

# SOLIVITA DEMOCRATIC CLUB *Beacon*



OCTOBER 2021  
SolivitaDemocrats.org



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A nice gathering of members was on hand to hear Polk Co. School Superintendent Frederick Heid in Sept.

## Imagining what can be...



Imagine a future where racial and gender equity are realized, affordable health care is accessible to all, the climate crisis is addressed not ignored, tax codes ensure the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share, and it's easier not harder to vote... now imagine how we might better achieve these ideals and more with more Democratic leadership holding office in Florida. Let's make it happen in 2022!

A reminder that our big Fall event and fundraiser, SDC Game Day, is happening this month. I encourage members and friends to purchase tickets sooner rather than later to assist the planning committee with their final preparations. We need your help and participation to make Club events and activities successful.

### **SDC Game Day at the Palms | Saturday, Oct. 23 from 12:00pm-4:00pm**

Contact Deb Wright [deb2wright@gmail.com](mailto:deb2wright@gmail.com)

\*Masks are highly recommended in accordance with CDC guidance\*

**L**unch, snacks, beverages, door 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.

**D**oor prizes include Stonegate Golf round for 4, Solivita Fitness & Wellness sessions with personal trainer, Solivita Lifestyles gift cards, Hair and Nail salon gift certificates, Wine & Snack gift baskets, Wine glasses & more!

### **Game Day tickets \$25 per person are available for purchase at:**

- Clubs' Main ticket sales at Mosaics on Oct 1 from 10:00am-12:00pm
- Farmers Market SDC table on Oct 4, 11, 18 from 9:30am-12:00pm
- SDC membership meeting on Oct 13 from 6:30pm-7:00pm

**W**ine & Dine gift basket raffle tickets are also available for purchase. Price is 1 for \$5 or 4 for \$10. You don't need to be present at Game Day to win. The Wine & Dine gift basket includes gift cards to area restaurants valued at \$195 and growing!

Please support this important event and fundraiser for your Solivita Democratic Club!

Thank you for all that you do.

**Brian Fillette,**

President, Solivita Democratic Club [president@solivitademocrats.org](mailto:president@solivitademocrats.org)

**WED. 7:00PM**  
**October 13th**  
**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:**

## **FLORIDA POLICY** **INSTITUTE**

Featuring Esteban Leonardo Santis

**PLUS: POLK CO. & SOLIVITA UPDATES**

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

Time: **Wed., Oct. 13th at 7:00 PM**

Enter the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81885665595?pwd=YzRwOXZCYlFuRjFL2RqQUI1NWFUZz09>

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.

### **Get in the Game!**

## **GAME DAY Fund Raiser**

**Saturday, October 23rd.**

Games, Food, Raffles, Fun.

To help, email

[Deb2Wright@gmail.com](mailto:Deb2Wright@gmail.com)

# FYI

## Solvita Dems Hold the Lead As of latest reported numbers

Pct 411:	1/4/21	9/1/21	+/-
Dems	2350	2417	+67
Rep	2298	2305	+7
Other	84	86	+2
Indep	1609	1670	+61
Total	6,341	6,478	+137

Pct 420:	1/4/21	9/1/21	+/-
Dems	443	445	+2
Rep	325	325	0
Other	19	22	+3
Indep	251	247	-4
Total	1,038	1,039	+1

Polk Co.:	1/4/21	9/1/21	+/-
Dems	155,603	157,146*	+1,543
Rep	169,471	170,846*	+1,375
Indep	123,249	129,018*	+5,769
Total	455,331	464,964*	+9,633

Florida:	12/31/20	9/1/21*	+/-
Dems	5,315,954	5,131,314	-68,362
Rep	5,218,739	5,107,763	-47,431
Indep	3,799,799	3,790,948	+30,526
Total	14,565,738	14,279,017	-67,650

\* Polk Co. & FL have purged inactive voters.



### Websites of interest:

#### POLITICS:

- [www.FlaDems.com](http://www.FlaDems.com)
- [www.FISenate.gov/topics/ppaca](http://www.FISenate.gov/topics/ppaca)
- [www.PolkDemocrats.org](http://www.PolkDemocrats.org)
- [www.PolkElections.com](http://www.PolkElections.com)
- [www.Democrats.org](http://www.Democrats.org)
- [www.ProgressFlorida.org](http://www.ProgressFlorida.org)
- [www.DemocraticGovernors.org](http://www.DemocraticGovernors.org)

#### MEDIA:

- [www.BestOfTheLeft.com](http://www.BestOfTheLeft.com)
- [www.NPR.org](http://www.NPR.org)
- [www.Snopes.com](http://www.Snopes.com)
- [www.FactCheck.org](http://www.FactCheck.org)

## While there are problems with the post office's business model, Congress should shoulder much of the blame

The Postal Service is supposed to be self-funded — not getting any government money. However, the post office is still tightly regulated by Congress. In 2006, Congress passed a law requiring the Postal Service to prepay health benefits for its retirees.



