

# The Delray Democrat

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## Weaponizing Government

Michael K. Cantwell

“He was always telling me that we need to use the F.B.I. and I.R.S. to go after people — it was constant and obsessive and is just what he’s claiming is being done to him now.”

Former chief of staff John F. Kelly

The claim that Biden’s Department of Justice is targeting Donald Trump and other Republicans is not just ludicrous. It stands truth on its head.

While president, Donald Trump used – or attempted to use – the powers of his office against those who had incurred his wrath, including Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, John Kerry, James Comey, Andrew McCabe, Adam Schiff, and Eric Swalwell. Sometimes he succeeded, sometimes he was dissuaded by his appointees, and sometimes a merit-based, non-partisan civil service interfered with his efforts.

If elected in November, he has promised to use his powers to punish anyone he deems an “enemy” and to reclassify, fire, and replace tens of thousands of non-partisan civil servants with apparatchiks who will blindly do his bidding.

That’s more than weaponizing government. That’s full-bore fascism.

Prosecuting crime is an essential governmental function. Unless it is applied selectively or in the absence of any evidence of wrongdoing, it’s the way government protects the populace from predators.

No one possessed of the facts and capable of reason can argue Trump was singled out or that the charges lacked merit.

President Biden’s Department of Justice (“DOJ”) has prosecuted numerous Democrats, including his own son, Hunter Biden, Senator Robert Menendez, New York City Mayor Eric Adams, Former Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, Representative Henry Cuellar, and Former Representative Terrance John ‘TJ’ Cox, to name just a few.

And after Biden announced that classified documents had been found in his garage, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed a Republican to investigate.

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## Dr. Sandra Elaisen-Cantwell

October 10, 1938 — October 17, 2024

Michael K. Cantwell

My beloved Sandy passed peacefully from this life after fighting ovarian cancer for more than 7 years. She was a radiant soul and she left without fear or doubt. She was, and will always remain, the love of my life.

We met in 1977 in a Shakespeare class while getting our Masters in English. Sandy later completed her Ph.D. in English with a specialty in Henry James. Her thesis was titled *The Death of Childhood: An Inquiry Into Henry James’s Vision of Children*.



Sandy was the secretary of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach and a frequent contributor to *The Delray Democrat*. Here are links to some of her articles:

- [When FDR Led a United States](#)
- [Universal Health Care and Race](#)
- [Corporate Welfare](#)
- [A Slippery Slope](#)
- [The Devil’s Enterprise](#)
- [The Survival of Democracy](#)

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And there is ample evidence to support the two federal indictments of Trump.

As to the indictments brought under New York and Georgia law, a New York jury found the evidence sufficient to convict Trump of 34 felonies. Trump's involvement in the "fake electors" scheme in Georgia alone is sufficient evidence to support an indictment, even without his threats on a recorded line that the Georgia secretary of state would face criminal consequences if he didn't "find" Trump enough votes to win the state.

### The Classified Documents Case

Had Trump transferred the documents he and his staff created to the National Archives, as required by law and as requested by the Archives, he would not have been prosecuted. His behavior almost suggests

Trump's administration did not lack for scoundrels willing to help subvert an election, but some members put country before party, blocking an attempt to install Jeffrey Clark as Attorney General. Unlike Barr and his replacement, Acting Attorney General Jeffrey Rosen, Clark offered to open an investigation into alleged voter fraud in Georgia and told Rosen that Trump intended to appoint him .

The leadership of the Justice Department threatened to resign en masse if Trump appointed Clark, and he pulled back. For his efforts to help Trump, Clark was later indicted in Georgia for racketeering in connection with the "fake electors" scheme. In October 2023, a panel of the D.C. bar recommended his law license be suspended for two years.

And then Mike Pence refused to go ahead with Trump's request to reject the electors from the battleground states and throw the election to the House.

*The Times characterized the conversation as "one of the most blatant examples yet of how Mr. Trump views the typically independent Justice Department as a tool to be wielded against his political enemies."*

he *wanted* to be indicted, and it's clear that he rode his phony victimization straight to the Republican nomination.

As set forth in more detail on [page 14](#), Trump ignored repeated requests from the Archives, and it took 18 months, a grand jury subpoena, and a search warrant before the Archives received more than 300 classified documents, over 100 of which were marked "secret" and another 47 marked "top secret."

### The January 6 Insurrection

Trump knew that he lost the 2020 election, and so he attempted to steal it, first by filing frivolous lawsuits claiming that there was fraud and then by pressuring his Justice Department to state that it has found evidence of fraud.

That was a bridge too far for the otherwise odious Attorney General, Bill Barr, who announced his resignation as Trump's Attorney General on the day the Electoral College certified Biden's victory. Barr later stated that Trump knew he lost and called his attempts to overthrow the election "nauseating" and "despicable."

All that was left to Trump was a violent putsch, so he summoned a mob to Washington: "Be there. will be wild," he [tweeted](#). He reportedly delighted in the violence, something that should not surprise anyone.

On the day of the attempted insurrection, Trump was told that many of those who answered his call were being denied access to the area where he would be speaking because they were carrying weapons. Furious, he [directed](#) an aide to let them through the metal detectors: "I don't effing care that they have weapons, they're not here to hurt me."

He endangered the life of his Vice President, telling the crowd, "Mike Pence didn't have the courage to do what should have been done." Knowing they were armed, he directed a mob to march on the Capitol, warning them, "if you don't fight like hell, you're not going to have a country anymore."

The mob ran wild through the halls of Congress for more than 3 hours, hunting for a vice-president to hang and members of Congress to maim. According to testimony at the January 6 hearing, Trump not only refused to call off his mad dogs but was reportedly enjoying the violence and mayhem.

