

SOLIVITA DEMOCRATIC CLUB *Beacon*

THIS MONTH'S
ISSUES OF
IMPORTANCE!

Brian Fillette, president — President@SolivitaDemocrats.org

Ellis Moose, editor — Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org



Congressman Darren Soto (Dem., US Dist. 9) made an in-person appearance at our July 14 meeting. He briefed us on the efforts he and Democrats are making to improve our lives.

Is bipartisanship back? And does it matter?

A look at recent economic and political headlines was almost enough to give hope for the near future.



- The economy grew at an annual rate of 6.5 percent in the second quarter; [the Washington Post reported](#) "For the first time since the pandemic took hold, economic output eclipsed its pre-pandemic high...."
- The various measures to help struggling Americans in the multiple coronavirus relief bills are estimated to [cut poverty almost in half this year](#).

- Democrat and Republican senators [came to an agreement](#) on a bipartisan infrastructure package, voting 67-32 to move the bill forward.

Wait, what? The Senate came to an agreement... how often has that happened in recent times?

Progression of the roughly [\\$1 trillion infrastructure plan](#) shows that — with enough time, expertise, and effort — bipartisan cooperation is possible. Broad legislation to invest in the nation's roads and bridges has been in the conversation in Washington for well over a decade, with Democrats and Republicans mostly aligned around the idea, yet a bill hasn't been passed. Victory for this infrastructure bill is not certain yet, but should it pass, it has to be considered a significant achievement for President Biden.

So, does bipartisanship really matter? In the end, independent voters will likely give President Biden and Democrats little credit for working across the aisle if it doesn't actually make their lives better.

Real world progress will be the true measure of this infrastructure package, budget reconciliation, and whatever else Democrats do. Elected Democratic officials have to make sure the results are realized in communities around the country as soon as possible. And they, **and all of us**, have to keep reminding voters that things are better because Democrats are in charge.

Brian Fillette, President, Solivita Democratic Club president@solivitademocrats.org

WED. 7:00PM
AUGUST 11th

MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

IN THE BALLROOM
& VIA ZOOM.US

Drop In or
Login at 6:45

Our meeting will be held
In Person and thru Zoom.
The link is listed below.

FEATURING:

**BECKY
WYNKOOP**

Chair of the Polk County
Membership and Precinct Comm.

PLUS: POLK CO. & SOLIVITA UPDATES

**Come to the Starlite Ballroom
Or Join Our Zoom Meeting:**

Time: **Wed., Aug. 11th at 7:00 PM**

Enter the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81885665595?pwd=YzRwOXZCYlFuRlFRL2RqQUI1NWZFUz09>

Meeting ID: 818 8566 5595

Passcode: 662050

Dial in only: 646 558 8656

Please login prior to start time.

We will begin login at 6:45 pm.

**"Heads Up" for our
GAME DAY Fund Raiser**
Saturday, October 23rd.

Games, Food, Raffles, Fun.

See pages 2 and 6. To help, email
Deb2Wright@gmail.com

Our 2021 Board Members:

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*The Board of Directors meets the
first Tuesday of each month via
ZOOM.*

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Venezia

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Lunch & Games at the Palms!

The SDC Board and Special Events Committee are hard at work planning and preparing for this popular event last held in the Fall of 2019!

Help is still needed with planning (menus, room layout, donations) and day of the event (setup, check-in, game "ambassadors", service, clean-up). See our flyer on page 6.

Please contact Campaign/Special Events chair Deb Wright if you can help deb2wright@gmail.com or 863-496-7887 (Home).

Saturday, October 23 – Noon to 4pm

ALL are invited!

Lunch, snacks, beverages, prizes, fun! Bring your own favorite table games to play with friends (Card games, Board games, Domino games, Mahjong, Trivia). Or learn to play a new game with new friends.

Tickets \$25 per person available for purchase at:

- Clubs' Main ticket sales days at Mosaics on September 1 and October 1 from 10am-12pm
- The SDC table at the Farmer's Market on Monday mornings on September 13, 20, 27 and October 4, 11, 18
- SDC membership meetings on September 8 and October 13

Hope to see you at Game Day!



See how your party works on your behalf at Leadership Blue in Orlando

The Florida Democratic Party's annual Leadership Blue Convention is back! This event will be held in Orlando from August 27-29, and include virtual sessions. As the list of activities and sessions are being finalized, visit leadershipblue.com for updates and more information.

NEW SDC logo merchandise available to buy!



SDC Tee Shirts \$20

We've ordered new SDC Tee Shirts so you can show your true blue colors! Tees are just \$20.



Coffee Mugs & Caps (coming soon). Get yours at the Farmers Market on Mondays or at the Club meetings 2nd Wednesday monthly in the Starlite Ballroom.

