



Vol. 13 Number 8

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## From the President's Desk:

By *Mary Lou Ambrose*



Florida is, once again, the laughingstock of the country, possibly the world. Our far right mini-Trump Governor is mandating that no Florida school can require students to wear a mask in the classroom. He loudly proclaims that parents make that decision for their own children

without concern for those children, other children, teachers, or school employees. He keeps touting the rights of every man, woman, and child to do whatever he or she wants to do, no matter how stupid or dangerous it is for themselves or others. He says that the virus is on its way out and further claims that children are unlikely to catch the virus.

(See his Executive Order.) These claims are simply lies, given that hospitals all over the country are treating more children for Covid than ever before. Florida leads the way as the State with the most children hospitalized with Covid. While cases are surging in all age groups, the surge in Covid infection in Florida's children spiked higher than in any other group. (Miami Herald).

Consider what DeSantis' claims; Tak-

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## ZOOM meeting (Get in the Picture!)

**August 16 7:00 P. M.**

**Speakers:**

**Eric Lynn**

**Michele Rayner-Goolsby**

See page 4 for more information

### MLA from Page 1

en literally, a person can decide that he or she has a right to ignore a red light. If that driver then causes an accident resulting in a death, he could claim his rights were being diminished by requiring him to obey traffic rules. He would lose that battle and go to jail. Governor DeSantis is allowing people to ignore the danger to others when a person refuses to get vaccinated or wear a mask. Unlike the guy blowing the red light, nothing happens to the person who transmits Covid to others. The horror of refusing to mandate mask wearing for children in our schools is a terrible error which is likely to cause severe illness and the possible deaths of children, teachers, and school employees. One that can cost

the lives across Florida. Children are endangered by his mandate. People will die, and the blame lies with Governor DeSantis. His ridiculous idea that every American has the right to do whatever he or she wants without regard to others will kill people.

*Funny thing about small government Republicans. They believe that government should not be involved in people's lives and cannot mandate behavior regardless of the reason for a mandate .*

DeSantis is running for President in 2024 as a "small government Republican." In his limited perception of how to reach that goal, he is reaching out to the loudest, meanest, and most far-right segment of the Republican population. They love him because he is telling them that they can do whatever they want without regard to others. In his re-

fusing to acknowledge the increased dangers of Covid, he is touting his ridiculous ideas simply to appeal to that group of people. The more he appears before this group of people the more outrageous his rhetoric gets.

Funny thing about small government Republicans. They believe that government should not be involved in people's lives and cannot mandate behavior regardless of the reason for a mandate. They feel this way except, for instance, when a school Board decides that the best way to keep children safe is to mandate masks in the schools. Of course, there is another major situation where they favor mandating behavior. That is when these small government Re-

publicans decide that they can come between a woman and her doctor, her husband, and her own knowledge of her health and circumstances when she decides to seek an abortion. In that situation, a woman's rights to control her own body becomes a function of far right government.

I am concerned that my granddaughter, and many of your children and grandchildren, are going back to school in the dangerous environment known as Pinellas County Schools. Some of you are teachers, like our son, or have spouses or children who teach or work in administrative or other jobs for the School Districts in Florida. Because Governor DeSantis has put his head in the sand and kept it there, our schools threaten to become

### MLA from Page 2

breeding grounds for Covid.

Recently, Pinellas County Democrats joined Democrats in Hillsborough County urging members of the County School Boards to demand that they defy Governor DeSantis' Executive Order to mandate against requiring masks in County schools. Pinellas County Chair, Lucinda Johnston wrote in an email to the School Board that, "We need for these school boards [to] take action now to protect our children from the explosive surge in Covid cases among children in the state and county." Acknowledging the governor's political position, she said, "We need for these School Boards to push back on Gov. DeSantis' bullying tactics and protect our children and our communities. Our School Boards were elected to provide for the education and well-being of our children, and DeSantis' anti-science stance is a campaign stunt for his extremist political base."