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# Florida Can't Afford to Lose Debbie Mucarsel-Powell

June Sandra Neal

What's at stake for Florida in the upcoming election? Everything. From soaring insurance costs that force people to leave the state, to unchecked climate change. From an austere abortion ban that puts women's lives at risk to threats to Medicare and Social Security. The Republicans have brought us to a precipice where our very quality of life hangs in the balance.

The Democratic Senate candidate, former Congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, is closing in on victory over current Senator Rick Scott. We can't afford to lose her; she's the most outstanding contender for any Florida office we've seen in years. "Democrats have fielded a top-notch candidate in former congresswoman Debbie Mucarsel-Powell," said [The Washington Post](#).

## Insurance rates and the high cost of living

We need her help right now with the prohibitive cost of living in Florida, especially with property insurance making the state unlivable for [thousands of residents](#). Many homeowners may soon open letters from their insurers announcing a hefty increase in the cost of their premiums, following hurricanes Helene and Milton, or informing them the companies are dropping their policies. Mucarsel-Powell promises that, as Florida's next junior Senator, she will make this issue a "[top priority](#)."

The reasons for the insurance crisis are a mix of Florida's high propensity for natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods, and tornadoes as well as excessive litigation. Soaring premiums have caused many Florida homeowners to drop their policies, leaving them vulnerable to financial ruin.

Unlike her Republican opponent, junior Senator Rick Scott, Mucarsel-Powell understands the nexus between climate change and high insurance costs. Warming oceans, rising sea levels, and more powerful storms also threaten our agriculture and tourism industries.

Most consumers are squeezed. Many homeowners' associations and mortgage companies require proof of adequate property insurance. At the same time, many insurers have stopped writing policies in Florida. The problem has reached critical mass.

Once elected, Mucarsel-Powell plans to sponsor a counterpart to a House bill, [the Natural Disaster Risk Reinsurance Program Act of 2023](#), that she says would reduce the cost of property insurance for Floridians by 25%. "It basically means we would have a federal program that would back insurance companies so they can have funding available to insure customers and not

put those costs on the consumers themselves. This is going to affect not only the rent and property insurance market, but it's going to start affecting our mortgage lending, and it's a critical issue that we need to [deal with immediately](#)."

Here's how it would work. Insurance companies protect themselves against huge claims by buying what's called "reinsurance" and they pass the cost onto their customers. [Newsweek](#) reported that, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research, "Florida has the highest rate of reinsurance exposure in the country, at 40 percent, while most of the country reports rates between 10 and 20 percent."

Mucarsel-Powell's bill would help consumers by having the federal government issue "post-event" bonds to the insurers to help with the costs of claims, instead of passing them to homeowners.

## Reduce living costs through energy savings and combatting climate change

**Unbelievably, Rick Scott claims he doesn't know what causes climate change.** In an interview with [CNN's Dana Bash](#) concerning the damage from Hurricane Helene and increasing storm surges, Scott said "who knows what the reason is, but something

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### November 21 Meeting

**Thank Carey Haughwout,**  
Palm Beach County's Public  
Defender, Retiring After 20  
Years of Exemplary Service

**Welcome Daniel Eisinger,**  
our newly elected Public  
Defender, who will carry on  
her legacy

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is changing.” Who knows? The scientists do. And so does Mucarsel-Powell, whose voting history in Congress proved her commitment to help. As Congresswoman, she worked diligently to fight climate change and to lower energy costs.

She voted for [clean energy tax incentives](#) for electric vehicles and charging stations. She sponsored [the WISE Act](#) that required [using a percentage](#) of the federal Clean Water State Revolving Fund to aid green infrastructures. She signed onto the [Climate Action Now Act](#) to urge America’s participation in “international climate change mitigation efforts.”

Mucarsel-Powell supports a Senate counterpart to the House [REBATE Act](#), that provides local governments with federal grants for high-efficiency electric home programs.

This bill was made necessary because Governor Ron DeSantis decided Florida wouldn’t participate in President Biden’s plan to ease energy cost burdens. [Forbes](#) put it bluntly, “Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis rejected more than \$350 million in funding for energy efficiency initiatives as part of the Inflation Reduction Act, including money reserved for low-income households—a rebuke to President Biden’s economic agenda on which some Democrats have seized, as the state battles a hurricane, and many Floridians could be burdened with crippling expenses to rebuild or weatherize their homes.” And this was before hurricanes Helen and Milton.

If the REBATE Act becomes law, Floridians can receive tax incentives by upgrading to energy-efficient appliances and other forms of clean energy.

Mucarsel-Powell will also work to expand access to solar power. Her website notes, “Extreme heat continues to drive up electricity bills, but Florida has only tapped about 2% of its rooftop solar potential. Debbie will push to expand solar panel power in Florida and lower the cost of Floridians’ electricity bills.”

**Mucarsel-Powell has taken the [No Fossil Fuel Money Pledge](#) promising she will not accept campaign contributions from fossil fuel donors. Rick Scott has not.**

Climate change is an existential threat to life as we know it; the planet can’t sustain our continued assaults. Mucarsel-Powell recognizes that the earth is in the balance, in contrast to her opponent. She says

she’s “Unlike Rick Scott who banned the use of the term ‘climate change’ as Governor and dismisses it as ‘nuisance flooding.’”

**Abortion rights.** Mucarsel-Powell firmly believes abortion is a decision to be made by women and their doctors, not the government. She’s fierce in her determination to protect this right. With Amendment 4 on the ballot this November, Florida women have an opportunity to regain the reproductive rights they lost when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, but Mucarsel-Powell warns that even if the question gets the required 60% voter approval, Rick Scott is a threat.

In an interview on [MSNBC](#), she emphasized “Living in a state with such an extreme ban on abortion we know that there’s a higher rate of violence against women when these abortion bans go into effect ... and higher rates of maternal mortality. Pregnancy is a very critical piece of a [sic] healthcare for a woman ... and many women have to face very complicated pregnancies. We have this opportunity to vote for Amendment 4...to enshrine it into the state constitution. But it’s not going to mean anything if Rick Scott ... gets re-elected and then pushes for a national abortion ban.”