“Congress ordered the Postal Service to pay, for 10 years, about \$5.5 billion per year into this prepayment fund,” said Jim Campbell, lawyer and consultant on the Postal Service.

The thinking was to pay it forward, making sure the money is there when retirees need it.

**But other federal agencies don't have to make these prepayments.** Also, the post office couldn't do it — it missed more than half the payments. To make matters worse, Congress capped post office price increases for letters and circulars at the rate of inflation.

“So the Postal Service is sort of caught in this squeeze,” said Cornell University public policy professor Rick Geddes, who added that Congress still requires the post office to deliver to every mailbox in the country six days a week. “So this is a recipe for fiscal problems, serious fiscal problems,” he said.

**And, serious debt.** Frank Todisco has been tracking that. He's chief actuary at the U.S. Government Accountability Office. He said the Postal Service is more than \$160 billion in debt. Over the past decade, the debt and unfunded liabilities like pensions and health care have outpaced the revenue they take in.

“So debt has doubled from a little more than one times annual revenue to over double annual revenue,” Todisco said. He also asserted that the Postal Service has been losing money for a decade, which is not a sustainable business model. However, the post office can't change that model without congressional approval.

Our local Poinciana postal carriers have expressed their concern about the sustainability of the current situation. They are worried that postal service, and therefore their jobs, will be severely limited in the near future if Congress doesn't act soon.

**You can help by writing our reps in Congress** and tell them to support the needs of our Postal Service before it goes bankrupt and we all have to pay UPS or FedEx rates to ship everything we send, including letters and post cards!

Find contact information for government officials on page 4 of this *Beacon*. Remember, this is a *federal issue*, so state reps cannot help.

## \*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.



Get yours at the Farmers Market on Mondays in September or at monthly Club meetings 2nd Wednesday each month in the Starlite Ballroom.

**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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 516-319-4118

**Could Be You (2 Female, 1 Male), Pct. 420**  
**Solivita Bella Viana and Venezia**

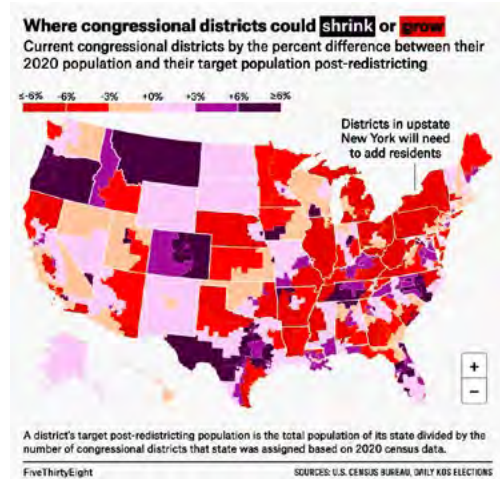
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**Where America Lost And Gained Population Could Help Democrats In Redistricting**

By Nathaniel Rakich, Nashville Telecaster, August 25, 2021

With the release of block-level data from the 2020 census, we now have a much clearer picture of how and where the U.S. population has grown — and shrunk — over the past 10 years. And while Republicans are largely setting the terms of the redistricting process that will ensue from this announcement, the data throws a much-needed lifeline to Democrats.

It's not because of the country's increasing racial diversity, though. Sure, under current electoral coalitions (where white voters are more likely to vote Republican and voters of color are more likely to vote Democratic), it's arguably better for Democrats if the nonwhite population grows. But even in a country where only 58 percent of residents are non-Hispanic white, the 2020 presidential election was still very competitive. And electoral coalitions can change — for instance, Republicans may continue to gain ground among nonwhite voters in future elections.

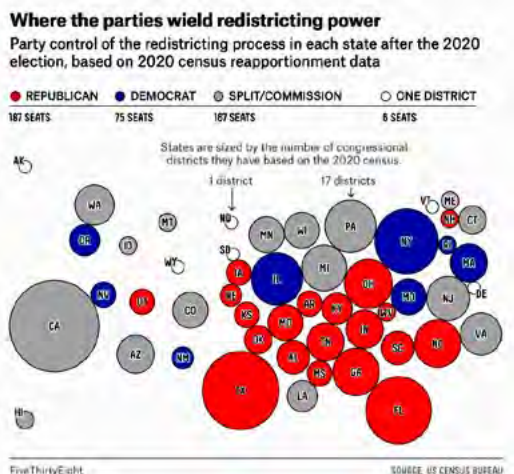


Instead, the good news for Democrats came in which parts of the country gained and lost population since the 2010 census. Despite the country's overall population increasing by 7.4 percent, rural areas — the reddest parts of the country — have steadily lost residents over the past 10 years. The average county with a FiveThirtyEight urbanization index below 81 lost 3.1 percent of its population between 2010 and 2020. This encompasses the 1,430 most rural counties in America — 1,302 of which voted for former President Donald Trump in 2020, and only 127 of which voted for President Biden.

