

SOLIVITA DEMOCRATIC CLUB *Beacon*

MEET THE HOA CANDIDATES!

JANUARY 2022
SolivitaDemocrats.org

Brian Fillette, president — President@SolivitaDemocrats.org

Ellis Moose, editor — Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org



Happy New Year Solivita Democratic Club!

Our Annual Membership Appreciation Event held on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, in the Starlite Ballroom was a huge success with 105 attendees. Spirits were high and the mood was warm-hearted and welcoming. In the words of one Club member, "it felt like old friends together."

The event also highlighted our Annual Club membership drive. As of this writing more than half of our membership has renewed for 2022. If you haven't already, please renew your membership at the earliest to continue to receive Club news and information. You don't want to miss out on plans to hear from and support Democratic candidates in the 2022 midterm elections. Membership is just \$15 per person per calendar year.

You can renew your membership in 1 of 3 ways:

- Go to <https://solivitademocrats.org/club-membership/> to print the membership form and mail with your check.
- Or submit your payment via PayPal (click the Donate button).
- Or visit us at the SDC table at the Farmer's Market on Monday mornings from 9:00am-11:00am.

Tell your Democratic and Democratic-leaning friends in Solivita about our Club and invite them to join us too.

At our January 2022 membership meeting, we will host a forum for approved resident-candidates seeking election to the Solivita HOA Board of Directors. As a service to the Community, both SDC member and non-member attendees are welcome to attend.

To limit attendance in accordance with CDC Guidelines and maintain social distancing, participation via Zoom will be supported.

When: Wednesday, January 12, 2022

SDC Members: Doors open at 6:30PM; Non-Members: Doors open at 6:45PM

Meeting will start promptly at 7:00PM

Where: Starlite Ballroom -or- Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81885665595?pwd=YzRwOXZCYIFuRFIFL2RqQUI1NWFUZz09>

Thank you for all that you do and most of all thank you for being who you are.

Brian Fillette

President, Solivita Democratic Club, president@solivitademocrats.org



**WED. JAN. 12TH
7:00PM**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**IN THE BALLROOM
AND ON ZOOM**

**Doors Open at 6:30PM
Non-members enter at
6:45PM
Meeting at 7:00PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81885665595?pwd=YzRwOXZCYIFuRFIFL2RqQUI1NWFUZz09>



**MEET THE
SOLIVITA HOA
CANDIDATES**

**Come to the Starlite Ballroom
Wed., January 12th at 7:00 PM**

FYI

Solvita Dems Hold the Lead As of latest reported numbers

| Pct 411: | 9/1/21 | 1/3/22 | +/- |
|----------|--------|--------|------|
| Dems | 2417 | 2441 | +24 |
| Rep | 2305 | 2329 | +24 |
| Other | 86 | 92 | +6 |
| Indep | 1670 | 1681 | +11 |
| Total | 6,341 | 6,543 | +202 |

| Pct 420: | 9/1/21 | 1/3/22 | +/- |
|----------|--------|--------|-----|
| Dems | 445 | 431 | -14 |
| Rep | 325 | 330 | +5 |
| Other | 22 | 22 | 0 |
| Indep | 247 | 252 | +5 |
| Total | 1,039 | 1,035 | -4 |

| Polk Co.: | 9/1/21 | 1/3/22 | +/- |
|-----------|---------|---------|--------|
| Dems | 157,146 | 155,443 | -1703 |
| Rep | 170,846 | 171,029 | +183 |
| Indep | 129,018 | 130,093 | +1075 |
| Total | 464,964 | 466,442 | +1,478 |

| Florida: | 12/31/20 | 11/30/21* | +/- |
|----------|------------|------------|----------|
| Dems | 5,315,954 | 5,095,008 | -220,946 |
| Rep | 5,218,739 | 5,120,076 | -98,663 |
| Indep | 3,799,799 | 3,816,816 | +17,017 |
| Total | 14,565,738 | 14,284,920 | -280,818 |

* Florida reports numbers quarterly.



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

Electoral College vs. The Popular Vote

By Todd Smyth, New SDC Member

In a recent 2020 Gallup poll 61% of American preferred amending the Constitution to have the popular vote be used for electing Presidents instead of the Electoral College. The poll showed that 89% of Democrats and 68% of Independents preferred this method to just 23% of Republicans. The Electoral College has been used only 5 times in our entire history since its inception, but two of these occurred recently in 2000 and 2016. The Republican Party has won only ONE Presidential election in the last 32 years (1989) by the popular vote, which explains the support for the Electoral College has within its ranks.

The arguments for eliminating the Electoral College mainly stem from its structure negatively impacting the democratic process. People voting in smaller states have more Presidential voting power than those residing in larger states, which contradicts the democratic foundation of ONE person, ONE vote. Residents of Vermont for example have about three times the electoral voting power of people in Texas, as each elector in Vermont represents just over 200,000 people while its over 600,000 in Texas. Proponents argue that this is beneficial as it gives smaller states more representation, but isn't that what the Senate is for?