### **Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.**

As a congresswoman, Mucarsel-Powell wrote [HR 986: Protecting Americans with Preexisting Conditions Act of 2019](#), the bill that turned back Donald Trump’s policy that allowed states to reverse some of the consumer protections of the Affordable Care Act. In an [interview with AARP](#), she emphasized that she will fight to maintain Medicare. “Not only do we need to protect it, but . . . we need to expand the coverage we currently have . . . We need to figure out . . . [how to include basic] dental and optical [in Medicare].”

And she wants more help for caregivers. “This really hits home for me,” she continued. “My mother lives with me, so I’ve personally seen the burden and really the responsibility [of caregiving].... One of the things we can do is provide tax incentives to families that have to take care of an elderly parent.... We also need to provide better services and expand Medicaid . . . So if the senior needs someone to come to their home to help them ... they should be able to receive that.”

With Rick Scott’s proposal to sunset federal programs, which include Social Security, Mucarsel-

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Powell said, “I’ve had multiple conversations with people living in the state of Florida that asked me specifically to not raise the age [for full Social Security benefits].... What we cannot do is reduce the benefit, eliminate the benefit or privatize the benefit.”

Prescription drug costs are the bane of both the uninsured and underinsured. “I support legislation like the Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act, which expands the Inflation

Reduction Act’s drug price negotiation program to all Americans . . . and increases the annual number of prescription drugs selected for negotiation.”

Mucarsel-Powell is proud that she may be the first Latina Senator from Florida, but she’s committed to representing Floridians of every background. It is her experience as an immigrant that has made her sensitive to the concerns of all people. The issues are urgent, their stewardship profoundly consequential. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell is the only choice.

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## Sharon Fradkin

*Steve Fradkin*

After 58 years of marriage, my wife, longtime activist and DCDB member Sharon Fradkin, passed away peacefully on October 11 at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, following complications from a chronic illness.

Sharon touched so many lives in her too-brief lifetime...

- founding a Stoughton (MA) chapter of the League of Women Voters (and her work with the Palm Beach County LWV)
- as vice president of the advertising agency she and husband, Steve, owned
- as chair of a major regional chamber of commerce
- fundraising over \$250,000 for the local library
- supporting kids’ musical education via Parents of Performing Students
- establishing the town’s Farmers Market
- hosting a TV cooking show

- serving with Steve as national co-chair of Jewish Marriage Encounter
- and her absolute favorite roles as wife, mom and grandma.

Congressman Bill Keating (D-MA) recalled “the indelible mark she made...she was a...vital figure in local and state political campaigns.”

Former DNC Chair and Massachusetts State Treasurer Steve Grossman called and praised Sharon’s many contributions to society.

Reproductive rights activist Bill Baird wrote that “she gave new meaning to love and caring.”

And U.S. Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) cited her “lifelong dedication to making the world a better place and improving the lives around her,” and presented the family with a flag flown over the Capitol.

She will be missed.

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

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When told that Pence was being hustled to safety, Trump said, “[So what](#)”?

Notwithstanding the Supreme Court’s attempt to hand Trump a get-out-of-jail card by immunizing “official acts,” even this Court—a serious contender for the most reviled in United States history—would be hard pressed to call inciting a mob to commit mayhem an “official act.”

Nor would it be protected by the First Amendment. In *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969), the Supreme Court held that “mere advocacy” of violence falls within

the deputy was approached by a high-ranking official in Trump’s DOJ. He was pressed to file charges against Gregory B. Craig, former counsel to Barack Obama, “before the 2018 midterms,” then only 2 months away. The deputy was told: “**It’s time for you guys to even things out.**”

Berman refused and the case ended up being shopped to the U.S. Attorney in Washington, where Craig was indicted but later found innocent by a jury that deliberated for less than 5 hours. One of Craig’s lawyers complained that his client had been “*hounded . . . without any evidence and without any purpose.*” That’s a good definition of “weaponizing government,” one of the few things Trump does well.

*“Certainly the former president is in the far-right area, he’s certainly an authoritarian, admires people who are dictators – he has said that. So he certainly falls into the general definition of fascist, for sure.”*

the rubric of the First Amendment, but that “incitement to imminent lawless action that is likely to result in such action” does not. The lawlessness he incited was not merely “likely” but in fact occurred.

### **Trump Weaponized and Tried to Weaponize Government When He Was President**

Not only has Trump told us that, if elected, he will use government to punish his enemies, but he *did* or *tried to* do exactly that when he was president.

At the beginning of his term, Trump appointed Republican attorney Geoffrey Berman as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. Here’s how Berman [summarized](#) his tenure:

Trump’s Justice Department kept demanding that I use my office to aid them politically, and I kept declining — in ways just tactful enough to keep me from being fired.

Eventually Berman’s luck ran out, and he was fired by Bill Barr, perhaps the worst Attorney General since John Mitchell shilled for Richard Nixon. Here are some highlights from a [book](#) Berman published after he rejected Barr’s invitation to resign and was fired. By forcing Barr to fire him, Berman ensured that his deputy would succeed him, blocking Barr from appointing his replacement.

After Berman’s office investigated several Trump allies and secured a guilty plea from Michael Cohen,

The Trump DOJ also tried to force Berman to indict John Kerry, the former Secretary of State and principal architect of the six-nation Iran nuclear agreement that Trump later blew up. Trump was peeved about reports Kerry had engaged in conversations with Iranian and other officials and tweeted, “Big violation of Logan Act?”

Given Trump’s monumental ignorance, it’s likely someone had told him about the Logan Act without adding, as [The Times](#) did, that it was “a rarely invoked 1799 statute barring private citizens from unauthorized negotiations with foreign governments, which has been criticized as unconstitutionally vague.” If Joe Biden wanted to weaponize government, he could have ordered his DOJ to charge Trump for having seven phone conversations with Putin after leaving office.