Our County School Board had planned a mask mandate for students and faculty, prior to opening the schools. However, they withdrew that because of

Governor DeSantis' Executive Order. During an emergency meeting, the Manatee and Pinellas County School Boards refused to implement a mask mandate to fight COVID-19, saying state rules wouldn't allow it. They "strongly recommended" mask wearing. They refused to defy the Governor as other School Boards have done. They allowed Governor DeSantis to impose his dangerous mandate without fighting it, leaving the students in Pinellas County without a mask or even a social distancing mandate. Below is the contact information and consider con-

tacting the Pinellas County School Board members and tell them it is time to stand up to the Governor. Our children should be their one and only concern.

For your information, the Pinellas County School Board will meet on August 24<sup>th</sup>. The location is the Conference Hall, Administration Building, 301 4<sup>th</sup> St SW, Largo FL 33770.

You can email the entire Board at [Board@pcsb.org](mailto:Board@pcsb.org). Phone number: 727 588 6300

Please contact them and consider attending the August 24<sup>th</sup> meeting. 🍷

I'm slowly learning that even if I react, it won't change anything, it won't make people suddenly love and respect me, it won't magically change their minds. Sometimes it's better to just let things be, let people go, don't fight for closure, don't ask for explanations, don't chase answers and don't expect people to understand where you're coming from. I'm slowly learning that life is better lived when you don't center it on what's happening around you and center it on what's happening inside you instead. Work on yourself and your inner peace and you'll come to realize that not reacting to every little thing that bothers you is the first ingredient to living a happy and healthy life.

Baria Naim



# Upcoming Speakers

## AUGUST SPEAKERS:

### ***FL HD 70 Representative Michele Rayner-Goolsby — Candidate for CD 13***



**Michele Rayner-Goolsby,** a local civil rights attorney, represents District 70 in the Florida House. Rayner is among the first openly LGBTQ women of color elected to Florida's Legislature.

"It really has been a people powered campaign," said Rayner, who said she sees her victory as "pushing back on patriarchy."

"We ran with integrity. We ran with transparency and we ran with accountability."

"I'm proud because this win

represents a new day," said Rayner in a news release after her House victory.

"I am thrilled by the outpouring of support we've seen already in just the first days and weeks of our campaign," Rayner-Goolsby said in a statement. "As we keep this momentum growing, there will be more opportunities to get involved to ensure that we keep this crucial seat Democratic in 2022. I am in this race to help my community, the community that raised me. Through people power and community input, I know what a difference we can make in Congress for the people of FL-13." 🏆

### ***Eric Lynn, Candidate for CD 13***



Er-

ic was originally scheduled for May, but was unable to attend.

So he is joining us in August.

Eric Lynn is the first Florida Democrat to jump into race to replace Charlie Crist.

*From Tampa Bay Times - May 5 by Steve Contorno*

This will be one of the most competitive congressional races in the country.

Eric Lynn, a national security adviser from St. Petersburg, made official on Wednesday his long-rumored plans to run for the District 13 seat.

"My view is the people of Pinellas deserve someone who understands the challenges we face in our communities and the complexities of working in congress," Lynn told the *Tampa Bay Times* on Wednesday.

Lynn previously worked as a congressional aide and served as national security adviser to President Barack Obama's 2008 campaign. He then joined the administration as an adviser to Secretary of Defense Robert Gates.

Lynn lives in St. Petersburg with his wife and three kids. 🏡



# Upcoming Speakers

## SEPTEMBER SPEAKERS:



### Ben Diamond becomes 2nd Democrat to file for Charlie Crist's Pinellas County Congressional seat

Diamond, 42, grew up in Pinellas County. An attorney, he served as special counsel to former Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink from 2007-2011.

"He joined me because my late husband, Bill McBride said he was phenomenal," Sink said on Monday. "He came in as my lawyer and started working right away. We started working 14 years ago on issues like climate change and sea level rise and the insurance crisis."

Diamond, 42, grew up in Pi-

nellas County. An attorney, he served as special counsel to former Chief Financial Officer Alex Sink from 2007-2011.

