

SOLIVITA

DEMOCRATIC CLUB Beacon

OCTOBER 2023
SolivitaDemocrats.org



Brian Fillette, president — President@SolivitaDemocrats.org

Ellis Moose, editor — Beacon@SolivitaDemocrats.org

President's Letter

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

Our Murder Mystery Dinner Theater event coming to the Ballroom on Thursday, October 26 is **SOLD OUT!** We're delighted with the strong interest in this event and look forward to seeing many of you there and at future meetings and events.



Pres. Brian Fillette

And now, back to our regularly scheduled programs!

Please join us at our next membership meeting on Wednesday October 11 in the Ballroom or Zoom to welcome our guest speaker **Democratic Congressman Darren Soto**. A strong showing of support for our representative in Congress will be much appreciated!

You may also want to follow Congressman Soto on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/RepDarrenSoto> or sign up for his informative weekly email newsletter at <https://www.darrensoto.com>.

When you read his newsletter you will be amazed at the many benefits Congressman Soto is bringing to our communities. Thanks in large part to the **Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act, and CHIPS Act enacted by President Biden and Democrats in Congress** - with little to no support from Republicans!

And if you haven't yet, please support these two important 2024 Florida ballot initiatives. **More signed petitions are still needed!**

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 health-care provider.

Get the petition from:

<https://floridiansprotectingfreedom.com/petition/>

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

President's Letter, continued on next page

WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 11th
MEMBERSHIP
MEETING

In the BALLROOM
And on ZOOM

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

Featuring Speaker

DARREN
SOTO



U.S. Congressman
Representing
Solivita and the
Ninth FL District



Kathie Sutherland
"Climate Action Now"
Coming Nov. 8th

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

State Rep. Sam Killebrew (R)

FL House District 48 Office:
Phone: 850-717-5041
Email: sam.killebrew@myfloridahouse.gov

State Sen. Colleen Burton (R)

District 12 Office
100 South Kentucky Avenue
Suite 260
Lakeland, FL 33801
Email: Colleen.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

be used to sue State executive agencies for harm or threatened harm to Florida's waters, which include aquatic ecosystems.

Get the petition from <https://www.floridarighttocleanwater.org/>

Note: 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.

Thanks 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

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

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

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

Murder Mystery Dinner Theater

You're part of the show. Come dressed for the part!

SOLD OUT!

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 \$5 additional! **\$45** /per SDC member
\$50 /per guest **Adults are welcome!**

RSVP: Val Williams VPowell65@aol.com

SOLIVITA Democratic Club

SDC BOARD

Brian Fillette, President
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 704-641-2978

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 651-261-9166

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**Dorothy Schwartz,
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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

New DUO Banner Ready For Fall Events



L to R: Jim Cusimano, banner designer Ellis Moose, and Martha Cusimano. Jim and Martha founded DUO to support the St. Rose of Lima Food Pantry. With your help, DUO raised over half a million dollars in 15 years. St. Rose volunteers fed over 80,000 people in the first 15 months of the pandemic and over 200 families a week. Open Tuesdays, 10 to 1.

Spectacular Autumn Raffle – You may win one of the gorgeous themed baskets, full of desirable gifts, which will go on offer in October. Come see the prizes and buy your tickets at the Farmer’s Market, Mondays and Fridays from 10 am- 1 pm on October 23, 27, 30, November 3, 6, and 10. Drawing: Nov. 13. Winners of these baskets are always delighted!

Monster Food Drives: Resident-wide events benefit St. Rose and St. Ann’s Pantries. Solivitans donated FIVE TONS of food, plus \$11,000 in 2022/23! Mark your calendars: **November 2 and April 11**, Farmer’s Market parking lot.

