

SOLIVITA

# DEMOCRATIC CLUB Beacon

AUGUST 2023  
SolivitaDemocrats.org



CIVIL RIGHTS



GUN SAFETY



EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENT

Brian Fillette, president — [President@SolivitaDemocrats.org](mailto:President@SolivitaDemocrats.org)

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## President's Letter

### Murder

## Mystery Dinner Theater

- SDC Member Advance Ticket Sales
- Wednesday August 9, 6:00pm - 8:00pm
- At the Palms Amenity Room



Pres. Brian Fillette

## WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13th MEMBERSHIP MEETING

In the BALLROOM  
And on ZOOM

Doors Open at 6:30PM  
Meeting at 7:00PM

## Murder Mystery Dinner Theater



JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF  
MYSTERY, MAYHEM, AND MURDER!

DATE: Thurs., Oct. 26 TIME: 6:00 P.M.

LOCATION: Solivita Starlite Ballroom

ADDRESS: 384 Village Drive, Poinciana

VIP Seating just \$45 /per SDC member  
\$5 additional! \$50 /per guest

Adults are welcome!

RSVP: Val Williams [VPowell65@aol.com](mailto:VPowell65@aol.com)



### Featuring Speakers

## LISA MILLER

Member of  
POLK COUNTY  
SCHOOL BOARD

## SARAH FORTNEY

Former Member of  
POLK COUNTY  
SCHOOL BOARD

## &

## MARCUS WRIGHT

Candidate for  
POLK COUNTY  
SCHOOL BOARD

## NO SDC MEETING IN AUGUST!

President's Letter, continued on next page

## REPRESENTATIVES

### Our elected representatives need your input

Let them know your positions on issues!

#### 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](http://www.flgov.com)

#### State Rep. Sam Killebrew (R)

FL House District 48 Office:  
Phone: 850-717-5041  
Email: [sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov)

#### State Sen. Colleen Burton (R)

District 12 Office  
100 South Kentucky Avenue  
Suite 260  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
Email: [Collleen.Burton.web@flsenate.gov](mailto:Collleen.Burton.web@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](mailto:Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org)

### President's Letter, continued from previous page

Are you getting excited for the fun event we're bringing to the Ballroom on Thursday October 26? We sure are and we're pleased to offer Advance Ticket Sales only to SDC members!

Tickets: \$45 SDC members, \$50 Adult guests.

- Get closer to the action! Limited number of VIP tickets +\$5 each.
- Tables of 8. Buy a table with your friends!
- Cash or check payable to "Solivita Democratic Club."

### SDC membership not current?

No problem, join the Club at the advance ticket sale.

Note: there will not be a Club meeting on this date in August.

### About the event: Dinner and a Show!

**I**talian dinner buffet (salad, entrée, dessert), Beverage service, and Cash bar starts at 6:00 pm. Vegetarian and Gluten free options available! See the menu on the next page and at <https://soliv-itademocrats.org/in-the-news/>

**The interactive show "Death of a Gangster - A 1920's Mafia Marriage Murder Mystery"** with professional actors from the Murder Mystery Company starts at 7:00 pm.

**In this "Married to the Mob" event**, you'll never know who to trust. With the two families merging, someone is bound to lose power, which means someone else will lose their life! Join in the fun and help solve this case with your fellow detectives. Dress the part or come as you are!

### Can't make it to the SDC member advance ticket sale?

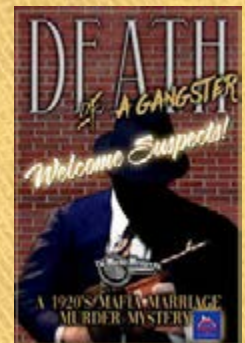
Tickets will be available for purchase by all Solivita residents, while they last at:

- **Club ticket sales** • Mosaics  
• Friday, September 1 • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **SDC membership meeting** • Ballroom  
• Wednesday, September 13 • 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm
- **Club ticket sales** • Mosaics  
• Monday, Oct. 2 • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- **SDC membership meeting** • Ballroom  
• Wednesday, October 11 • 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