The Electoral College is also a winner-take-all scenario in each state so it negates the votes of millions of people as well as at times not representing the will of the people across the country. Many experts are concerned that this aspect suppresses voter participation. Any votes for President by the losing party in solidly blue or red states are basically tossed out when electors are chosen, since it is winner-take-all scenario. Critics also point out that the Electoral College also dictates what states the candidates and parties focus on. What we see now is political money focused strictly on the so called "swing" or "battleground states." The more solidly blue coastline and urban areas are ignored by Republicans while the Democrats ignore the deep south and the plain states. In a popular vote scenario where EVERY vote counts, candidates would be forced to moderate positions in order to appeal to a wider range of voters across the country. In the 2016 election cycle two-thirds of campaign events took place in just SIX states, while 94% of events occurred just 12 states.

Changing to a national popular vote for President would force both parties to change their political strategies. Using the popular vote for President could also increase voter participation as then ALL votes would be equal and would count — one to one.

Dr. Rosalee Clawson of Purdue University has stated that "The Electoral College is a relic and no longer functional in our modern democracy. As things currently stand politically, the Electoral College puts Democrats at a distinct disadvantage. So across the country we should be active in any efforts that try to eliminate, modify or replace it. For more information and how you can help:

<https://www.nationalpopularvote.com/>



Our 2021 Board Members:

Brian Fillette, President
President@SolivitaDemocrats.org
 704-641-2978

**Ellis Moose, Vice President/
 Beacon Editor/Webmaster**
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org
 863-852-7294

Rochelle Quinn, Treasurer
RQuinn777@gmail.com
 863-496-5313

Joan Sprain, Secretary
Joan.Sprain@AOL.com
 651-261-9166

Kate Kohout, Membership Chair
KateKohout@yahoo.com
 863-496-0481

Kay Oubre, Ways and Means Chair
Oubre95@gmail.com
 863-496-5350

Dorothy Schwartz, Publicity Chair
SchwartzAPN@aol.com
 732-207-3358

**Celeste Williams, Campaign/
 Special Events Chair**
CelestynWilliams1@gmail.com
 407-924-1766

OPEN, Hospitality Chair

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

Precinct Captains:

Leonard Guminski, Pct. 411
MariaDLenG145@yahoo.com
 586-321-4711

Celeste Williams, Pct. 411
CelestynWilliams1@gmail.com
 407-924-1766

Could B You (1 Female, 1 Male), Pct. 411
 Solivita west of Marigold Ave.

José Garcia, Pct. 420
TopCop2070@gmail.com
 516-319-4118

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

Ellis Moose, At Large
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org
 863-852-7294

Have you donated to our Victory Billboard Campaign?



The billboard shown above was spotted in Pinellas County last summer. This is an example of the type of nonsense we must combat if we hope to have Democratic victories in the next election. Kathy Castor, shown on the board with President Joe Biden and Speaker Nancy Pelosi, is the Congresswoman for the Tampa Bay area.

If you want to help us overcome the fake news and false advertising of the Republican Party while supporting our Democratic candidates in Polk County and Florida, please make a generous donation to our Victory Billboard Campaign.

Contact **Celeste Williams**, Victory Campaign Chair, or **Rochelle Quinn**, SDC Treasurer for more information and to make your donation. Their contact info is in the lefthand column on this page. Or you can visit our club's Website at SolivitaDemocrats.org/support-us to donate using a credit card or PayPal. You can also stop by the SDC table at the Farmer's Market at Freedom Park.

Our message for the billboard will be developed after the Democratic primary election so we know who our candidates will be. But, the sooner we receive the required funds the sooner we can reserve the billboard for the location and dates that will be most effective.



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

MEDIA:

The Orlando Sentinel
 Editorial Dept.
 633 N. Orange Avenue
 Orlando, FL 32801

The Lakeland Ledger
 Editorial Dept.
 P.O. Box 408
 Lakeland, FL 33802

SDC Beacon Newsletter
 c/o Ellis Moose
 217 Sorrento Road
 Poinciana, FL 34759-4065
Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org

“Happy BLUE Year!” January is...