White House Counsel Donald McGahn advised Trump against proceeding and had White House lawyers prepare a memo advising Trump of the consequences were he to order to Justice Department to proceed. In a Project 2025 dystopia, there will be no one to rein him in.

### **Weaponization on Steroids: People Get Ready**

Courtesy of [Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington \(CREW\)](#), here are some of the people Trump has already threatened to jail if he is elected to another term:

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President Biden tops the list. “Trump has threatened him with FBI raids, investigations, indictments and even jail time.” On three occasions, Trump vowed to prosecute President Obama for “capital murder” in connection with two American civilian casualties during a drone strike..

Then there are those he deems responsible for his legal woes: Alvin Bragg should be “[put in jail](#),” and Letitia James and Arthur Engoron should be “[PLACED UNDER CITIZENS ARREST](#).” Trump reposted a tweet suggesting that Jack Smith, Fani Willis, Alvin Bragg, Merrick Garland, and Joe Biden be charged with [conspiracy and racketeering](#) for their involvement in Trump’s indictments.

Trump’s claims that the 2020 election was stolen were rejected by more than 60 courts, but if he wins this election, anyone this pathological liar deems to have “cheated” will face prosecution:

WHEN I WIN, those people that CHEATED will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the Law, which will include long term prison sentences” Please beware that this legal exposure extends to Lawyers, Political Operatives, Donors, Illegal Voters, & Corrupt Election Officials.”

Trump has also [threatened](#) to jail Mark Zuckerberg in connection with the 2024 election:

“We are watching him closely, and if he does anything illegal this time he will spend the rest of his life in prison.”

Think Zuckerberg isn’t intimidated? *The Times* recently reported that [Mark Zuckerberg Is Done With Politics](#). Actually it’s even worse than that. *Mother Jones* [reported](#) that the weaselly billionaire:

Twice talked to Donald Trump by phone this summer, while his new Republican political attaché has sought to reassure the ex-president that Zuckerberg has no plans to spend money shoring up election infrastructure this year. It does not really get more political than a pleasant phone call with a man who tried a coup.

And just this week, craven fellow billionaires Jeff Bezos and Patrick Soon-Shiong ordered their respective papers—*The Washington Post* and *The Los Angeles Times*—not to publish the endorsement of Kamala Harris the editors had already prepared.

Marty Baron, the former editor of *The Washington Post*, [tweeted](#):

This is cowardice, with democracy as its casualty. @realdonaldtrump will see this as an invitation to further intimidate owner @jeffbezos (and others). Disturbing spinelessness at an institution famed for courage.

This kind of cowardice is what allowed Hitler to solidify control at a time when he could have been stopped easily.

I’ll close where I began, quoting from former Chief of Staff John Kelly’s [interview](#) with *The New York Times*.

By contrast with the foregoing craven billionaires, it was brave to apply the f-word to Trump, but Kelly was very careful about how he arrived at that conclusion. He began by defining “fascism”:

It’s a far-right authoritarian, ultranationalist political ideology and movement characterized by a dictatorial leader, centralized autocracy, militarism, forcible suppression of opposition, belief in a natural social hierarchy.”

Then—almost as if the choice between a Republic and a fascist state were simply a matter of taste, like whether one prefers Pepsi to Coke — he noted that fascism encompasses “the kinds of things that [Trump] thinks would work better in terms of running America.”

Summing up, he concluded, “certainly the former president is in the far-right area, he’s certainly an authoritarian, admires people who are dictators — he has said that. So he certainly falls into the general definition of fascist, for sure.”

But what best defines Trump—and why he is the greatest internal threat we have faced — is Kelly’s further observation that Trump “never accepted the fact that he wasn’t the most powerful man in the world — and by power, I mean an ability to do anything he wanted, anytime he wanted.”

That’s not Hitler’s theory of government—it’s Caligula’s.

## Plutocrats Accuse Democrats of Waging the Class Warfare They Have Been Waging and We Have Been Losing for a Half-Century. It's Time to Fight Back

*Michael K. Cantwell*

During the Post–World War II era, the American middle class was the envy of the world. CEOs earned 20 times as much as the average worker, a far cry from today, when they earn 351 times as much.

Fully 35% of the workforce belonged to unions, and unions kept wages fair – not only for their members but for non-union workers at companies that wanted to avoid being unionized.

Wages began stagnating in the 1970s as workers were denied a fair share of productivity gains. Between 1979 and 2020, workers’ wages grew by 17.5% while productivity grew over three times as fast at 61.8%.

This was not an accident. It was the beginning of the class war launched by business and abetted by policymakers:

Excess unemployment was tolerated to keep any chance of inflation in check. Raises in the federal minimum wage became smaller and rarer. Labor law failed to keep pace with growing employer hostility toward unions. Tax rates on top incomes were lowered. And anti-worker deregulatory pushes—from the deregulation of the trucking and airline industries to the retreat of anti-trust policy to the dismantling of financial regulations and more—succeeded again and again.

In 2018, the Rand Corporation published a research paper that estimated that **\$47 trillion had been transferred from the bottom 90% to the top 10% of Americans between 1975 and 2018.**

For example, had wages for the bottom 90% kept pace with economic growth (i.e., had productivity gains been shared equally), the adjusted income for workers at the 25% percentile would have risen from \$28,000 per year in 1975 to \$61,000 per year in 2018. Instead, it rose only to \$33,000, a loss of \$56,000 in 2018 alone.

In contrast, the income for workers in the top 1% rose from \$289,000 in 1975 to \$1,384,000 in 2018. Had their income risen in synch with economic growth, it would have risen to only \$630,000, a gain of \$754,000 in 2018 alone.