**Questions? Contact Valerie Williams.**

**E-mail: [vpowell65@aol.com](mailto:vpowell65@aol.com)**

**Phone/Text: (631) 455-4036**



### President's Letter, continued on next page

## SDC BOARD

### 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

### Valerie Williams, Ways and Means Chair

vpowell65@aol.com  
631-455-4036

### Dorothy Schwartz, Publicity Chair

SchwartzAPN@aol.com  
732-207-3358

### Diane Jorio, Hospitality Chair

DDJorio@live.com  
443-262-1053

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

### Precinct Captains:

**Leonard Guminski, Pct. 425**  
MariaDLenG145@yahoo.com  
586-321-4711

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

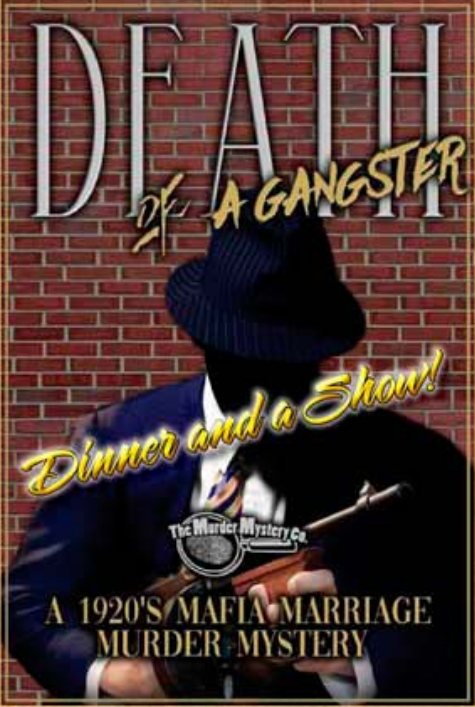
**Alan Harris, Pct. 411**  
AMHarris1212@yahoo.com  
407-718-2525  
Solivita west of Marigold Ave.

**Could Be You (2 Female, 2 Male), Pct. 412**  
Solivita Bella Viana, Venezia and portions of Poinciana

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

*President's Letter, continued from previous page*

Here is the menu for our Italian buffet. Also available on our Website at <https://solivitademocrats.org/in-the-news/>



**Murder Mystery Dinner Theater**  
Thursday, October 26 • 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm •  
Ballroom • Doors open 5:30 pm  
Dinner is included with your show ticket!

*Buffet Menu*

**HOUSE SALAD BAR**  
Lettuce, Tomato, Cucumber, Olives, Beets, Cheese, Red Onions, Croutons  
Dressings: Ranch, Thousand Island, Italian, Balsamic  
Garlic Bread

**ENTRÉES**  
Spaghetti & Meatballs or Italian Sausage  
Eggplant Parmesan w/Cheese on the side  
Gluten-free Pasta

**DESSERTS**  
Tiramisu, Carrot Cake  
Gluten-free Flourless Chocolate Cake, Fruit Cup

**BEVERAGES**  
Water, Iced Tea, Coffee & Tea

**CASH BAR**  
Full Liquor, Beer, Lite Beer,  
Wine: Red, White, Rosé, Pepsi products, Bottled water

## Farmer's Market volunteer coordinator needed

We're currently seeking a new coordinator to organize volunteers for our Club's table and tent at the Farmer's Market. Our presence there every Monday morning has been so important to promote Democratic initiatives and build our membership! If you can help please contact our Membership Chair Kate Kohout via Email: [KateKohout@yahoo.com](mailto:KateKohout@yahoo.com) or Phone/Text: (570) 236-0443 to offer your assistance. We're taking the months of July and August off (too hot!) but want to pick back up again in September.

## Petitions

We continue to encourage your participation with these two important 2024 Florida ballot initiatives.