- ✦ **January 5: Twelfth Night**, a festival celebrated by some branches of Christianity that marks the coming of the Epiphany
- ✦ **January 6: Epiphany or Dia de los Reyes (Three Kings Day)**, a holiday observed by Eastern and Western Christians that recognizes the visit of the three wise men to the baby Jesus twelve days after his birth
- ✦ **January 6: Christmas**, recognized on this day by Armenian Orthodox Christians, who celebrate the birth of Jesus on Epiphany
- ✦ **January 7: Christmas**, recognized on this day by Eastern Orthodox Christians, who celebrate Christmas thirteen days later than other Christian churches because they follow the Julian calendar rather than the Gregorian version of the Western calendar
- ✦ **January 9: Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the Tenth Guru of the Sikhs** who initiated the Sikhs as the Khalsa (the pure ones) and who is known as the Father of the Khalsa
- ✦ **January 10: Bodhi Day**, a Buddhist holiday that commemorates the day the historical Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama (Shakyamuni), experienced enlightenment.
- ✦ **January 14: Makar Sankranti**, a major harvest festival celebrated in various parts of India
- ✦ **January 16–17 (sundown to sundown): Tu B’shevat or Rosh Hashanah La’Ilanot**, a Jewish holiday recognizing “The New Year of the Trees.” It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat. In Israel, the flowering of the almond tree usually coincides with this holiday, which is celebrated by planting trees and eating dried fruits and nuts.
- ✦ **January 17: Martin Luther King Jr. Day** commemorates the birth of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the recipient of the 1964 Nobel Peace Prize and an activist for nonviolent social change until his assassination in 1968.
- ✦ **January 17: World Religion Day**, observed by those of the Bahá’í faith to promote interfaith harmony and understanding
- ✦ **January 18: Mahayana New Year**, a holiday celebrated by the Mahayana Buddhist branch on the first full-moon day in January
- ✦ **January 18–25: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, during which Christians pray for unity between all churches of the Christian faith
- ✦ **January 19: Timkat, a holiday observed by Ethiopian Orthodox Christians** who celebrate the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River on Epiphany
- ✦ **January 26: Republic Day of India** recognizes the date when the Constitution of India came into law in 1950, replacing the Government of India Act of 1935. This day also coincides with India’s 1930 declaration of independence.
- ✦ **January 27: The International Day of Commemoration to remember the victims of the Holocaust**; the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp in 1945 and UN Holocaust Memorial Day, a time to “mourn the loss of lives, celebrate those who saved them, honor those who survived, and contemplate the obligations of the living.”
 — Former President Barack Obama



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

POLK COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



**What can you
do to help turn
Polk Blue?**

Click on the links below to register
your interest!

WWW.POLKDEMOCRATS.ORG

WE NEED HELP WITH:

- First Friday Stall
- Lakeland Curb Market
- Voter Registration
- Candidate Recruitment
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Voter Protection Team Chair

VIRTUAL FATHER-SON CLASS FEEDBACK

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor

SON: Dad, my teacher says the country's really divided these days and he's worried about the future. He says we could become a dictatorship or break up into individual countries or just end up in battles that solve nothing.

Father: Well, if you stop and think about it, it's always been divided since the first settlers came to this country. By the way, did your teacher give you any reasons why it's become so divided or ways these divisions can somehow be fixed to lower the temperature satisfy some groups. I don't mind people having their own opinions. I have mine and you have yours. But if people set out to cause serious harm and throw threats around, then it's time for some action.

SON: He really didn't give any examples, but he did ask the class if we could give some examples? I guess he has to be careful about what he says in class these days and so he let's his students speak for themselves. But we did batter topics around and a few heated arguments until the teacher cooled us down.

Father: What did you discuss or solve from that class?

SON: Well, the teacher listed on the blackboard some of the topics we discussed. The one example we all agreed on was that the uprising on the Capitol building was a real attempt to overthrow the government and control of the country. We raised the issues of slavery and women's right to vote along with the civil rights marches back in the 60s as times when the country was really divided. Some of the girls in class raised abortion as a divisive issue. But, an issue I raised was the gangsters and bootleggers during prohibition – some people were happy liquor was prohibited while others happy drinking it. We had no time in class for solutions.

Father: I guess the problem I have these days is that some of my friends are really worried about where the country is headed. The newspapers and news stations are always reporting on the "crazy-talking" members of Congress or "nut-cake" bloggers on the Internet. What I am afraid of is that some of these statements will trigger their followers to do "bad things," like the invasion of the Capital. I hope somebody is monitoring them so we don't get surprised again. Well, I guess I've talked enough. It's your turn.

SON: Well I kinda agree with you. One thing I forgot to mention was that we did mention the new voting rights laws passed by certain state legislatures that seem to make it harder for some folks to vote. Our class agreed that voter identification was legit, and registering is OK, but only a Secretaries of State should certify elections. Otherwise somebody else could tamper with the results. We did have a battle over whether states or the federal government should control presidential elections.

Father: Well at least you are getting something out of school. That's hopeful. By the way, was there any class support for President Biden's national voting act?

SON: Well, we just got into that subject when the bell rang and class ended. As we were leaving for next class, the teacher reminded us to read the next chapter that covers how dictators like Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin and Mao Zedong came to power and ruled with one-party domination. Got to go to my room now and start that reading. Goodnight, Dad.