Here’s another way of documenting the same money-grab over a roughly comparable period. In 2000, then–*New York Times* reporter David Cay Johnston wrote [Perfectly Legal: The Covert Campaign to Rig Our Tax System to Benefit the Super Rich--and Cheat Everybody Else.](#)

It’s a book that should be on everyone’s bookshelf. It included a chart that broke down the income gains between 1970 and 2000, and subsequently he sent me an update extending the data to 2017 Note that the higher a taxpayer ranked in the top 10%, the more his or her slice of the economic pie grew:

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Increase in Share of Reported Income by Percentile							
	Bottom 90%	90 to 95	95 to 99	99 to 99.5	99.5 to 99.9	99.9 to 99.99	Top 0.01%
<b>1970</b>	67.10%	11.10%	12.70%	2.80%	3.50%	1.80%	1.00%
<b>2017</b>	52.44%	12.53%	16.97%	4.20%	6.19%	4.43%	3.24%
<b>Change from 1970 to 2000</b>	<b>-22.5%</b>	0.40%	19.50%	47.00%	90.0%	227.0%	412.0%
<b>Change from 1970 to 2017</b>	<b>-21.85%</b>	12.88%	33.62%	50.00%	76.86%	146.11%	224.00%



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Another way of looking at how the plutocrats are leaping ahead of even obscenely wealthy wannabees is to compare the increase in average annual income between 2001 and 2021 in the **one-thousandth, top one-hundredth, and top tenth of a percent.**

Contributions to U.S. Treasury if 30% Buffet Rate Applied				
Percentile	Total Income (million \$)	Total Tax Paid (million \$)	Total Tax if 30% Buffet Rate Applied (million \$)	Total Contribution to Treasury if Taxed at 30% Buffet Rate (\$)
Top 0.001%	\$3,961,509	\$856,437	\$1,188,453	\$332,015,904,800
Top 0.01%	\$8,225,204	\$2,168,633	\$2,780,473	\$611,840,526,500
Top 0.1%	\$17,336,491	\$4,882,579	\$5,832,677	\$950,097,327,500
Top 1%	\$35,349,315	\$9,870,213	\$11,766,513	\$1,896,300,206,700

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## Trump in Pinstripes

*Michael K. Cantwell*

In the [aftermath](#) of the Savings & Loan crisis of the 1980s, George H.W. Bush's Department of Justice indicted 1,188 people for fraud, of whom 902 were convicted and 582 sent to prison. Among those charged were 137 CEOs, board chairmen, and presidents of savings and loan institutions, and 102 were convicted. .

That wasn't weaponizing government, it was prosecuting criminals.

Barack Obama took a different approach after the George W. Bush administration launched a multitrillion-dollar war based on lies, committed and condoned torture, and looked the other way as banksters created the worst economic disaster since the Great Depression.

Instead, Obama [said](#), "We need to look forward as opposed to looking back." Now it's hard to fault a man who was about to be subjected to eight years of vitriol, racist taunts, and monolithic malevolence from a Republican Party determined (but unable) to make him a one-term president.

Had Obama called for an accounting of the lies and crimes that constituted the "War on Terror," he might well have suffered the same fate as John F. Kennedy when he stood up to the CIA.

As a consequence, no one ended up in the dock at the International Court of Justice in The Hague for crimes against humanity. And no one went to jail for fraud during the subprime mortgage collapse that caused 4 million people to lose their jobs and 10 million more to lose their homes.

Donald Trump once bragged, "I could stand in the middle of 5th Avenue and shoot somebody and I wouldn't lose voters," which suggests that Hillary Clinton grossly underestimated the percentage of "deplorables" among his supporters.

He will need every one of them now. If he loses the election he will be convicted and most likely become the first U.S. president to be jailed. Not even the Supreme Court can save him.

And that is a consummation devoutly to be wished.

## Letters By Our Members

Once again, Gov. DeSantis rules like a dictator, using his powers arbitrarily to silence the voice of the people. This time, women's lives are at stake.

How do we know what his "petition police" found? Their decisions concerning matching petition signatures were completely subjective. Many people don't take the time to sign their names as carefully on a petition or restaurant check, etc., as they would for something more formal, such as a legal document. And how do we know that those signatures that were confirmed by the signees weren't discounted anyway?

DeSantis had language printed on the November ballots to discourage people from supporting Amendment 4. His cronies have filed lawsuits against television stations for running perfectly legitimate ads supporting the proposal. How close are we to a police state?

Even if the amendment passes, he will attempt to negate the law, just as he did for the earlier Amendment 4 that gave returning citizens the right to vote. Remember how he concocted a requirement for all sorts of fines and fees as a contingency to restoration of voting rights?

From whitewashing the school curriculum to suppressing voting rights to denying women life-saving medical procedures, DeSantis has perverted his constitutional duties as governor.

*June S. Neal, Orlando Sentinel, October 18, 2024*

We are so lucky that climate change is just a "Chinese hoax." Imagine how bad things would be if the science were real and we could believe our lying eyes.

As Milton brought a second blow to Florida's west coast, it's of course clear that the science is real and our eyes are clear.

Our planet is in an existential crisis, and politicians like Donald Trump, Rick Scott and Ron DeSantis will "live in infamy."

As governor, Scott ordered the state Department of Environmental Protection not to use the terms "climate change" or "global warming" in any communications. As governor, DeSantis signed legislation that erased most references to "climate change" in state law.

They can strut around and pretend they are protecting us when hurricanes hit, and homes are destroyed and lives are lost. But they are nothing more than five-year-old children sticking their thumbs in their ears, wiggling their fingers, closing their eyes, and yelling "la-la-la-la-la."

*Michael K. Cantwell, Sun-Sentinel, October 15, 2024*

### Worth Reading

Uri Avnery, [How Many Divisions?](#) "War – every war – is the realm of lies. Whether called propaganda or psychological warfare, everybody accepts that it is right to lie for one's country. Anyone who speaks the truth runs the risk of being branded a traitor. The trouble is that propaganda is most convincing for the propagandist himself. And after you convince yourself that a lie is the truth and falsification reality, you can no longer make rational decisions."

