

# The Delray Democrat

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## “You Must Remember This”

*Michael K. Cantwell*

That was the title of an article I wrote shortly after Donald Trump was elected the first time. Here's how it went:

In *Casablanca*, possibly the greatest Hollywood film ever made, there is a memorable exchange between Humphrey Bogart (as Rick Blaine, cynical owner of Rick's Café) and Paul Henreid (as Victor Laszlo, recent escapee from a German concentration camp and charismatic leader of the resistance to the Nazis):

Rick: Don't you sometimes wonder if it's worth all this? I mean what you're fighting for.

Laszlo: You might as well question why we breathe. If we stop breathing, we'll die. If we stop fighting our enemies, the world will die.

It's happened again, and this time we are far closer to fascism than we were in 2017. We're exhausted, having fought for Biden and having watched him do more with less than any president in this or the last century (see [Thank Joe Biden](#)), only to watch his presidency unravel under the onslaught of lies from the Republican disinformation machine and the cravenness of the So-Called Liberal Media.

And now, as Biden turns over the strongest economy since Bill Clinton turned over three annual surpluses to George W. Bush, it seems inevitable that Donald Trump will wreck it again, just as he did when Barack Obama bequeathed him the longest expansion since World War II.

In the earlier article I didn't quote the entire exchange. but it seems appropriate to do so now. Given the completeness of Trump's win and the enormity of the task before us, it is easy to dismiss Laszlo's stirring exhortation to arms and retreat into cynicism. But we would be fooling ourselves:

Rick: Well, what of it? It'll be out of its misery.

Laszlo: You know how you sound, Mr. Blaine? Like a man who's trying to convince himself of something he doesn't believe in his heart.

The movie [ends](#) with Rick handing over the papers that allow Laszlo and his wife to escape Nazi-occupied Morocco, shooting the Nazi colonel who attempts to stop him, and leaving Casablanca for the free French Garrison in the Brazzaville. Laszlo's final words to Rick are, "Welcome back to the fight. This time I'm sure our side will win."

A Hollywood ending, to be sure, but I can only keep believing that "the moral arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice." Vance will arrange for the mad president to be deposed within a year, the Republicans will overreach – as they always do – and the demagogue that was Trump will not be around in two years. And that's my Hollywood ending.

### Democratic Club of Delray Beach Officers and Directors

Michael Cantwell, President; Char Lane, Vice-President; Mary Fader, Secretary; David Kulick, Treasurer; Robert Averack, Parliamentarian; Peter Camacho, Charlie Holbrook, June Neal, Directors; and John Ramos, Director Emeritus.

## Short Cuts

Michael K. Cantwell

### He Who Must Not Be Named

We are in for a rough four years, but if we learned anything over the last four years, it is that attacking Trump personally only strengthens him.

We must resist the urge to demonize him, however malignant he may be. We must attack what he does and not what he is.

We must focus on the impact of his “policies” and appointments on our economy, our system of governance, our defense, and Americans in general.

Deporting millions of immigrants and implementing tariffs is sure to explode inflation.

Repealing Obamacare (and don’t think that Republicans won’t succeed this time) will make insurance unaffordable for millions of Americans

and allow insurance companies to deny insurance to people with preexisting conditions. Tens of thousands of Americans will die prematurely and needlessly.

Appointing a TV personality as Secretary of Defense will weaken our defenses and warm the cockles of autocrats around the world. Appointing a vaccine denier to head the Department of Health and Human Services will create a public health disaster.

Unproductive, unnecessary tax cuts to plutocrats will be funded by cutting or denying essential services to the needy and will explode the deficit in any case.

In short, he will overreach, as Republicans always do. If we work hard and avoid hominin attacks, 2026 will be a repeat of 2018.

### Perhaps the Worst Thing About Trump’s Win

Over the last three decades, Democratic presidents have cleaned up the messes left by their Republican predecessors but have failed to pass along a strong economy to the Democrat running to succeed them. As a consequence, the economy has gone three steps forward and five steps backwards since 1992.

Following the recession of 1991, Bill Clinton created over 23 million jobs in his two terms and handed off three straight annual surpluses to George W. Bush after Republicans effectively stole the 2000 election,

Bush doubled the deficit and his administration [fell asleep](#) at the wheel during the leadup to 9/11, condoned torture, conspired to spy on Americans, and let the banksters run wild. That last one resulted in the worst crash since The Great Depression.

With some 800,000 jobs spilling every month, Barack Obama easily defeated John McCain in 2008. *The Onion* celebrated with the following headline: “Worst Job in America Given to Black Man.”

By the time our first Black president departed office, he had added more than 11.5 jobs (net of 4 million lost in the first year due to Bush’s malfeasance) in the longest post WWII expansion. Trump brazenly labeled it “my beautiful economy” (Trump’s record in his first three years [trailed](#) Obama’s last three).

And when COVID hit, Trump’s colossal incompetence caused him to become the first president since Herbert Hoover to lose jobs on his watch.

Biden’s record on job creation is unrivaled in American history, but he was burdened with the inflation caused by Covid (on both the supply and demand sides) as well as Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and corporate greed.