Diamond's grandfather was Dante Fascell, who represented Dade and Monroe Counties in the U.S. House from 1955 to 1993.

"He had a way of being very effective in public life and it was because he treated people with respect," Diamond said. "He was honest. He was humble. And he always put the people he served first. And that has provided me with a very good model to follow in the way that I approach public service."

Florida's 13th Congressional District was held for more than 40 years by Republican Bill Young. After Young's death in the fall of 2013, David Jolly defeated Sink in a special election in 2014 and held it until 2016.

But CD 13 was found to be one of eight congressional districts that the Florida Supreme Court ruled in 2015 had been drawn up in violation of the state's fair dis-

trict constitutional amendments back in 2012, the last time there was redistricting. The newly drawn lines (which drew back south St. Petersburg back into the district) made the district more Democratic leaning, and it's been held by Democrat Charlie Crist since then.

"This will be a tough race," Diamond acknowledged in his speech. "It will be one of the most competitive congressional races in the nation, and one of the most expensive."

Diamond also said that he expects "that that you will see a lot of outside forces with unfamiliar names flooding our TV's and our computers, and iPhones and radios with breathless ads and wild claims," adding that it's "absolutely critical" that the seat continued to be held by a Democrat.

Diamond was slated to head the Democratic House Caucus from 2022-2024. Although considered

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# Upcoming Speakers

Cont'd from prior page

a plum leadership role, the fact of the matter is that House Democrats are in the significant minority in Tallahassee, with just 42 members in the 120-member chamber.

In that respect, his departure to run for Congress is similar to the path taken in 2020 by Democrats Adam Hattersley and Margaret Good, who left their House district seats last year to run (unsuccessfully) for congress.

Speaking with reporters after his speech, Diamond denied that his leaving the House is a statement about his feelings about serving in the minority.

“Not at all,” he insisted. “This is just an incredible opportunity to serve the place that I care very deeply about and want to continue serving and hopefully make a bigger impact on the issues that I mentioned in my talk that are so important to our future”.. %

Excerpted from [Bay News 0 May 10th coverage of](#)

[Ben’s announcement](#)

OCTOBER or November



## Environmental scientist

Lindsay Cross is running for Florida House District 68, she announced Friday in an email to supporters.

Cross is seeking the seat currently held by Rep. Ben Diamond, who is not running for reelection to instead seek Florida’s 13th Congressional District. “Our state is facing serious challenges that require bold and thoughtful leadership. From the environment to the economy — from

health care to human rights — Tallahassee is failing our state,” Cross wrote in the email. “Working families deserve an advocate who will use science and community input to make decisions, not the conspiracy-centered, fact-free agenda dominating our capital.”

Cross previously ran unsuccessfully against Sen. Jeff Brandes for Senate District 24. Political watchers in the Tampa Bay area had speculated she would seek that seat again, with Brandes facing term limits and the race now open. But her Friday email ends that speculation and offers another shift in the political musical chairs launched when CD 13 incum-

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Lindsay Cross.....

# Upcoming Speakers

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bent **Charlie Crist** announced he would run for Governor.

After his announcement, candidates started lining up to replace him, including Diamond, which then prompted speculation about who would run to fill Diamond's seat.

Cross, a Democrat, is so far the first candidate to enter the race.

"This isn't a task I take on lightly. I've spoken with local civic, political, and business leaders about what's at stake and how we win. They come from all backgrounds and their priorities reflect the diversity of our state and people. They all shared one common

message: we need a leader who will continue Representative Diamond's legacy of constituent service and policy that will move our state forward," Cross wrote.

She added she's "committed to our Democratic values" and that she's spent her life "making positive change for our community."

"Now, I'm ready to take on Tallahassee — and I'm going to win," she said.

Cross, now the government relations director for Florida Conservation Voters, lost to Brandes in 2018 with just 46% of the vote. While her loss came as little surprise in the red-leaning district, she performed better than some might have expected.