Tatyana Tandanpolie, ["Expert: Analysis shows Trump tax plan 'taking money' from bottom 95% and 'giving it' to richest 5%,"](#) *Salon*, "This is an enormously redistributive tax plan from low- and middle-income families to the wealthiest Americans. It's basically taking money from 19 out of 20 Americans and giving it to that last 20th . . . Because this whole thing brings in less revenue, that's gonna mean spending cuts down the line to programs people rely on like Medicaid and Social Security.

Amy B Wang and Azi Paybarah, [Trump granted clemency to Medicare fraudsters before vowing to cut entitlement program abuse,](#) *Washington Post*: "In his last year in office, Trump commuted the sentences of at least five people who collectively filed nearly \$1.6 billion in fraudulent claims . . ."

# Rick Scott Is Dangerous to Your Health

*June Sandra Neal*

"Having Scott lead the charge against health care reform is like tapping Bernie Madoff to campaign against tighter securities regulation." [Health Care Enemy No. 1](#), *The Nation*

**Rick Scott is dangerous to your health.** He's an elitist multi-millionaire, out of touch with everyday Americans and determined to abolish government-sponsored health care, leaving millions of people vulnerable to suffering and financial catastrophe.

From opposition to abortion rights and federal support for IVF to threats to Medicare and Medicaid, Florida's doctrinaire former governor and current junior senator has consistently voted against our best interests. As governor, he denied Floridians millions in federal health care dollars, ironically after he made his personal fortune running a fraudulent, private hospital company. What makes him so despicable is that he doesn't legislate from core values; when he encounters political blowback, he claims that what he said isn't what he said.

## He's a threat to Medicare, Medicaid and The Affordable Care Act

On February 22, 2022, Scott announced his 12-point Plan to Rescue America, a proposal to "sunset" all federal programs after five years, which include Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act and Social Security. He claimed Congress could "revisit" them, knowing the threat they'd encounter in a Republican-controlled congress. Then, facing backlash from Democrats, seniors and some Republicans, Scott suggested we shouldn't believe our lyin' eyes—that he didn't mean to include the health care programs. Oh yes, he did. He had railed against them for years.

In an Op-Ed published by [Miami Herald](#) on July 14, 2017, Governor Rick Scott wrote:

"There is absolutely no question that Obamacare must be repealed immediately so Americans can actually afford to purchase [private] health insurance.

"States like Florida that have run increasingly efficient Medicaid programs, and have not expanded Medicaid, must be rewarded.

"We have been efficient with our dollars while providing quality care to those who truly need Medicaid."

Does he think the hundreds of thousands denied coverage weren't in need?

Even Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell attacked Scott's 12-point plan. So, grasping for a political lifeboat, Scott went off the rails with his [Protect Our Seniors Act](#), and a nutty funding idea: take money the Biden Administration had set aside to hire 87,000 new IRS agents and put it into the Medicare piggy bank. But then Scott claimed there'd be no funds to transfer anyway! "This will be a short-term gig. Republicans will take over the House and Senate in January, and I can promise you that we will immediately do everything in our power to defund this insane and unwarranted expansion of government [the IRS funds] into the lives of the [American people](#)."

## Denying Medicaid Expansion

One of Scott's greatest failures as governor of Florida was his refusal to accept one billion federal dollars to help [850,000 needy Floridians obtain Medicaid coverage](#) — only because of his antipathy to President Obama and any government-sponsored insurance. "*Opposing the Health Law, Florida Refuses Millions*," declared [The New York Times](#).

"Despite having the country's fourth-highest unemployment rate, its second-highest rate of people without insurance and a \$3.7 billion budget gap this year, the state has turned away scores of millions of dollars in grants made available under the Affordable Care Act," the newspaper scolded.

Those who don't qualify for Medicaid but can't afford to buy into the ACA marketplace fall into the "coverage gap." To fix the problem, "The ACA expanded Medicaid to nonelderly adults [with incomes up to 138% FPL](#) [federal poverty line] (\$20,782 annually for an individual in 2024)," *with 90% federal matching funds*.

That meant Florida would qualify for \$5.6 billion in federal aid in the first two years of the expansion program, and about \$4.4 billion annually after that. The plan also created uniform eligibility for low-

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income parents and for some adults without dependent children.

It was a really good deal. But states had the option of refusing the money due to a 2012 Supreme Court ruling. So, Scott did.

Obviously, no one should suffer untreated illness or die because of the inability to pay for health care. But Scott likes to govern by the old “bootstrap” philosophy. Problem is, as they say, people can’t pull themselves up by their bootstraps if they don’t have any. Private insurance is prohibitive for most Americans with its high premiums, deductibles and co-pays, plus the choking cost of prescription drugs. The only way health insurance is affordable is if we pool our money and share the service.

That’s why employee or union health care plans can offer good coverage at a reasonable price; they lower the costs through economies of scale. As a federal employee, that’s the kind of coverage Rick Scott enjoys. He just doesn’t want to share it with *you*.

Rick, here’s a tip: It doesn’t take much for illness to put hard-working people on their backs.

Even those with insurance may face financial catastrophe because of high deductibles or treatments that are not covered. A survey by the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#) reported that “people with medical debt [report](#) cutting spending on food, clothing, and other household items, spending down their savings to pay for medical bills, borrowing money from friends or family members, or taking on additional debts.”

The [Commonwealth Fund’s](#) 2023 Health Care Affordability Survey title said it all. “Paying for It: How Health Care Costs and Medical Debt Are Making Americans Sicker and Poorer.”

And with officials like Scott, we can’t ignore the influence of the private health care industry.

According to [Open Secrets](#), hospitals and nursing homes contributed \$3,089,993 to Scott’s campaign committee between 2019 and 2024.