Here are some items food banks appreciate and need:

1. Everyone donates Kraft Mac and Cheese in the box. They can rarely use it because it needs milk and butter which is hard to get from regular food banks.
2. Boxed milk is a treasure, as kids need it for cereal.
3. Everyone donates pasta sauce and spaghetti noodles.
4. They cannot eat all the awesome canned veggies and soup unless you put a can opener in too or buy pop tops.
5. Oil is a luxury but needed for Rice a-Roni which they also get a lot of.
6. Spices or salt and pepper would be a real Christmas gift.
7. Tea bags and coffee make them feel like you care.
8. Sugar and flour are treats.
9. They love fresh produce donated by farmers and grocery stores.
10. Seeds are appreciated because growing can be easy for some.

Food Pantry Items, continued on next page

REGISTRATIONS

Solivita Now Has Three Precincts!

Reg. Voters as of July 3, 2023

Pct 411:	7/5/22	9/1/23	+/-
Dems	1535	1605	+70
Rep	1539	1645	+106
NPA	938	*1012	+74
Total	4,069	4,329	+260

Pct 412:	7/5/22	9/1/23	+/-
Dems	4,102	3,900	-202
Rep	1,297	1,358	+61
NPA	3200	*3,376	+176
Total	8,710	8,790	+80

Pct 425:	7/5/22	9/1/23	+/-
Dems	959	958	-1
Rep	868	890	+22
NPA	671	*675	+4
Total	2,536	2,564	+28

Polk Co.:	7/21/22	9/1/23	+/-
Dems	149,497	145,788	-3,709
Rep	172,220	178,495	+6,275
NPA	126,391	*134,568	+8,177
Total	456,568	469,250	+12,682

Florida:	7/21/22	7/31/23	+/-
Dems	4,955,022	4,676,087	-278,935
Rep	5,217,343	5,244,138	+26,795
NPA	3,887,406	*3,861,950	+25,456
Total	14,256,184	14,079,530	+176,654

Note: *NPAs do not include minor party registrations that are not shown here.

WEBSITES

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

Food Pantry Items, continued from previous page

11. They rarely get fresh meat.
12. Tuna and crackers make a good lunch.
13. Hamburger Helper goes nowhere without ground beef.
14. They get lots of peanut butter and jelly, but usually not bread.
15. Butter or margarine are nice, buy rare.
16. Eggs are a real commodity.
17. Cake mix and frosting to make a child's birthday cake.
18. Dishwashing detergent is very expensive and is always appreciated.
19. Feminine hygiene products are a luxury and women will love them.
20. Everyone loves Stove Top Stuffing.

Lita Epstein, one of our own SDC members, is running for the Solivita HOA Board

As a resident of Solivita since January 2005, she has worked on many projects to further the development of the community including:

Save Our Solivita (2008/2009): helped to organize and participate in this working group to oppose the incorporation of the city of Poinciana and prevent Solivita from becoming a cash cow for the property taxes of the city.

Beginning in Sept. 2015, she worked diligently to prevent the amenities purchase for \$73 million, including serving on the CDD beginning in 2016 and becoming chair in 2018 to prevent the closing of the contract to purchase the amenities for \$73 million.

Organized the campaign in 2018 of five CDD members called the **Price is Too High** to help fight the purchase of the amenities for \$73 million. Won by more than 67% of the vote.

Organized and continue to coordinate the Southport Connector Alternative Routes (SCAR), to seek an alternative to the plan for building a Great Wall of Poinciana outside our gates.

Filed a Title VI complaint to slow the process for the Southport Connector and seek federal investigation of its planning.

Served on the Poinciana CDD for 7 years, including five as Chair.

Professional Training and Experience:

Undergraduate Degree in Community Development from Rutgers.

MBA Degree from Goizuetta Business School of Emory University.

Served on HOA boards, including as President, in 4 states.

Served Community Planning boards or Committees in 4 states, including being appointed Polk County's Planning Commission and Board of Adjustments.

Business owner and author with 50 books on the market primarily in the areas of business and personal finance.