### 1. Amendment to Limit Government Interference with Abortion.

From the ballot summary: No law shall prohibit, penalize, delay, or restrict abortion before viability or when necessary to protect the patient's health, as determined by the patient's healthcare provider. Download the petition from <https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/petition/>

*President's Letter, continued on next page*

## REGISTRATIONS

### Solivita Now Has Three Precincts!

Reg. Voters as of April 3, 2023

Pct 411:	7/5/22	7/5/23	+/-
Dems	1535	1595	+60
Rep	1539	1632	+93
NPA	938	*1067	+129
Total	4,069	4,294	+225

Pct 412:	7/5/22	7/5/23	+/-
Dems	4,102	3,879	-223
Rep	1,297	1,353	+56
NPA	3200	*3,504	+304
Total	8,710	8,735	+25

Pct 425:	7/5/22	7/5/23	+/-
Dems	959	959	0
Rep	868	890	+22
NPA	671	*725	+54
Total	2,536	2,574	+76

Polk Co.:	7/21/22	7/5/23	+/-
Dems	149,497	145,161	-4,336
Rep	172,220	177,110	+4,890
NPA	126,391	*143,543	+17,152
Total	456,568	465,814	+9,246

Florida:	7/21/22	6/30/23	+/-
Dems	4,955,022	4,721,471	-233,551
Rep	5,217,343	5,263,269	+45,926
NPA	3,887,406	*4,197,624	+310,218
Total	14,256,184	14,182,364	+73,820

Note: \*NPAs include minor party registrations that are not shown individually.

## WEBSITES

### 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)  
[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)  
[www.PolitiFact.com](http://www.PolitiFact.com)

*President's Letter, continued from previous page*

## 2. Right to Clean and Healthy Waters

From the ballot summary: This amendment creates a fundamental right to clean and healthy waters. The amendment may be used to sue State executive agencies for harm or threatened harm to Florida's waters, which include aquatic ecosystems. Download the petition from <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>

**Note:** the petition forms must be completed individually and returned via US Mail to the address indicated on the forms. Nearly 900,000 signatures are needed by end of 2023 to qualify for the Florida ballot in 2024.

**T**hanks 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](mailto:president@solivitademocrats.org)

Visit our Website <https://solivitademocrats.org/>

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/solivitademocraticclub>

Nextdoor <https://nextdoor.com/g/qikq82ag>

June 27, 2023

# TAYLOR MORRISON FILES NOTICE OF APPEAL TO FLORIDA SUPREME COURT!

**A**s you hopefully know by now, the District Court of Appeals **AFFIRMED** the trial court's ruling in our Home Owners' favor and the award of damages.

**Taylor Morrison DID NOT file a Motion for Rehearing.** However, they **DID file a Notice of Appeal** asking the Supreme Court of Florida permission to appeal the District Court's ruling.

**This was not a surprise.** Taylor Morrison must submit a 2500-word brief, and your Class Representatives, Bill, Norm and Brenda Taylor, will file a 2500-word reply. Then we sit and wait.

**If the Supremes grant TM permission to appeal,** the full appeal process begins again. **IF, HOWEVER,** the Supremes DENY Taylor Morrison's motion, **IT WILL BE OVER!**

**A timeframe is not yet known.** But your Class Representatives will continue to update you on the status of this matter as it proceeds through the judicial system.

**Brenda Taylor**, Past President, Solivita HOA Board

EDITORIAL

# IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO – OR TANGLE

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor



**A** few nights ago I had a weird dream — let’s call it “heavenly guys talk.”

**S**hakespeare, Aristotle and Plato were chatting about the strange behaviors of earthlings who either were walking city streets with strange black sticks protruding from their ears or holding small black boxes to their heads. Shakespeare was especially perplexed and said, “I have no idea what those contraptions are, but how do they listen to people?” And “puff,” the dream ended. So the subject of “human communications” got me thinking.

**Communication is definitely a two-way street.** The technologies by which people can communicate would marvel most of the past populations — the telephone, radio, electricity, television and the “wonder of wonders”— the internet. No longer are millions of people so isolated in many parts of the world. But these technologies are only methods or tools for communications. It is the messages from the sender to the receiver that count and, in today’s world, these messages come fast and furious. For better or worse, they influence individual outlooks, behaviors, knowledge and feelings. We are living in the “communication age.” My thoughts!