*Excerpted from Florida Politics*

*June 4, 2021 by Janelle Irwin Taylor*

<https://floridapolitics.com/archives/433943-lindsay-cross-jumps>

December



*2021 Holiday Potluck*

**Pandemic willing**

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**PLEASE DON'T FORGET YOUR DUES!**



**YOUR Democratic Club**



Click on  
LINK



**Dues are \$15 per year, payable in January of each year. Dues paid in the last quarter of 2020 carry forward into this year.**

**If you have not already paid you can pay online at:**

<https://www.largodemocrats.org/get-involved>

**Or mail a check to**

Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club

P O Box 1242

Largo, FL 33779

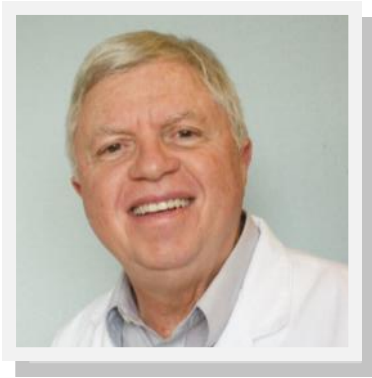
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# My Thoughts

*A new column featuring our members' essays*

By Carl Panzarella, DDS



What the hell, are you kidding me?

My wife tells me her Clearwater hospital has cancelled elective surgeries again. It's déjà vu all over again. A year and a half into this COVID pandemic and we're back to where we started.

And while Florida is one of, if not the top State of new infections, our wacko Governor in his own MAGA style threatens to not pay any educators who have the nerve to ignore his mandate of no masks in the schools. Sure, why not. While the pediatric units are filling up with infected children for the first time, let's not protect them while the classrooms open again.

And while you are at it, keep going to Court to prevent cruise lines from protecting their crew, staff and passengers while they sail international waters. What responsibility does the government have in telling a business it has no right in asking for proof of vaccination in the attempt to protect its employees and customers? I thought the mantra of Republican, Libertarian voices is a message of smaller government without any regulations that impinge on corporate and individual freedoms. Except of course, when it comes to women's reproductive rights then the government can dictate what it wants.

It would seem to make the most sense to encourage our fellow citizens to get the vaccine and join those States that have low infection rates. But not if you are pandering to the MAGA base under the pretense of personal freedoms and an anti socialist, radical, left wing Pelosi Democrat message. Also, DeSantis must make sure he tows

the line and spouts the narrative of his mega billionaire donors many of whom are from out-of-State. These are his real constituents, not the citizens of Florida.

**But my question in the first line is to the Democratic candidates running for Governor against Red-Tide-Rick DeSantis. Where are you?**

How easy can it be to denounce this insanity and take up the banner of public health? As a candidate and elected government official any microphone or camera you get in front of will produce media that will go out across the State and the Country. The people and especially the children of our State need you to stand up for them now. I don't know if you heard it, but the campaign starting gun went off.

I plan to end anything I write with this message. The Republican Party is nothing more than a front-group for big Billionaire, well hidden,

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# My Thoughts

*A new column featuring our members' essays*

Cont'd from prior page

dark money donors whose only goal is to protect their fortunes and corporate profits from any government interference or oversight to the peril of anyone who gets in their way.

*Editor's note:*

*We would like to include your essay/ Letters/opinion pieces. Please limit to 750 word or less.*