**IMMIGRATION:
WHERE DO YOU STAND?**

By Joe Tobin, SDC Member and Beacon Contributor



After divorcing, my wife and I put up the “for sale” sign. At the time, the town’s population was changing in favor of minorities. So it happened that my next-door neighbor, a minority herself, was very upset that only minorities were looking at our property. She explained she and her husband had moved from Boston for peace and quiet and she now feared too many Black newcomers would recreate the old neighborhood and have a negative influence on their teenagers (who never wanted to leave Boston).

People have been on the move since time began. The motives are many: escaping high-cost states, picking good schools, enjoying warm weather or sandy beaches, unsafe neighborhoods, seeking better job opportunities. For the neighbors left behind, there is generally a concern about a soon-to-be owner’s qualities — friendly, aloof, complaining or thoughtless — a natural reaction.

America is also a “home” in a very broad sense. People have a right to know who is coming into their country to visit or stay. That role belongs to the federal government. In the colonial period, the British government kept a close eye on immigration to protect their own interests. Large landowners sought immigrants from Britain and the Germanic countries through sales agents. The founding fathers acknowledged the importance of immigration. Thomas Jefferson wrote that “. . . the present desire of America is to provide rapid population, by as great an importation of foreigners as possible.”^[1]

The founding fathers indirectly gave Congress the power to oversee matters of immigration through Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution. Over the decades, Congress passed various acts granting the executive branch the authority to implement immigration policies through the departments of Homeland, Security, Labor, State and Justice.

Decades ago, I had the opportunity to climb the Statue of Liberty. It was a very touching moment. I still remember the etched words of Emma Lazarus:

**Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest tossed to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door.**

As touching as these words are, there is currently a sinking feeling among Americans who view the vast lines of parents holding babies in their arms and clutching little children desperately trying to cross the Rio Grande to enter the United States. The scenes are heartbreaking and show that they must be so desperate to walk the Darien Gap trail and on to the American border, while subject to threats of rape, kidnapping, murder, robbery and inhumane living conditions.

The looming question is: how many immigrants are too many — before the system collapses? The country desperately needs immigrants, but not coming haphazardly. Recent administrations have implemented various policies — some humane while others were shameful. There are also many frustrated federal workers and residents living at the border, with facilities overwhelmed and too few immigration judges to keep up.

When I saw a picture of a Border Patrol officer letting migrants off a bus in a distant city, I felt the system is in deep trouble. It may be time to close the border and give the government a chance to address what to do with those immigrants already here. If the flows continue, there will be a lot of angry voters giving a thumbs down vote. While this issue is emotionally fraught, it also needs a realistic evaluation.

[1] *A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy from the Colonial Period to the Present Day.* By Andrew M. Baxter and Alex Nowrasteh. August 3, 2021. Cato Institute. Well recommended.



2023 State Convention will be held at the Rosen Centre in Orlando October 27th-29th.

Sign up to make sure you receive all upcoming State Convention updates.

[Click Here for Updates](#)

We are excited to share more about our **2023 Take Back Florida State Convention** which will be held at the **Rosen Centre in Orlando from October 27th-29th**. The weekend will host Democratic delegates for trainings, meetings, receptions, general session, a fundraising dinner, and more! *You will not want to miss out on this important event as we aim to prepare and mobilize Florida Democrats for 2024!*

Delegate Registration - Deadline October 6, 2023

Please note that for State Convention, all attendees must register to become a Delegate. Delegate registration is now open at fdpconvention.com and will close on October 6th.

In order to become a Delegate to State Convention, please go to fdpconvention.com and register both a filing form and filing fee. All Delegates are required to submit the filing form provided on the State Convention site, as well as the filing fee of \$60.

Both a filing form and a filing fee must be received by FDP for registration to be completed. You will automatically be redirected to the filing fee submission after completing the form.

Everyone attending the State Convention must complete the filing form and pay the appropriate fee to attend the State Convention. This includes DEC Chairs, Officers, State Committee Members, and Elected Officials.

Register Today! The **Mission: Take Back Florida Dinner** is optional.