**The Self.** Most of us don’t realize how often we talk to ourselves every day — and why not? Like me, most seniors spend time asking themselves “where are my car keys?,” “my cell phone was right here a minute ago and now it’s gone — what happened?” or “What can I make for supper because I don’t feel like cooking!?” But talking too much to ourselves becomes boring; as social beings, we need contact with other people or substitutes to fill the communication gap — so thank you, Alexander Graham Bell and Thomas Edison (and confreres) for their respective contributions to the phone, electricity and the movies.

**HELPFUL DEFINITIONS:**

**Treason:** the crime of betraying one’s country, especially by attempting to kill the sovereign or overthrow the government.

**Sedition:** conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch.

**Coup:** a sudden, violent, and illegal seizure of power from a government.

**Terrorism:** the unlawful use of violence and intimidation, especially against civilians, in the pursuit of political aims.

**Fascism:** a system of government led by a dictator who typically rules by forcefully and often violently suppressing opposition and criticism, controlling all industry and commerce, and promoting nationalism and often racism.

**Legislative Institutions.** While Americans generally treasure the right to free speech under the First Amendment, all communications are not necessarily “free to espouse.” Federal and state laws put the breaks on absolute freedom of public and private speech with laws that prohibit hate speech; harassment, physical, spoken or written threats; blackmail; violations of copyrights and trademarks; false advertising; scams; and fraud. While the use of the internet is now so necessary to carry out everyday personal affairs, it can also serve as a conduit for scams, hacking, public shaming, child pornography and a haven for criminal activities. As of this writing, former Mayor Guiliani has acknowledged at his trial that he did harass two election workers in Georgia during the

2020 presidential election, but he is contending his statements are protected under the free speech protection clause of the First Amendment. Only time will tell whether or not the Court will accept his defense argument.

*Joe Tobin, continued on next page.*

Joe Tobin, continued from previous page.

## IT TAKES TWO TO TANGO — OR TANGLE, continued

**One pertinent sector of state law are the “rules of the road.”** People communicate respectfully when they use their blinkers and floor pedals with care and keep their eyes on the road. Zigzagging, bumper creeping and a heavy foot are definite No, No’s. I bow to the old adage, “Actions speak louder than words.”

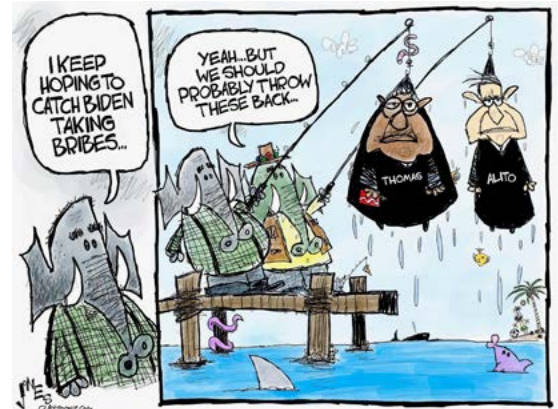
**Supreme Court Decisions.** Not to be forgotten, the Supreme Court has played a significant role in limiting or extending free speech, since the early twentieth century. In 1919, two cases, *Schenok v. U.S.* and *Abrams v. U.S.*, the Court decided that the Constitution does not protect speech that is a clear and present danger to national security. Through the decades the number of cases brought before the Supreme Court have been many and with different twists, all in the name of free speech. The Miranda decision is a good example (“You have a right to remain silent ...”)

**In 2023**, two cases relative to free speech were decided: *303 Creative v. Elenis* favored a creative web designer who sought an answer to a hypothetical question and received a favorable one — no creative websites for LGBT persons. *Gonzalez v. Google* was remanded. The cases exemplify how broad the scope and importance these decisions are to protect or limit the scope of government, business or the public at large. Sometimes we like the decisions and sometimes not.

**Movies (Talkies), Radio and Television.** These industries tailor their content to all ages of the public and are so powerful in shaping how we think and behave. For example, while driving to Kissimmee I listened to a lengthy discussion on NPR (I’m a fan of it) on the newly-released “*Barbie*.” What surprised me was I was quite fascinated by the gendered viewpoints and reactions of callers. One man said he cried watching it. While I didn’t rush to the nearest “*Barbie*” store to stock up on Barbie supplies, I understood that this movie is influential and says “something” to lots of people.