Denying people affordable health care is inhumane. And unfair to taxpayers. Millions of sick Americans with no health insurance go without care, getting sicker until they’re forced to seek help at a hospital where the cost of their care is astronomically higher than had they been treated from the start.

### **An offer he couldn’t refuse—but Scott did**

In 2013, the Obama administration offered Florida’s one million Medicaid consumers managed care. Because this is a type of private insurance, Scott initially reversed his opposition and said he would accept the program. It was an offer most governors couldn’t refuse. “The federal government would pay for 100 percent of the expansion until 2016, when states would start paying a 5 percent share that would gradually increase to a maximum of 10 percent of new costs by 2020,” reported the [Palm Beach Post](#).

Shamelessly, he claimed it was the memory of his mother that brought about his change of heart. “Scott reflected on the death of his mother, Esther, last fall. He recalled her struggle to raise five children with little money, and a [constant worry of having health coverage for the family](#).” (Too bad he didn’t remember her in prior years when he deprived thousands of other mothers in need.)

[Governing.com](#) reported, “Estimates vary, but analysts have said Medicaid expansion could bring Florida \$26 billion in federal dollars over the next decade. Florida taxpayers are expected to pay \$3 billion during that period, according to the state’s Agency for Health Care Administration. The overhaul would eliminate a maze of categories that currently determine eligibility.”

But that was a democratic dish Scott couldn’t digest, so he flipped and decided not to participate, leaving

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We’re also always looking for writers (remember, you don’t have to live in Delray Beach to

(Continued from page 12)

hundreds of thousands of Floridians without coverage.

“The best way to have healthcare is to have a job,” says [Scott](#).

Rick, here’s another tip: Some people can’t work because they are sick or disabled, or caring full-time for elderly parents or sandwiched between child and parental care. There are veterans suffering from PTSD and physical trauma. And some people have jobs that don’t provide health care insurance.

## Women’s lives are no concern for Scott

When the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022, Scott said, “SCOTUS is right to protect life, respect Federalism and [reverse Roe](#).” His alternatives? Adoption and maternal care services. Both arguments are made of sand; they fail to address the psychological and medical dangers that some pregnant women face.

“Abortion is healthcare,” declared the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists](#). And there are numerous reasons for the procedure. “They include, but are not limited to, contraceptive failure, barriers to contraceptive use and access, rape, incest, intimate partner violence, fetal anomalies, illness during pregnancy, and exposure to teratogenic [causing fetal malformations] medications.” And the lack of access to abortion can be deadly. “Pregnancy complications, including placental abruption, bleeding from placenta previa, preeclampsia or eclampsia, and cardiac or renal conditions, may be so severe that abortion is the only measure to preserve a woman’s health or save her life.”

Nonetheless, in response to the Florida Supreme Court’s draconian six-week abortion ban last April, Scott told the [Washington Post](#) that he would “sign a six-week ban into law as governor, [and] he plans to

vote against a November ballot initiative in Florida that would overturn the state’s new ban.” This, when, according to the [Pew Research Center](#), 56% of adults in Florida favor legalizing abortion in “all/most cases.” (Another 5% said they did not know.)

## Scott even voted against legislation to help those trying to *have* children

On June 14, 2024, Scott posted his supposed [support for IVF on X](#). “Each of my 7 grandkids is a precious gift from God. But sometimes families need help. You can count on this grandpa to always protect IVF.” Really?

*Just the day before, grandpa voted against [The Right to IVF Act](#) which provided federal protection for access to IVF treatment for patients and doctors and removed the states’ ability to usurp those protections. It would also have made IVF procedures more affordable by mandating coverage under employer-provided insurance. As [Newsweek](#) put it, “Republican Senator Rick Scott of Florida is facing furious backlash after touting his support for in vitro fertilization (IVF) only hours after voting against a bill that would have codified federal protections.”*

And again. On September 17, 2024, he voted down [A bill to protect and expand nationwide access to fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilization.](#)”

Scott, lacking any moral core, always leans into the most politically advantageous stance du jour. The needs of Floridians and Americans across the country simply don’t count. Giving him a second term as senator will be devastating to Florida and the nation.

With [2,422,900 uninsured people](#) in Florida and abortion rights on the November ballot, the stakes truly are a matter of life and death.

### 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, and Martie Wrock, Directors; Sandra Elaiszen-Cantwell, Director Emerita; and John Ramos, Director Emeritus.

## How Trump Dared the Justice Department to Indict Him for the Classified Documents . . . And How They Called His Bluff

*Michael K. Cantwell*

Had Trump complied with longstanding law requiring transfer of governmental documents to the National Archives, he would not been indicted. Whether he intentionally thumbed his nose at the Archives in order to propel himself to the Republican nomination or he thought that the law didn't apply to him (a reasonable assumption given his history).

Much of the below is derived from "[A timeline of events leading to Donald Trump's indictment in the classified documents case,](#)"

[The Presidential Records Act of 1978](#) requires outgoing presidents to transfer all documents they or their staff have created to the National Archives. Instead, Trump removed thousands of such documents to Mar-a-Lago when he left the White House.

**Realizing that documents from the Trump administration were missing, the Archives requested their return in May 2021.** It took 18 months, a grand jury subpoena, and a search warrant before they were received.

**Trump reportedly showed unauthorized persons a military "plan of attack"** that he described as "highly confidential" as well as a classified map relating to a foreign military operation. And there is an audiotape of the former in which he admits the document is "classified" and a "secret."

**Trump ignored repeated requests to provide the National Archives with the documents.** Not until January 17, 2022, nearly one year after leaving office, did Trump send *any* documents to the Archive. Those 15 boxes contained "[197 documents with classified markings, including 69 marked confidential, 98 secret and 30 top secret.](#)"

**And yet that was only a portion of the classified documents still in Trump's possession.** It took another 6 months, a subpoena, and two visits to Mar-a-Lago before the remainder were recovered.

