

The Delray Democrat

“It Don’t Mean A Thing if We Don’t Win Tomorrow”¹

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It was the fourth game of the 2001 World Series. The Arizona Diamondbacks were ahead 3-1 in the ninth and led the series 2-1. The Yankees were down to their last out when Tino Martinez hit a two-run homer to send the game into extra innings. With two outs in the bottom of the tenth, Derek Jeter hit an opposite field home run to win the game and tie the series, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Interviewed immediately afterwards in the dugout, with a still-screaming crowd as backdrop, Jeter was asked what he was feeling. Dead-serious, he said, “It don’t mean a thing if we don’t win tomorrow.”

They did, and in dramatic fashion again, with Scott Brosius supplying the two-out home run to send the game into extra innings. It was well after 2 AM when the Yankees won in the bottom of the 12th.

As always, Jeter’s eyes were fixed on the prize, even if it ultimately eluded the Yankees when Arizona swept the final two games to win the 2001 Series.

We head into the midterms with our democracy in the same position as the Yankees after game 5. Electing Biden in November 2020 and Warnock and Ossoff in January 2021 kept the bastards at bay but it won’t mean a thing unless we hold the House and the Senate next year.

Of course the analogy goes only so far. We are dealing (once again) with saving our democracy and our planet, not winning a sporting event. And we are facing foes far more fearsome and malignant than Randy Johnson and Curt Schilling.

We need to do a better job of trumpeting the accomplishments of the Biden administration and reminding people of the chaos and destruction that ensues when Republicans reign. Here are some of the things we need to be telling people. If you’re reading this digitally, click on the links to see the sources.

Democrats Clean Up Republican Messes and Protect the Public

- Democrats have been cleaning up Republican messes since 1929 (from Hoover’s Great Depression through W’s Great Recession and Trump’s Second Great Depression).
- More jobs were created in the [First 100 Days](#) of the Biden administration than in any other administration since records began in 1939.

¹ *The Delray Democrat*, [September 2021](#), p. 1.

- In the 7 months after Biden’s inauguration, [4,454,000 jobs](#) were added (a monthly average of 742,333).
- Second quarter GDP grew at [annual rate of 6.5%](#), eclipsing its pre-pandemic high.
- At least 70% of American adults and 57% of Americans have received [at least one dose of vaccine](#). After resistance, the fear of Delta variant has caused vaccinations to [rise in Southern States](#).
- A record [31 million Americans](#) are now insured under the Affordable Care Act.
- Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act [saved 19,200 lives](#) in the four-year period 2014-17.

Republicans Crash the Economy and Sacrifice Their Own Voters

- Trump and DeSantis betrayed their constituents. The significantly lower vaccination rates among Republicans, coupled with the fact that the overwhelming majority of those in ICUs with the Delta variant, supports the thesis that their constituents have moved from voting against their economic interest to voting against their very lives.
- Trump presided over the loss of nearly [3 million jobs](#), the [worst record](#) since Herbert Hoover.
- At least [2.3 million Americans and 240,000 Floridians](#) lost health insurance during Trump’s first three years in office.
- Florida’s “[broken unemployment system](#),” developed under Rick Scott, caused hundreds of thousands of Floridians, many without savings, to suffer lengthy delays in receipt of benefits. Florida pays one of the lowest levels of benefits in the country, and Scott has been [accused by experts](#) of intentionally weakening the system to reduce taxes on employers.
- Although DeSantis complained that the unemployment system he inherited was “[designed to fail](#),” he betrayed Florida’s unemployed by withdrawing Florida from the supplemental unemployment insurance program enacted by Democrats this spring, [causing 116,304 Floridians](#) to lose out on the additional benefits and sacrificing over \$418 million in federal funding that would otherwise be spent on the local economy.
- Thanks to DeSantis, Florida is the coronavirus capital of the country. Florida recorded [more coronavirus deaths](#) than California, Texas, New York, and Illinois combined in the week ending July 23. Florida [set another record](#) for COVID-19 deaths in the week ending September 4. The 2,345 reported deaths was 36% higher than the previous week and was more deaths than any state has reported in the last 6 months.
- Republican governors including Scott, refused to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act (at virtually no cost to their states), [causing 15,000 unnecessary, premature deaths](#) between 2014 and 2017. The number of preventable deaths in Florida amounted to 2,776.