FYI

Solivita Dems Hold the Lead As of latest reported numbers

Pct 411:	1/4/21	7/1/21	+/-
Dems	2350	2407	+57
Rep	2298	2301	+3
Other	84	88	+4
Indep	1609	1669	+60
Total	6,341	6,456	+115

Pct 420:	1/4/21	7/1/21	+/-
Dems	443	445	+2
Rep	325	327	+2
Other	19	22	+3
Indep	251	245	-6
Total	1,038	1,043	+5

Polk Co.:	1/4/21	7/1/21	+/-
Dems	155,603	142,155*	-13,448
Rep	169,471	155,252*	-14,219
Indep	123,249	117,281*	-5,968
Total	455,331	421,901*	-33,430

Florida:	12/31/20	5/31/21*	+/-
Dems	5,315,954	5,247,592	-68,362
Rep	5,218,739	5,171,308	-47,431
Indep	3,799,799	3,830,325	+30,526
Total:	14,565,738	14,498,388	-67,650

* Polk Co. & FL have purged inactive voters.



POLK COUNTY DEMOCRATS

Websites of interest:

POLITICS:

- www.FlaDems.com
- www.FISenate.gov/topics/ppaca
- www.PolkDemocrats.org
- www.PolkElections.com
- www.Democrats.org
- www.ProgressFlorida.org
- www.DemocraticGovernors.org

MEDIA:

- www.BestOfTheLeft.com
- www.NPR.org
- www.Snopes.com
- www.FactCheck.org
- www.PolitiFact.com

A growing swath of House Democratic candidates says the party needs to radically improve its heartland appeal to have any hope of keeping power in Washington.

Why it matters: With control of the House and Senate on the bubble, many ambitious Democrats — from the South to the Midwest to the Rockies — are running against their own national party’s image.

What’s happening: After four years of listening to President Trump, many rural voters are reflexively distrustful of progressive solutions to everything from the pandemic to infrastructure.

In a 3-min. ad for his Senate campaign, Rep. Tim Ryan of Ohio never says he’s a Democrat.

What we’re hearing: Democratic strategists are advising candidates in states like these to refrain from “fancy” language, and focus on populist economic policies.

Several consultants insisted that Democratic policies — on labor rights, broadband, climate and infrastructure — are popular in rural areas. It’s the messaging that’s causing heartburn.

Case in point: In Montana, where Republicans have held the state’s only U.S. House seat since 1997, Democrat Monica Tranel is seeking a second seat Montana is picking up from new census results. Her ad declares: “So many people I grew up with don’t vote for Democrats anymore.”

“They feel like Democrats look down on rural America,” she says.

Recent moves by President Biden on infrastructure and the child tax credit are “consistent with traditional, economic, Democratic populism that has real currency in rural areas,” said Zac McCrary, a Dem pollster and partner at ALG Research.

McCrary added that in swing districts and states, “Democrats need to have an answer to the question: What makes you different from a lot of the other Democrats?”

Context: These concerns aren’t new. Some Democratic leaders have long warned that the language of the left hurts Democrats in swing and rural districts. Rep. Jim Clyburn (D-S.C.) discouraged “defund the police.”

Total number of COVID-19 doses administered in the U.S.



This graph above shows the wrong kind of “flattening the curve.”

The COVID vaccination rate tailed off, and Anthony Fauci warned on CNN’s State of the Union: “We’re going in the wrong direction.”

It’s in everyone’s interest to persuade the unvaccinated to get the jab, rather than shame them. Chris Christie said it exactly right yesterday on ABC’s “This Week”: “What they don’t want is to be indoctrinated — they’re willing to be vaccinated,” the former New Jersey governor said. “And

so let’s be smart about this. I think that one of the places where our leaders have fallen down is they’re not explaining it,” Christie added. “They’re just saying: Get vaccinated. ... [T]hese folks do not respond to being ordered to do those things.” Christie said he had a “very smart guy” visit him who said: “I don’t want the government telling me what I have to do.”

“It’s a libertarian type of response,” Christie said. “I sat with this guy and I walked him through the facts, and then he said: ‘OK, I’m going to go get vaccinated.’ That’s what we need to be doing.”

There are lots of reasons the vaccinated need to worry more about the unvaccinated: Breakthrough infections — infections in vaccinated people — are still rare, and few are life-threatening. But COVID’s continued circulation makes them more probable, and helps give rise to new variants.

Our elected representatives need your input

Let them know your positions on issues!