Dinner Tickets and Special DEC, Club, and Caucus Pricing now available for our State Convention **Mission: Take Back Florida** dinner on Saturday night.

You can purchase tickets to the **Mission: Take Back Florida Dinner** by clicking this link:

[Click Here to Buy Dinner Tickets](#)

If you have any questions, please send an email to sophie@floridadems.org.

FLORIDA 'TICS

Dear Democrats,

We have a lot of work ahead in preparation for 2024. We have been diligently organizing and establishing relationships with community leaders, the press, elected officials, and party leaders.

We had over 2,000 Democrats from across the state attend our *Take Back Florida* tour events, and now it's crucial to focus on voter registration. DEC's, clubs, and caucuses throughout the state hosted voter registration events last week.

Another essential component of our efforts to reclaim Florida is our State Convention, planned for October 27 through October 29. During the State Convention, we will launch our organizing initiatives and provide training for party leaders in preparation for the 2024 elections. Having everyone in one location receiving consistent training will ensure that we are well-prepared for the 2024 election.

Be sure to complete delegate registration for State Convention as soon as possible. With your help and attendance, I am confident that this State Convention will be our best one yet!

Forward, Forward, Forward!

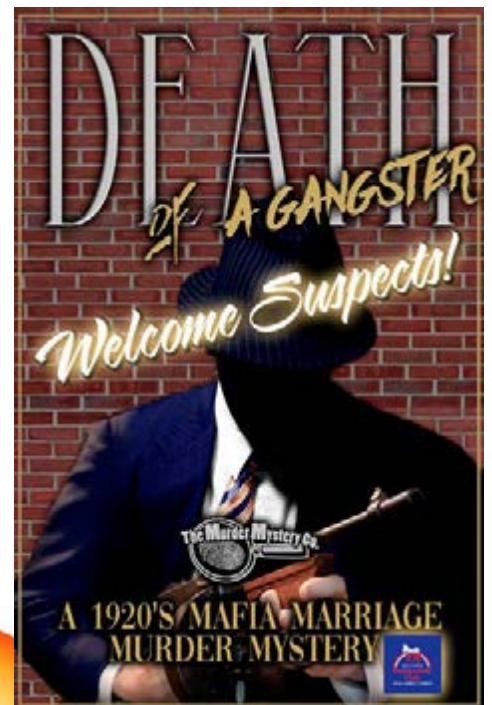


Nikki Fried
Chair, FDP

CALENDAR

OCTOBER is...

- 10/1-7 Mental Illness Awareness Week
- 10/1-31 LGBTQ+ History Month
- 10/1-31 Long Term Care Planning Month
- 10/1-7 Active Aging Week
- 10/5 **Hoshana Rabbah**
- 10/5 World Teachers' Day
- 10/9 Columbus Day/ Indigenous Peoples' Day
- 10/11 **SDC Membership Meeting — Climate Action Now!**
- 10/12 Day of Respect For Cultural Diversity
- 10/13 U.S. Navy Birthday
- 10/21 Back to the Future Day
- 10/24 United Nations Day
- 10/26 **SDC Murder Mystery Theater Dinner**
- 10/27-11/1 **Grandparents Week**
- 10/30 October Bank Holiday
- 10/31 **Halloween**



Find more fun October holidays at: <https://nationaltoday.com/october-holidays/>

MAGA? Really? Corruption and Hypocrisy

"Hey Republicans,

- Donald Trump made over **\$5,000,000** from China and over **\$9,000,000** from the Middle East as President.
- Jared Kushner took **\$2,000,000,000** from Saudi Arabia.
- Jared and Ivanka made **\$640,000,000** in the White House.

Wanna talk about corruption? THAT'S CORRUPTION!"

