help put America on a better track after the disastrous 2016 election. I didn't know what I was going to do, but I did know the Governor's race was hugely important and I spent time reading through the platforms of the candidates.

Like many people, I was disgusted by the entire 2016 election cycle and thoroughly shocked when Donald Trump was elected president. Thankfully, being halfway across the world — I was hiking the Annapurna Circuit in Nepal at the time — allowed me to tune out for a while. When I did tune back in and started reading the post-mortems of what happened, it quickly became apparent to me that the Democratic Party had done it all wrong...and had been doing so for the better part of three decades.

It had become a pro-business, pro-trade, pro-globalization party that appealed to “coastal elites” — a group to which I firmly belonged — through pro-environmental and pro-social rights policies. While these are important policies to be in favor of and should remain a core part of the Democratic Party platform, to many Americans who are struggling to make ends meet, these are luxuries. The Democratic Party had forgotten about the people it claimed to represent, taken over by wealthy liberal donors whose interests are not necessarily aligned with those of the working- and middle-class.

Starting with Bill Clinton, the Democratic Party had decided the best way to win in America was to tack to the middle and appeal to moderate voters with a bland, centrist agenda. This worked for Bill Clinton because he was an exceptional politician. Barack Obama broke through this because he offered a vision of hope and forward progress, but he was also a unique politician of exceptional skill. In large parts

of the rest of the country, slowly turning “red” due to better ground work by the Republican Party, those bland, centrist Democrats were losing, and in huge numbers.

Reading through the platforms of the Florida Governor candidates and watching their introductory videos, it was clear to me that only Andrew Gillum represented the way forward for the Democratic Party in Florida. He had a rich and compelling backstory; a bright, forward-looking, progressive vision for Florida; was young, but with extensive public service experience; and was a dynamic speaker who connected with people. He also represented something fundamentally different than the white, centrist, failed candidates of the past: He was black.

That isn't just important because 29% of registered Democrats in Florida are black. Many of the voters who have historically not turned out to vote, particularly in midterm elections — younger voters, poorer voters, minority voters — are tired of being asked to vote for the same type of politician year after year, cycle after cycle; politicians they often feel don't represent their values or understand their issues. Andrew Gillum represented a fundamental break with the “politics as usual” of the Democratic Party in Florida and what we saw on August 28th — record turnout resulting in a huge “upset” victory — demonstrated the power of exciting the electorate.

The Democratic Party in Florida has much more to gain by bringing these new or previously disinterested voters into the fold than they do by losing some moderate voters who might decide to vote for Ron DeSantis or not vote at all. You will see huge numbers of new voters flocking to vote for a candidate that they believe can bring real change to Florida.

This will be a turning point for the Democratic Party in Florida.

## **“IF YOU DON’T VOTE, YOU DON’T COUNT”**

**“If you don’t vote, you don’t count”** was both the creed and the epitaph of Vernon Ferdinand Dahmer, Sr., president of the Hattiesburg, Mississippi, NAACP, who was murdered by the Ku Klux Klan on January 10, 1966.

Democrats outnumber Republicans both locally and nationally, but we lose elections we should be winning easily because Republicans turn out in greater numbers. This is especially true in midterm elections.

If you don’t vote, you dishonor the graves of the thousands who have died fighting for the franchise. Get registered if you’re not already, make sure your friends are registered, and get out and get them out to vote.

## **AND however you vote, be sure to “VOTE FOR 4”**

Amendment 4 will remove from the Florida Constitution a disgraceful provision, dating back to the Civil War, that automatically and permanently disenfranchises anyone convicted of a felony, even a non-violent crime. Florida is one of only four states imposing such a draconian penalty, and in no state are more people deprived of this most basic and precious of rights.

Amendment 4 will automatically reinstate voting rights to former felons after they served all terms of their sentence (with the exception of those convicted of murder or a felony sexual offense).

### **Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2018 Membership Application**

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 \_\_\_

Send newsletter by: E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. Mail \_\_\_\_\_

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

Payment: Individual \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Household \$30 \_\_\_\_\_ Donation \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Democratic Club of Delray Beach and mail to 15127 Jog Road, Suite 101, Delray Beach, FL 33446-1251. Thank you and Welcome to our Club.