

The Delray Democrat

How The DeSantis Saved Democracy¹

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On the eighth day, God created a fighter and that fighter unwittingly saved democracy.

Only four years ago, 21.25 million people lived in Florida. Of those, 4,718,720 were registered to vote as Republicans. That year, DeSantis received 4,076,186 votes, narrowly beating his Democratic opponent.

Then came the pandemic and the governor's special brand of freedom. Freedom that not only rang throughout the land, but resonated with those red-hat-loving patriots everywhere. Like their forefathers before them who set out for the gold fields of the Yukon or fled the dust bowl of Oklahoma, they migrated. Only instead of pursuing riches or fleeing poverty, they came for the freedom.

More than 600 people a day moved to Florida seeking freedom from mandates and freedom from wokeness. Most of those who came were not the kind of folks that you can stop with a fortified southern border or put on a charter flight to the Vineyard. They came from elsewhere in the U.S. of A., many waving their flags and their guns, happy to be free of left-wing oppression.

Florida's population now stands at more than 22 million. That is an increase of about 750,000 new residents. Of those 22 million, the number of registered Republicans has grown to 5,259,406. That's an increase of nearly 541,000 registered Republicans in four years.

As we know, this year, DeSantis trounced his Democratic opponent, receiving 4,610,988 votes. That's 534,000 more than he got in 2018 and almost exactly the number of newly minted Florida freedom loving Republicans.

Clearly, Florida is no longer a purple battleground state with a chance of turning blue.

The good news, the news for which we should thank the governor, is that by syphoning off the MAGA-hatted from the cold weather and dangerous socialism of places like Pennsylvania and Michigan, he helped Democrats hold two governors' offices and flip a senate seat. The feared red wave broke against the sea wall of Democrats who did not succumb to the siren song of the sunshine state and voted to protect choice and real freedom and democracy.

¹ [The Delray Democrat](#), November 2022, page 1.