**I also have great respect** for the movie/show production industry of the past when they made movies that communicated to audiences the oft hidden physical, mental and social problems that affected that lives of individuals and families such as “*The Man With the Golden Arm*” (drugs); “*Gentlemen’s Agreement*” (anti-Semitism); “*Rainbow Man*” (autism); “*Days of Wine and Roses*” (alcoholism); and “*Grapes of Wrath*” (migrants and poverty). During my elementary school days, I loved listening to the radio shows into the night, reading the Sunday comic sections, and I hopping on to every media sector that came along my way, as we all did. Why? Because they entertained us, brought us excitement, laughter, mystery. In short: They spoke to us.

**Dangerous Communication Issues Looming on the Horizon.** Two issues that could fill a page or a book are: (i) *2024 elections, political propaganda and financial backing*; and (ii) *the changing world of Artificial Intelligence*. But the summer heat grants me a reprieve discussing them. As many of us have learned from experience, the world spins every day and often gives us a “bumpy ride.” All we can do is hold on.



Without comment...



A message to the Solivita Democratic Club from a past president:

## You Better Check Your Voter Registration!



I called Polk County on July 24 because I had heard while I was driving home that Republicans had voted to have Florida voters removed from the voting rolls. I have a valid and current voter registration, but when I spoke with them they told me that my wife, Bernice, and I had been removed. I asked them why had we not received any written notice, and they said that the legislation was new and we would need to register again.

Check your voter registration at this link:

<https://www.polkelections.com/Voter-Services/Voter-Lookup>



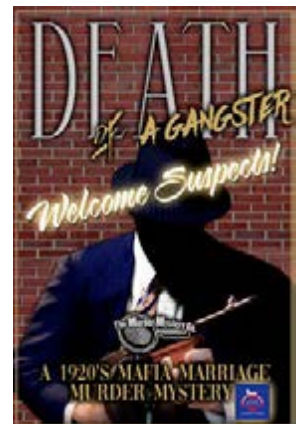
**Stan Dillard**

Past President, Solivita Democratic Club

CALENDAR

**AUGUST is...**

- 8/2 National Grab Some Nuts Day
- 8/4 U.S. Coast Guard Birthday
- 8/6 American Family Day
- 8/9 SDC Murder Mystery Dinner Theater Ticket Sale at The Palms
- 8/9 NO August SDC Membership Meeting!
- 8/14 U.S. Victory Day (VJ Day) — Thanks, Oppenheimer, et al
- 8/17 Baby Boomers Recognition Day
- 8/21 National Senior Citizens Day
- 8/23 International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition
- 8/28 Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day



Find more fun August holidays at: <https://nationaltoday.com/august-holidays/>



## “Have money set aside and have flesh on your bones.”

**T**his was the advice given to a friend who grew up as the daughter of Holocaust survivors. Her parents instilled in her and her brother the need for hyper-vigilance in case the unthinkable happened again. The couple’s circle of friends, fellow survivors of Nazi Germany, expanded the advice to include a ready passport and a warm coat in which money and jewels were sewn into the lining.

Since 2016, soon after our move from New York to Florida, I have been researching and writing stories about Holocaust victims as told by themselves or their children. My first article was about Harry Lowenstein, who saw one synagogue burn and was determined to build another—Congregation Shalom Aleichem in Kissimmee. Each story relives in me the sacrifice, the terror, and the strength shown by the targets of Hitler’s Final Solution. And it comes down to this: Although they comprised a mere 1.7% of the population of Europe when Hitler came to power in 1933, over six million men, women, and children were murdered for the crime of being Jewish.

**Hitler’s campaign against the Jews didn’t start with guns and ghettos and gas ovens.** It started in 1933 with words: slow building propaganda efforts to denigrate Jews, their accomplishments, and achievements. Words grew into increasingly more restrictive laws regarding where Jews could work, shop, seek medical attention, and live. By November 17, 1938, Kristallnacht, 1938, or “Night of the Broken Glass,” Jews had neither rights nor means to escape. Trapped, two-thirds of Europe’s Jewry were murdered by bullets, beatings, starvation, or the gas chamber.