Contact your elected officials and media at:

Sen. Rick Scott (R)
United States Senate
Phone: 202-224-5274

Sen. Marco Rubio (R)
United States Senate
Phone: 202-224-3041

Rep. Darren Soto (D)
US District 9 Office
804 Bryan Street
Kissimmee, FL 34741
Phone: 202-225-9889

Gov. Ron DeSantis (R)
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe St.,
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
Website: www.flgov.com/

State Rep. Sam Killebrew (R)
FL House District 41 Office:
Phone: 850-717-5041
Email: sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov

State Rep. Fred Hawkins (R)
FL House District 42 Office
Phone: 850-717-5042

State Sen. Kelli Stargel (R)
Phone: 850-487-5022
Email: stargel.kelli@flsenate.gov

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August is...

✪**August 1: American Family Day** on the first Sunday in August, is a time for family. More specifically, this day celebrates the bonds that laid the foundation for our lives, be it blood or otherwise.

✪**August 1: "Dogust 1st" Universal Birthday for Shelter Dogs.** Thousands of sweet dogs land at animal shelters until they can find forever homes.

✪**August 1: National Friendship Day** also occurs every year on the first Sunday of August and celebrates the importance of loving platonic relationships. Friendships are the purest type of human relationships.

✪**August 3: National Grab Some Nuts Day**
No, it has nothing to do with the GOP! Nuts, legumes, seeds drupes, either way – they're all considered nuts and are all in some way a part of our daily diet. Nuts are rich in nutrients and minerals, and if eaten in the correct quantities, are great for improving our health.

✪**August 4: President Barack Obama's birthday**
He became the first African-American President of the United States in November, 2008. Today, President Obama is a highly-sought after speaker, role model and leader within the Democratic Party. We admire President Obama for his undying commitment to the American ideals of justice and humanity for all.



✪**August 4: U.S. Coast Guard Birthday** Commemorating the military organization for its valor and discipline. Since 1790, the U.S. Coast Guard has kept the nation's waterways safe, playing a critical role in national security.

✪**August 13: Black Women's Equal Pay Day.** The aim is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Black women and White men. Black women are paid 62 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

✪**August 21: National Senior Citizens Day** In 1988, President Ronald Reagan proclaimed this holiday to raise awareness about issues that affect senior citizens and their quality of life.

✪**August 23: International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition** and the anniversary of the uprising in Santo Domingo (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic) that initiated the abolition of slavery in the Caribbean.

✪**August 23: Health Unit Coordinators Day** Health unit coordinators are vital and indispensable. Without health unit coordinators, hospitals would be unable to navigate the procedural requirements of even the most basic health care tasks.

✪**August 26: Women's Equality Day** Commemorates the August 26, 1920, certification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote. Congresswoman Bella Abzug first introduced a proclamation for Women's Equality Day in 1971. Since that time, every president has published a proclamation recognizing August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

✪**August 30: National Grief Awareness Day** Dedicated to raising awareness of the myriad ways in which individuals cope with loss. It offers resources to those going through personal losses and reminds us to support people we know who are grieving.

Here's What's Goin' On in Florida Politics...

Join the Group to Fight for HOA/Condo Association Reforms

The recent condo collapse in Surfside has opened the eyes of people all across this state to the desperate need to reform Florida's laws regulating homeowners associations and condominium associations.

The Torrens Law Group is looking to form a non-profit advocacy group to fight for changes to these laws, with a great emphasis on placing a cap on the attorney's fees that associations can collect against homeowners and condo owners in this state.

They will hold a second meeting, virtually, via Microsoft Teams (basically, the Microsoft version of Zoom) on **August 4, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** To participate, send an email to Ryan Torrens ryan@ryantorrens.com, with the subject line: *Join Our HOA/Condo Assoc. Reform Group!* for a link for the Microsoft Teams virtual meeting.

First hearing set for lawsuit over Florida's new anti-riot bill

A hearing is set for a lawsuit challenging Florida's new anti-riot bill, H.B.1, the first legal test for the legislation that Gov. Ron DeSantis said will combat disorder. Opponents of the law contend it infringes on the right to legally protest.

Set for Aug. 30, the hearing will be held in U.S. District Court in Tallahassee. Chief Judge Mark Walker will hear from the plaintiffs, including the American Civil Liberties Union, Black Collective, NAACP and Dream Defenders.

The organizations sued DeSantis, state Attorney General Ashley Moody (R) and others in May over whether a new bill that aimed at "combating public disorder" was constitutional.

Click here for the rest of the story.

In related news, the Orlando Sentinel reported last week that Florida taxpayers are footing attorneys' fees of up to \$675 per hour to unsuccessfully defend a number of the state's unconstitutional laws.

After past 'mockery,' Florida GOP to begin new high-stakes redistricting effort

The last time Florida's ruling Republicans were tasked with redrawing the state's political districts, a judge concluded they turned it into a "mockery" by secretly and illegally working to enhance their command of the state.

Fast-forward to this summer, and an even more powerful GOP-led Legislature is again getting ready to begin the once-a-decade recasting of state House, Senate and congressional boundaries – work which could help determine which party controls Congress after the 2022 election.