Biden bore little responsibility for the “worst inflation in 40 years” headlines that the media (and not just Fox) delighted in publishing, according him virtually all of the blame. And he got virtually no credit for taming inflation in little over a year—and without causing the recession that all the pundits predicted would be needed.

By contrast, it took Ronald Reagan almost 7 years to bring inflation under 3%, with the attendant pain of raising unemployment from 5.9% to 10.8% during that period. See [Deconstructing the Inflation Bogeyman](#).

Now, instead of Kamala Harris getting to inherit and build on the strong economy that Biden will leave, Trump will claim credit for it before he destroys it. And we will be back to cleaning up another mess in 2028. Three steps forward and five back again.

## Cleaning Up Republican Messes

	Clinton	Bush	Obama	Trump	Biden
Jobs (millions) <sup>a</sup>	22.9	1.4	11.6	-2.7	16.1
Unemployment (change) <sup>b</sup>	-3.1%	+3.6%	-3.1%	+1.7%	-2.3%
Inflation (annualized) <sup>c</sup>	2.6%	2.3%	1.7%	1.8%	5.0%
Wages All (annualized) <sup>d</sup>			2.1%	3.5%	4.5%
Wages Low-Paid (annualized) <sup>e</sup>	3.4%	3.1%	2.1%	3.6%	5.2%

- Calculated from Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) [Employment, Hours, and Earnings](#)
- Calculated from BLS [Unemployment Rate](#)
- Calculated from BLS [Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers \(CPI-U\)](#)
- Calculated from BLS [Average hourly earnings of all employees](#)
- Calculated from BLS [Average hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees](#)

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### What We're Reading

Ben Rhodes, [I Study Guys Like Trump. There's a Reason They Keep Winning](#), *The New York Times*: “Donald Trump has won the presidency, but I don’t believe he will deliver on his promises. Like other self-interested autocrats, his remedies are designed to exploit problems instead of solving them, and he’s surrounded by oligarchs who want to loot the system instead of reforming it. Mass deportation and tariffs are recipes for inflation. Tax cuts and deregulation will exacerbate inequality. America First impulses will fuel global conflict, technological disruption and climate conflagration. Mr. Trump is the new establishment in this country and globally, and we should emphasize that instead of painting him as an outlier or interloper.”

Reid J. Epstein and Lisa Lerer, [Democrats Draw Up an Entirely New Anti-Trump Battle Plan](#), *The New York Times*: “States in our system have a lot of power — we’re entrusted with protecting people, and we’re going to do it,” said Keith Ellison, the attorney general of Minnesota, who said his office had been preparing for Mr. Trump’s potential return to power for more than a year. “They can expect that we’re going to show up every single time when they try to run over the American people.”

Sydney Bauer, [Trans People Shouldn't Be Scapegoated for Democrats' Failures](#), *The Nation*: But as election results continue to trickle in, it has also become clear that the governing majority needed to achieve these goals may not be as robust as it was projected on election night. Trump failed to win 50 percent of the popular vote, and the GOP’s House and Senate majorities are both razor-thin.

Yet instead of thinking about how this unexpectedly small mandate on how this could be used for their advantage, a subset of Democrats have decided to spend their time saying that the true reason for the 2024 election loss lies with some of their coalition’s most vulnerable members: transgender Americans and the allies that seek to protect their civil rights.”

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

# 2024 Membership

*Char Lane*

The most consequential General Election of our lifetimes is over. Many results were not what we worked for, but we are resilient and will have to work exceptionally hard to help keep our democracy intact. Thank you to all of you who canvassed, made calls, addressed post cards, waved signs, donated, and worked the polls as Election Workers, Poll Watchers, and Poll Greeters. As a testament to the hard work, Democrats Harris-Walz, Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Alexcia Cox, Dan Eisenberg, Lois Frankel, Joe Casello, Joe Abruzzo, Debra Tendrich, Ric Bradshaw, and Wendy Sartory Link all won in Palm Beach County. So did County Commissioners, along with Amendments #3 and #4.

It's DCDB 2025 membership renewal time. 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 and held at the PBC DEC Office at 220 Congress Park Drive. Meeting notices are sent out in the weeks prior to meetings and include Zoom links to register for and/or join the hybrid meetings and links to our various websites.

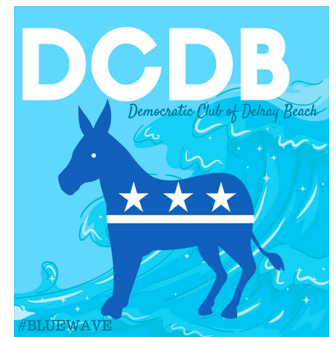
Our goal is to educate people as to the importance of voting, why they should vote Democratic and why they should use Vote-by-Mail as a critical tool in support of this goal. **Please remember to reenroll in the Vote-by-Mail Program for 2025-2026 online at [votepalmbeach.gov](http://votepalmbeach.gov) and selecting the Vote-by-Mail tab or calling 561.656.6208 or visiting any of the SoE offices.**

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. The 2026 Mid-term Elections are less than two years away and we have so much work to do.

If you're a Club member, please renew your membership for 2025. To become a member of the DCDB: complete and mail the Membership application or click on the QR code below. You can also give me your membership application/renewal at our meetings.



## Democratic Club of Delray Beach 2025 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.