**On June 10, 2023, neo-Nazis had held a rally not far from the gates of Disney World,** in which they waved posters with swastikas, Nazi flags, the Florida state flag and posters supporting Ron DeSantis, the governor of Florida. While other Florida leaders across party lines immediately stepped up to condemn the actions, DeSantis, has yet to comment. As noted in an article in the 6/12/2023 Tallahassee Democrat, “While the governor has been quick to tout his pro-Israel support and legislation, his office has in the past been slower to weigh in on public antisemitic displays.”



**Course work pertaining to the Holocaust have been caught up in Florida’s legislators fight against “woke” education.** History of the Holocaust, an on-line course, and Modern Genocide were rejected for including topics on social justice and critical race theory. A third book was allowed after “politically charged language” was removed. Books also have been removed from several school libraries: two graphic novels including Maus by Art Spiegelman and a version of the Anne Frank story; and Jodi Picoult’s The Story Teller.

**Florida’s current climate comes chillingly too close to what happened in Nazi Germany.** Despite the fact that transgender people make up approximately 1% of the nation’s population, the Republican legislators in Tallahassee have passed bills restricting transgenders from using public bathroom, denying them gender affirming medical treatment and drugs, and limiting the rights of parents of transgender children. In response to Tallahassee’s attempts “to erase Black history and restrict diversity, equity, and inclusion programs in Florida schools.” the NAACP justifiably issued a travel advisory to African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals.

*Florida Politics, continued on next page.*



*Florida Politics, continued from previous page.*

Since 2021, DeSantis and the Republican legislature have passed bills that, as reported in a 4/23/2023 Washington Post article, will give us an idea what “Make Florida America” would look like under a DeSantis presidency. Restrict third-party registration groups, which have long been in the forefront of signing up Black and other minority voters. Eliminate campus diversity programs. Prohibit state and local governments from making investments based on environmental, societal and governance (ESI) benchmarks. Ban abortions after six weeks, Expand “Don’t Say Gay” to include all grades (K-12) in public schools. Make it easier to sue news media for defamation and win. Make it harder to sue insurance companies. Allow gun owners to carry concealed weapons without permit or proof of training. Allow DeSantis to run for president without resigning the governorship and without having to disclose his travel records while campaigning around the country.



**Concerned Florida residents have a choice.** We can leave, finding a place—hopefully that does not require passport, a warm coat that conceals valuables, and extra weight—that is more accepting. Or we can stay and fight with our words and our images and our vote. Remember this as we celebrate our country’s birth and look ahead to our country’s future.

## **Marilyn Shapiro**

Author/Blogger/SDC Member

[shapcomp18@me.com](mailto:shapcomp18@me.com)

Blog: [www.theregoesmyheart.me](http://www.theregoesmyheart.me)



## FLORIDA 'TICS

## Dear Democrats,

**Recently** the Biden Administration made an urgent trip to Florida after the Florida State Board of Education’s new standards included controversial language about how “slaves developed skills which, in some instances, could be applied for their personal benefit”. The Vice President came to Florida with less than 24 hours’ notice to stand with thousands of Floridians ready to fight back against attacks on Black History. The Biden Administration has shown their commitment to not leaving Florida behind. It is truly refreshing to have leaders like President Biden and Vice President Harris who understand the importance of our history and are unafraid to speak the truth about it.

**Last week**, I also had the privilege of attending the Leon County DEC Legacy Women’s Fundraiser, where they honored five exceptional women in Tallahassee. Among the deserving recipients was our First Vice Chair, Judy Mount. I was grateful to recognize Judy’s long history of service to our party.

**Later**, I had the opportunity to speak and answer questions at the Democratic Club of North Florida in Tallahassee. It was heartening to see so many enthusiastic friends and Democrats who are passionate about electing Democrats to office. Their energy and commitment are truly inspiring.