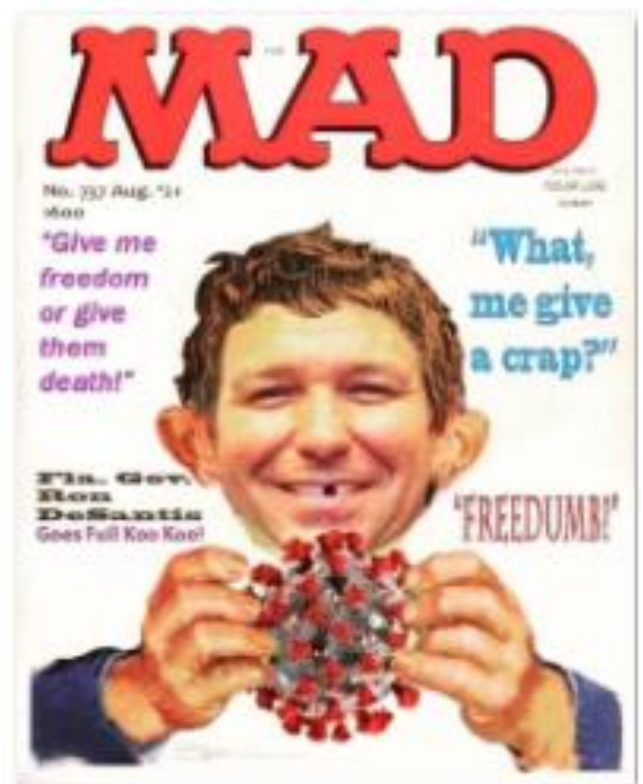
*Please send to*

[Admin@Largodemocrats.com](mailto:Admin@Largodemocrats.com).



AS MY FRIEND MAUD ONCE SAID: "THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU MUST SPEAK, NOT BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO CHANGE THE OTHER PERSON, BUT BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T SPEAK, THEY HAVE CHANGED YOU."

MELISSA MCEWAN



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## President's Message

### Mary Freeman

When the U.S. Supreme Court

handed down Roe v. Wade in 1973, they were making a clear declaration: a woman's body belongs to her.

Ever since, the right to self-determination has been under relentless siege by abortion opponents -- and they've persuaded the Supreme Court to hear a case attempting to overturn a lower court's blocking of Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban. Anti-choice advocates are using this case to directly challenge Roe v. Wade's legality. If the Supreme Court rules in their favor, states could be given much

greater leeway to ban abortion -- in any and all cases.

Gov. DeSantis is supporting them.

Every woman deserves the ability to decide what to do with her own body.

End of discussion. But we all know Ron DeSantis won't protect a woman's right to choose;

in fact, he's already signed laws restricting abortion access in Florida. Just in 2021,

over three hundred anti-abortion bills have been introduced in state legislatures.

[Con't next page](#)

**DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB**  
*Of Upper Pinellas*

**CELEBRATING 81 YEARS!**

The Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

Wednesday September 29, 2021  
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Dunedin Golf Club  
1050 Palm Blvd, Dunedin, FL 34698

Luncheon  
Choice of Chicken Marsala or  
Stuffed Shells (vegetarian) Entrée

Attire  
Dressy

Entertainment  
Live Entertainment

More information:  
Donna Dennis 313-443-2587  
Or Mary Freeman 727-415-6629

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and are limited.

RSVP by August 31, 2021, with this form:





Women deserve the right to determine the future of their own reproductive health, and this right is aided by the mifepristone pill which allows women to end their own pregnancies. People have already begun using these safe and effective abortion pills on their own to end their unwanted pregnancies. Accurate information and support are needed to help spread awareness on the efficacy of these pills, as everyone has the right to determine the future of their own body.

We can't be made to go back to the coat hanger days. No Woman should have to suffer giving birth to a baby conceived by rape.

Take ACTION now. 



"Reunion Celebration"  
September 29  
11:30 – 2:00  
October Meeting  
**Live at**  
Clearwater Library



## "Reunion Celebration"



Live and in person,  
Representative  
Anna  
Eskamani!





# SPOTLIGHT ON: Wanda Schwerer

## Wanda Schwerer, a Political Life History

Compiled and submitted by Ginny Nelson

*Thank you goes to Wanda for writing about her path of activism. Thank you, also, goes to Cookie Kennedy, mayor of IRB, and Rick Boylan, Democratic State Committeeman, for their comments, which I added.*

A native of Houston, Texas, I managed to leave behind my conservative Republican, Texas roots and evolve into what a neighbor derisively called “a flaming liberal”.

What, you may ask, prompted this change?