**In May 2022, a grand jury issued a subpoena ordering Trump to return all documents with classified markings.** Trump's lawyers urge him to comply with the subpoena but Trump tells them, "I don't want anybody looking through my boxes."

According to one of the lawyers, he "*wondered aloud about dodging the subpoena, asking his counsel, 'Wouldn't it be better if we just told them we don't have anything here?' and 'isn't it better if there are no documents?'*"

In [June 2022](#), a Trump lawyer went to Mar-a-Lago and found an additional 38 classified documents. According to the [lawyer](#), Trump asked: "Did you find anything? ... Is it bad? Good?" He then made a "plucking motion" that the lawyer interpreted to mean "that he should take out anything 'really bad' before turning over the papers."

The lawyer told Trump that all his prior stalling "[just doesn't matter](#)" if he turns over the documents. She goes on to warn that it will be "a crime" if additional documents are found after a certification is signed swearing they have all been returned.

**That is exactly what happened.** FBI agents and a Justice Department lawyer visited Mar-a-Lago to collect the additional documents found by Trump's lawyers. They were shown additional boxes but "explicitly prohibited" from looking inside "to confirm that no documents with classification markings remained." So they obtained a search warrant, came back, and seized an additional 102 classified documents.

Aileen Cannon tried to save him, ignoring relevant precedent and dismissing the case on the authority of a line in a Clarence Thomas concurrence that was joined by no other justice. Even if she is upheld by the Eleventh Circuit, President Harris can simply reappoint Jack Smith after the election.

More likely, however, Cannon will be reversed and may be unable to save even herself. Two separate amicus briefs urge her removal. The first, [filed](#) by a group of Republican heavyweights from prior administrations, cited "grave errors" and said Cannon's dismissal order "falls far outside the range of reasonable judicial decision-making."

The other, [filed](#) by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), former federal judge Nancy Gertner and legal ethics maven Stephen Gillers; and another filed — asks the appellate court to remove her for bias.

## Thank Joe Biden

**The American Rescue Plan Act** begins the recovery from the Trump Depression:

- Local governments given \$360 billion to keep front line public workers on the job and paid.
- Expanded and extended unemployment checks to help workers until the economy reopens.
- Over 200 million Americans are vaccinated against COVID in first 100 days, thanks to \$160 billion funding for supplies and vaccines.
- Investments in Affordable Care Act allowed more than 18 million Americans to obtain health insurance, savings tens of thousands from premature, preventable deaths.
- Increased and expanded Child Tax Credit cut child poverty by 35% in 2021.
- Helped create more jobs (6.7 million) during the first year of any presidency.

**The Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** passes with 17 Republican senators voting in favor. Florida's senators vote against the bill, although they and our governor are happy to take credit for the money and services it provides.

- The largest investment in infrastructure in over a decade.
- The largest investment in clean drinking water and wastewater infrastructure in U.S. history.
- The largest investment in clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in U.S. history.
- The largest investment in public transit in nearly six decades.
- The largest investment in bridges since the construction of the interstate highway system.
- More than 40,000 projects already off the ground.

**The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act** is the first gun safety legislation in nearly three decades.

**The PACT Act** is the biggest expansion of veterans' benefits in over three decades. The Act has already sparked \$200 billion in private investments in the United States.

**The Inflation Reduction Act** is the greatest investment in green energy in U.S. history. It reduces the deficit by authorizing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies, closing tax loopholes, and providing \$80 billion to the IRS for additional tax enforcement.

**The CHIPS Act** invests in microchip production to make America more competitive with China and reduce our reliance on foreign sources for a vital component used by the defense industry. The Act has already sparked \$200 billion in private investments in the United States.

The July 17, 2024, **Executive Order** will allow an estimated 500,000 undocumented spouses of American citizens and their children to remain in the United States while obtaining legal status.

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## Thank a Democrat

1964 Civil Rights Act  
1965 Voting Rights Act  
Affordable Care Act  
AmeriCorps  
CDC  
Family and Medical Leave Act

Food Stamp Act  
Freedom of Information Act  
GI Bill of Rights  
Medicare and Medicaid  
Minimum Wage Act  
National Labor Relations Act

National Science Foundation Act  
National Voter Registration Act  
(a.k.a. Motor Voter Act)  
Social Security Act  
Unemployment Compensation Act  
Workers Compensation Act

## 2024 Membership

*Char Lane*

It's late October and the November General Election is a mere week away. We have to elect Harris-Walz, Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, Alexcia Cox, Joe Casello, and all Democrats up and down the ballot to save democracy.

If you haven't already done so, it's time to renew your DCDB membership for 2024. 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 normally held at the PBC Democratic Office on Congress. Because the Harris-Walz campaign is using the office through the election our October meeting will only be via Zoom. Meeting notices are sent out in the weeks prior to meetings and include Zoom links to register for and/or join the 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. With all that's been going on we'll have to work exceptionally hard to help keep our democracy intact and protect it from being decimated by Trump and his cohorts.

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. There's so much work to do between now and November 2024 and we'll need your help.

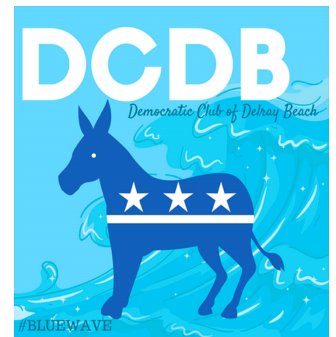
If you're a member of the Democratic Club of Delray Beach and haven't already done so, please renew your membership for 2024. If you're not a member of the Club, please consider joining.

Visit us at [www.demclubofdelray.org](http://www.demclubofdelray.org) . Read our monthly publication *The Delray Democrat* at [www.thedelraydemocrat.com](http://www.thedelraydemocrat.com). Join us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/992741928168620>.

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 2024 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.