

# The Delray Democrat

## As Governor, Nikki Fried Says She'll "Break the (Republicans') Rigged System"

*June Sandra Neal<sup>1</sup>*

Florida's Agriculture Commissioner Nikki Fried wants to be Florida's next governor and isn't afraid to take on Ron DeSantis, who she describes as an "authoritarian dictator." If elected, she'll end two decades of disastrous Republican rule. And she will make history as Florida's first woman governor.

With Congressman Charlie Crist already running, our state has two high-profile, bright, and exciting gubernatorial candidates. Both are committed to restoring democratic principles to Tallahassee, and there's never been a greater urgency. A Democratic win in the upcoming elections is life or death for American democracy as we know it.

After DeSantis signed his new voter suppression bills behind closed doors, and for Fox News only, Fried said he did it "...because the only way they've been able to win elections is through lies, misinformation, fraud, and now voter suppression." Fried called DeSantis' administration "borderline fascism." When DeSantis ordered state flags lowered to commemorate the death of Rush Limbaugh, Fried refused. "We will not celebrate hate speech, bigotry, and division."

Although Fried's the only Democrat elected statewide since 2012, Crist has better name recognition. Fried offers a broad knowledge of Florida's overarching issues. At the same time, her agency oversees Florida's second-largest industry, along with having jurisdiction over many of our everyday, kitchen table problems.

This includes food safety, landlord tenant laws, the licensing of concealed weapons and the registration of charities — you can find out how they spend your donations. This is the place to go with complaints about business scams and fraud.

She proudly displays her medical marijuana card and is fighting the Republicans' efforts to weaken the 2016 Constitutional Amendment that legalized its use. Their plan to limit the potency of the marijuana sold through licensed dispensaries is terrible "for patients that need it most."

The good news is we know both Fried and Crist will fight for democracy, something we haven't seen for a very long time.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Delray Democrat*, June 2021, p 6.