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS - HARRY SISSON

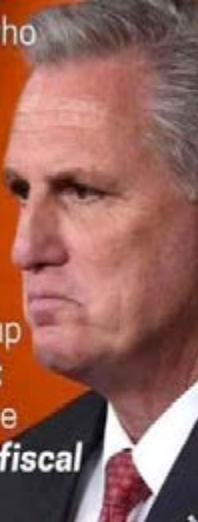


So to recap: Ginni Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, conspired with the White House to overturn the election, then her husband voted to block investigators from seeing the evidence. **If this isn't a judicial conflict of interest, then what is?**



The United Nation's General Assembly just gave President Biden a standing ovation. The assembly mocked Trump and even laughed in his face. Thanks to Biden, America is finally back to being respected around the world. **SEE THE DIFFERENCE?**

OCCUPY DEMOCRATS



The same guys who raised the debt ceiling 3 times under Trump, and signed off his massive tax giveaway to the rich that makes up 25% of our debt want us to believe they care about fiscal responsibility.

ONE THIRD

of adults believe the false claim that COVID-19 vaccines have caused thousands of deaths in otherwise healthy people.

MAGA LOGIC	REALITY
"The left wants to bring communism to the U.S."	We want Americans to enjoy fair wages and guaranteed healthcare.
"They hate police."	We want to end deadly state violence against unarmed Black people.
"They want to kill babies."	We trust women to make ethical decisions about their own reproductive health.
"They want to rewrite history."	We want to include voices from history that white historians have ignored.
"They hate America."	We want America to live up to its principles of liberty and justice for ALL.

Political & Economic Facts Matter**Democratic Talking Points**

For questions or feedback about talking points, please contact Eden Giagnorio, Communications Director at eden@floridadems.org.

TOPLINE: Ron wants to ‘make America Florida’ but our affordability crisis is out of control and Floridians are under attack.

- While the Republican Party is caught up fighting each other, President Joe Biden and Florida Democrats are fighting to make our lives better.
- Ron’s poll numbers are tanking and he can’t afford another flop on the debate stage.

Ron wants to “Make America Florida,” but under his watch:

- Florida’s affordability crisis is out of control.
- Inflation is nearly double the national average
- Property insurers are abandoning the state, making it nearly impossible to find or afford insurance
- Florida leads the country with the highest rate of uninsured drivers because car insurance is unaffordable
- Rent costs are rising statewide at an alarming rate
- Ron’s vetoes have cost Floridians hundreds of millions of dollars in federal relief

Floridians are under attack:

- Women are being forced to carry high-risk pregnancies
- Black people are being told that there were “personal benefits” to slavery
- LGBTQ+ people are facing attempts to legislate them out of existence, and many of them are being forced to flee the state

- Protections for immigrants are under attack and many face the ongoing threat of deportation

Hurricane Ian Anniversary:

On Thursday, September 28, FDP Chair Nikki Fried traveled to Fort Myers to commemorate the anniversary of Hurricane Ian.

TOPLINE: On the first anniversary of Hurricane Ian, Sept. 28, we remember 149 lives lost and families impacted by the devastating hurricane that ripped through Lee County and left Fort Myers under water.

- Ron’s mishandling of Hurricane Ian cost Floridians their lives.
- Almost one year after Hurricane Ian hit Florida, a Washington Post investigative report found that some policyholders had their claims cut by nearly 80%.
- Since Hurricane Ian, insurance premiums have increased by 40% and Ron and his supermajority have done nothing about it.
- Ron’s continued inaction on property insurance and the climate crisis is a threat to us all.

Gun Violence”

TOPLINE: Less than a month after the racially motivated mass shooting in Jacksonville, Democrats are taking action on gun violence.

- We applaud President Biden for working with Congressman Frost, Mayor Deegan and other state and local leaders to address gun violence with the launch of the White House Office of Gun Violence Prevention today, led by Vice President Kamala Harris.
- Ron vetoed millions in funding for community gun violence prevention programs and Black history just before the state’s permitless carry law took effect.

Print out this Membership Application for your friends and bring them to our next meeting!



A chartered club of the Polk County Florida Democratic Executive Committee

Membership Application 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 for additional information.