By contrast, the fastest-growing parts of the country are the suburbs. The average county with an urbanization index between 11 and 13 (spanning from sparse suburban areas like Roanoke County, Virginia, to dense suburban areas like Union County, New Jersey) grew by 9.6 percent between 2010 and 2020. Most of these counties (194 out of 264) voted for Biden, and if the trends of the 2018 and 2020 elections continue, they will only get bluer.

America's cities grew at a healthy rate too, which was something of a surprise compared with pre-census estimates. The 18 most urban counties or county equivalents in the country — those with a FiveThirtyEight urbanization index above 13 (including San Francisco, Philadelphia, four around Washington, D.C., and eight around New York City) — grew by an average of 8.4 percent — and all but one of them voted for Biden in 2020.

Overall, the average county that voted for Biden boosted its population by 3.4 percent between 2010 and 2020, while the average Trump county grew by just 0.2 percent. Strikingly, 370 out of the 538 Biden counties (69 percent) gained population, while 1,468 out of the 2,574 Trump counties (57 percent) lost residents.



**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  
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**State Rep. Sam Killebrew (R)**  
FL House District 41 Office:  
Phone: 850-717-5041  
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**State Rep. Fred Hawkins (R)**  
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**State Sen. Kelli Stargel (R)**  
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**October is...**

- ✦ **National Disability Employment Awareness Month.** This observance was launched in 1945 when Congress declared the first week in October as "National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week." In 1998, the week was extended to a month and renamed. The annual event draws attention to employment barriers that still need to be addressed.
- ✦ **LGBT History Month,** a U.S. observance started in 1994 to recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender history and the history of the gay-rights movement.
- ✦ **Global Diversity Awareness Month,** a month to celebrate and increase awareness about the diversity of cultures and ethnicities and the positive impact diversity can have on society.
- ✦ **October 1: Native American Women's Equal Pay Day.** The aim is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Native American women and White men. Native American women are paid 57 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- ✦ **October 4: St. Francis Day, feast day for St. Francis of Assisi,** the patron saint of animals and the environment, celebrated by many Catholic denominations.
- ✦ **October 10: World Mental Health Day.** First celebrated in 1993, this day is meant to increase public awareness about the importance of mental health, mental health services, and mental health workers worldwide.
- ✦ **October 11: National Coming Out Day.** For those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, this day celebrates coming out and the recognition of the 1987 march on Washington for gay and lesbian equality.
- ✦ **October 11: Canadian Thanksgiving,** a chance for people to give thanks for a good harvest and other fortunes in the past year.
- ✦ **October 11: National Indigenous Peoples Day,** an alternative celebration to **Columbus Day,** gives recognition to the indigenous populations affected by colonization.
- ✦ **October 29: Latinx Women's Equal Pay Day.** The aim is to raise awareness about the wider-than-average pay gap between Latinx women and White men. Latinx women are paid 54 cents for every dollar paid to white men.



✦ **October 31: All Hallows' Eve (Halloween),** a celebration observed in a number of countries on the eve of the Western Christian feast of All Hallows' Day. It begins the three-day observance of Allhallowtide, the time in the liturgical year dedicated to remembering the dead, including saints (hallows), martyrs and all the faithful departed.

✦ **October 31: Reformation Day,** a Protestant Christian religious holiday celebrated alongside All Hallows' Eve (Halloween) during the triduum of Allhallowtide in remembrance of the onset of the Reformation.

✦ **October 31-November 1 (sundown to sundown): Samhain,** a Gaelic festival marking the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter or the "darker half" of the year.

# Here's What's Goin' On In Florida Politics... Want to Help? Here's How...

Check out the new Polk County Democrats Website at [PolkDemocrats.org](https://www.polkdemocrats.org)  
Click on the "Take Action" Button and get to work!



You'll find the events planned throughout our county and across the state that can use YOUR help!