**Forward, Forward, Forward!**



*Nikki Fried*  
Chair, FDP

NATIONAL 'TICS

**Fact:**  
**Our Borders Are NOT OPEN!****Compare U.S.A. immigration requirements in 2023 with those in 1923 and 1885.**

The immigration requirements in the United States have undergone significant changes over time. Here's a comparison of the immigration requirements in 2023 with those in 1923 and 1885:

**Immigration Requirements in 2023:** In 2023, the specific immigration requirements in the United States may vary depending on the type of immigration visa or status being pursued. However, some general requirements for immigration to the U.S. include:

- Visa Categories:** There are various visa categories available, such as immigrant visas (for permanent residency) and non-immigrant visas (for temporary stays). Each visa category has specific eligibility criteria and requirements.
- Legal Documentation:** Applicants need to provide valid passports and other required identification documents.
- Immigration Forms:** Applicants typically need to fill out specific immigration forms, such as the DS-260 for immigrant visas or DS-160 for non-immigrant visas.
- Financial Requirements:** Demonstrating financial stability or sponsorship may be necessary to ensure the applicant can support themselves while in the United States.
- Background Checks:** Applicants undergo extensive background checks, including security clearances and health screenings.
- English Proficiency:** Some visa categories may require applicants to demonstrate a certain level of English language proficiency.
- Employment Sponsorship:** For employment-based visas, applicants need a job offer from a U.S. employer who will sponsor their visa application.
- Special Circumstances:** There may be additional requirements for specific circumstances, such as family-based immigration, refugee or asylum status, or diversity visa lottery winners.

**Immigration Requirements in 1923:** In 1923, the U.S. immigration requirements were governed by the Immigration Act of 1924 (also known as the Johnson-Reed Act). The key features of the act included:

- National Origins Quota:** The act introduced a national origins quota system that heavily restricted immigration from certain countries, particularly

those in Southern and Eastern Europe. The quotas were based on the country of origin of the individual or their ancestors.

- Numerical Limitations:** The act imposed numerical limitations on the number of immigrants allowed from each country. The quotas were set at 2% of the total number of foreign-born persons from that country in the U.S. as recorded in the 1890 census.
- Exclusions:** The act also introduced a range of exclusions, including the prohibition of immigration from Asia (except for Japan and the Philippines) and restrictions on individuals with certain physical or mental disabilities.

**Immigration Requirements in 1885:** In 1885, the U.S. immigration requirements were governed by the Immigration Act of 1882, which was the first significant federal immigration law in the United States. Key features included:

- Chinese Exclusion Act:** The act specifically targeted Chinese immigrants, prohibiting the immigration of Chinese laborers to the United States.
- Contract Laborers:** The act also restricted the immigration of individuals who were coming to the U.S. as contract laborers, except for certain exemptions such as skilled workers and professionals.
- Inspection and Documentation:** Immigration officials at the ports of entry were authorized to inspect and document arriving immigrants.
- Entry Fees:** Immigrants were required to pay a head tax upon entry into the United States.

It's important to note that this is a brief comparison and does not cover all the intricacies of immigration requirements during these time periods. Immigration policies and requirements have evolved considerably over the years, reflecting changing social, economic, and political contexts.

Documentation needs change over time: it is MUCH more difficult today to enter the U.S. than when our relatives "came over legally" prior to World War II.



*A chartered club of the Polk County Florida Democratic Executive Committee*

**Membership Form**  
**Annual Membership dues are \$15/person**

Please make checks payable to: **Solivita Democratic Club**

Mail to:  
**SDC Treasurer**  
**586 Villa Park Rd.**  
**Poinciana, FL 34759**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  New Member  Renewing Member  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Time Solivita Resident? (Check one)  Yes  No  
I am registered as:  Democrat  NPA (No Party Affiliation)  Other Party  Republican  
 I am NOT registered to vote in Polk County, Florida



**Membership Includes**  
**Monthly Beacon Newsletter — Informative Meetings — Fun Events**

Meetings are held at 7 pm, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month,  
in the Solivita Starlite Ballroom and online via Zoom.

Visit [Solivitademocrats.org](http://Solivitademocrats.org) for additional information.

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