[Click here for more.](#)

Florida business leaders lobby for Equality Act

More than 20 Florida businesses signed onto a letter calling for Congress to pass the Equality Act. The Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association and several Tampa sports franchises are among prominent signatories.

Industry leaders, including a significant number in the tech and hospitality sector, say Florida's economy stands to gain if the federal government puts nationwide job protections in place. Florida's GOP-led Legislature has so far failed to advance the issue.

Register for this event at:
RonBeGone.com/

whose
GOVERNOR
is **DESANTIS**
anyway?

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CONGRESSWOMAN
STEPHANIE MURPHY



COLIN MOCHRIE



RYAN STILES



GREG PROOPS

Solivita Democratic Club is Excited to Present

Saturday,



October 23



The Palms Meeting Room
Doors open at Noon
Play until 4PM.

Ticket price: \$25 per person
All your friends are invited to play along!
Contact Deb Wright at 863-496-7887 or Deb2Wright@gmail.com



LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

Enjoy:
Card Games
Board Games
Domino Games
Mahjong
Trivia
—plus—
Lunch, Snacks, And Beverages



More info at www.SolivitaDemocrats.org



Special Editorial for the Lakeland Ledger

Catherine Price, Chair of the Polk County (FL) Democratic Party



As Chair of the Democratic Party in Polk County, my position on the January 6th riot at the U.S. Capitol is and has been clear and unequivocal. It was an insurrection organized, encouraged, and fomented by then President of the United States of America, Donald J. Trump. This insurrection was occasioned by his big lie that the election on November 3rd was stolen from him and whether it is called it a riot or an insurrection, the purpose was the same, subversion of our free and fair national presidential election.

Trumph lost the November 3rd election by over 7 million popular votes, and 74 electoral votes. Yes, Joe Biden received the majority of the Electoral College votes (306 to 232). And though a margin of just 44,000 votes in a few states propelled Joe Biden to the win, the results were confirmed repeatedly by honest, responsible leaders in the Republican Party. On January 6th, Donald Trump called his followers to Washington, whipped them into a frenzy and sent some of them marching to our Capitol with instructions to “take back” the White House. Upon arrival at the Capitol building, they called for the lynching of Republican Vice-President Pence because he would not illegally nullify the results of the election. A mob then breached the security of the U.S. Capitol, violently entered the building, and went on a frenzy looking for both Democratic and Republican lawmakers inside.

Events of January 6th were unprecedented and significant because they represent a shot to heart of our democratic institutions. Without the ability to have free and fair elections and to have a peaceful transfer of power in a national election we do not have a democracy. It is as simple as that. The current Republican party has a serious and continuing problem — Donald Trump. Having made a pact with the devil, many Republicans are attempting to retain their voter base. Political expediency, not patriotism, is the order of the day in the current Republican Party. Additionally, efforts to control elections extend to numerous states, including Florida and Texas, where Republican legislatures are enacting harsh voter suppression bills aimed at maintaining power. This effort has only just begun. In Republican controlled states upcoming redistricting processes will seek to further limit the Democratic Party’s ability to compete for national congressional seats and in state and local elections. Without a functional two (or more) party system we essentially moving towards an autocracy. Where there is a one-party system, there is no public control of schools, healthcare systems, environmental laws, or the military. We are basically at the mercy and whims of a handful of powerful individuals and corporations.

The Democratic Party in Polk County is clearly identifying tyranny, calling it out and standing against it. Daily manifestations of Republican-led, right-wing tyranny are coming in the form of attacks by Governor DeSantis on public health officials that bear messages that do not match his COVID-19 narrative; attacks on members of the press that report on issues that do not support these misleading messages; lack of willingness to provide health insurance coverage to large portions of our working population; lack of willingness to provide adequate unemployment benefits to working Floridians during an international pandemic; escalating substitution of for-profit companies for our public schools; disempowerment of local government and its ability to protect communities from scourges such as out of control land development, environmental degradation and gun violence; use of race-baiting to motivate right wing voters. The list is long and growing. Good community leaders are reluctant to step forward for office because the amount of corporate campaign dollars that is thrown against them in elections is obscene.

Florida has become a tax haven for people fleeing high taxation in other states. Many of these new Floridians are low income and living on fixed incomes. But banking is now the number one industry in Florida and any move to increase taxation on the well-to-do is met with a volley of withering attacks. The retirees that have come to Florida are not the ones paying the heaviest price. A disproportional cost is being borne by working people that are trying to raise families in this state.

It bears repeating that quality of life in Florida will deteriorate for all of us if we do not support our working families. We are living through historically difficult times. This letter is a public challenge and clarion call to our community. Let’s work together elect people who will work for all of us, not just the well-off people at the top of the GOP donor list.