A screenshot of the event calendar section on the Polk County Democrats website. At the top, there are filter buttons for 'Map', 'Filters', 'Get out the Vote', 'Canvassing', 'Voter registration', 'Jobs', 'Democratic Meeting', and 'More filters...'. Below this, the 'Closest events this week' section is displayed. It contains four event cards: 1) 'POLK COUNTY WOMEN'S MARCH' on Saturday, October 2, 10-12 AM at 16729 Cagan Oaks, Clermont, FL 34714. 2) 'Be Ready to VOTE' - Register Voters at Lakeland Curb Market on Saturday, Oct 2 @ 9am EDT + 43 more times at 117 N Kentucky Ave, Lakeland, FL 33801. 3) 'LAKELAND DEMOCRATIC CLUB' - Friday event! October 1st - Cooki... on Friday, Oct 1 @ 6pm EDT at 210 E Main St, Lakeland, FL 33801. 4) 'AOTL FL' - Online event on Today, Sep 27 @ 7pm EDT + 9 more times. Below each card are 'Sign up' and 'See details' buttons. The 'Virtual events today' section features 'AOTL FL Public Testimony Training' on Today, Sep 27 @ 7pm EDT + 9 more times, hosted by All On The Line Florida. Below this is a 'Sign up as Ellis' button and a 'See details' button. The 'Quick actions for right now' section features four cards: 1) 'Voter Registration Paid Canvassers/\$15 per Hour/Browar...' - Help us get to 100 supporters! Interest Form - Organized by Florida Democratic Party. 2) 'Voter Registration Paid Canvassers / \$15 per Hour in Orange and...' - Do anytime between 12 - 12am EDT Interest Form - Organized by Florida Democratic Party. 3) 'AOTL FL Online Ambassador Program' - Help us get to 100 supporters! Interest Form - Organized by All On The Line Florida. 4) 'AOTL FL Presenter Program' - Help us get to 100 supporters! Interest Form - Organized by All On The Line Florida. Each card has a 'Sign up' button.

“Old Man River, He Just Keeps Rolling Along”

# THE MEDIA — WHAT IS IT TO YOU?

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor

For decades I've been following the news and find not much changes over the years — mostly just the names and the places. Although I can get frustrated at times because some coverage never seems to stop, and other accounts rattle my innards and bring out the curmudgeon in me. But then again, what would my Sunday morning be without the *New York Times* crossword puzzle, or the financial pages to track my vast investment holdings?

But over the years I have come to have great respect for the world of media — in all its diversity of product, service and delivery to multi-millions of people around the globe.

As far back as I can remember, newspapers have been a part of my life. My favorite section of the newspaper was the comic pages — walking with the *Phantom* in a jungle, flying with *Flash Gordon* in space or helping *Prince Valiant* defend his castle. My uncle, a reporter and editor, used to visit our family and regale us with recaps of the trials he covered and some of the celebrities he met (later on, I worked at the same newspaper he did while I was in college.)



As a copy boy, I met lots of different types of people and witnessed jolts of human behavior that was too often on the far side of the ten commandments. Crime, gossip columns, baseball, horse racing and the comics were topics that sold papers. The old press building in downtown Boston was grimy and the levels of lead around the typesetters did not leave those men with a healthy retirement package. The downstairs men (and they were all men in those days!) running the printing presses let it be known the upstairs hierarchy were not to intrude in their territory, lest a heavy wrench “accidentally” fall on their heads. The upstairs staff was predominantly male and ethnically Irish, Jewish, Italian or

Yankee in background. Although I never learned the process of sausage making, I did learn the art and science of “newspaper” making.

The down-side of Boston newspapers, and the television industry at that time, was: no news or pictures about minorities, primarily blacks, and the affirmative actions of the 1960s were still in the future. For example, when I would return from a scheduled trip to the Associated Press office, any pictures or stories of blacks in my packet were thrown in the bucket. Oh, how times have changed in reporting, staffing and technology — and thank goodness for those changes.

At this stage of my life, I truly appreciate the contribution of James Madison who included “freedom of the press” in the list of constitutional amendments. I especially respect the men and women — too many to list — who paid heavy prices to preserve this freedom over the centuries, such as imprisonment, threats, beatings, financial losses and destruction of machinery and arson, as well as bouts of traumatic stress. There have been a number of court cases over the years that also protected this freedom as well. The John Adams of Alien and Sedition fame would be shocked to see the freedom of the press today — were he to return to Quincy, Mass., his hometown.

The media remains both a strong educational influence in shaping our personal value systems and a central role in record-keeping — transmitting to future generations how the beliefs and actions of each generation has influenced the following generation.

Like “old man river just rolling along,” the media, with all its staffing and modern technology, continues to roll out the “what’s up, doc?” coverage of our world, nation and community. As long as our media outlets remain free and communicate with accuracy and precision, Americans will continue to have a sense of security.

Freedom of the press is a treasure to “treasure” and never be taken for granted.