My dad worked for a dry cleaner and I went to work with him every opportunity – which was quite often. Most of the workers “in the back” were black women. They ran the steam pressers, the irons and the other equipment. I never saw him speak to, or of them except as equals. In 1968, my senior year of high school, my school was finally integrated. We experienced no serious race problems during that school year. I never learned prejudice at home or at school. At 21 I enlisted in the US

Air Force. My basic training group was racially integrated, and we were a strongly bonded group; my early lessons in racial equality were reinforced.

While in the Air Force my eyes were rudely opened to the persecution of LGBTQ. A number of the women in my dormitory were

lesbian, and were constantly being harassed by the Office of Special Investigation. Some were ‘kicked out’ of the service, for no reason other than being homosexual. Many were good friends of mine. I was not aware of any way that their private lives had any impact on their abilities to do the assigned work. Later, a Technical Sergeant for whom I worked was given a dishonorable discharge for being gay. I had enjoyed working for him; he was a good mentor. My time in the Air Force led me to believe in the need for fuller equality for my LGBTQ comrades.

When I began my Air Force technical training, women made up less than 25% of the class. We



were told that the top 10% of the graduates would be able to apply to attend the advanced training. At the end of the course, the plurality of those completing the course in the top 10% were women. We were told outright that we would not be permitted to apply for the advance training – it would be too physically rigorous. We asked why we couldn’t even try out, to see if perhaps some were physically capable of the job. We were denied for no reason other than being female. I developed a stronger feminist perspective at that point.

I met my husband while in the Air Force. Being from the Chicago area, he was a Democrat, and convinced me that I was, too, actually. While working for a large Accounting firm in Chicago as an “untitled” director of the IT department, I hired and managed the most diverse group in our office (of over 2,000 people). I introduced such practices as flexible work schedules and self-managed teams, to the consternation of my immediate boss.

I didn’t get involved in politics until we moved to Florida just before the 2000 election. When Al Gore lost by 537 votes because

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# SPOTLIGHT ON:

## Wanda Schwerer

the vote count was stopped, I decided that I needed to help ensure that wouldn't happen again. I volunteered for the John Kerry Campaign with Move-On. After his loss, a large group of our Move-On volunteers joined the Pinellas Democratic Party.

My involvement increased with the 2008



Obama Campaign, and I became a founding member of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club. In 2012 I served on the Democratic National Convention Platform Committee, as an Obama delegate, and again in 2016, as a delegate for Bernie Sanders. THAT was an experience in frustration.

In 2012, I was asked to run for Pinellas County State Committeewoman, in which capacity I served for 8 years. (From her co-worker, Rick Boylan: "I had the pleasure and honor of working closely with Wanda for

eight years as we represented the Pinellas Democratic Party at the state level. There aren't enough adjectives to adequately convey how much I valued our partnership and how much I continue to value her friendship.")



Sign Waving!

I was appointed to serve on the FDP Clubs, Organizations and Caucuses Committee, on which Committee I still serve today, even though I am no longer on the State Committee.

In 2011 I was elected to the Belleair Beach City Council and served 3 terms. (From her long time friend, Cookie Kennedy: "I value our friendship and time shared covering beach issues together.") I am currently serving on the Planning and Zoning Committee for Belleair Beach, and on a volunteer citizens committee.

I retired in December, 2011. I decided that sitting at home was not a good idea. I volunteered at the Bay Pines VA Medical Center, serving as a "wheelchair escort" two afternoons a week. My contact with the veterans

was the most rewarding experience, and I often say it was the "best paying

job I've ever had." Ten years later, I

still believe that. Volunteering to serve our veterans is something that I hope I am able to do for many years to come.

I was a founding member of the Pinellas County Veteran Caucus chapter and served on the board of the Florida Democratic Veterans Caucus.

If all of this qualifies as a "flaming liberal", I will proudly claim that label. 🍷



In uniform: Voluntary Services

Editor's note; we've alternated months between board & general members. Please submit your candidates "for the Spotlight" to [Ginny.Nelson72@gmail.com](mailto:Ginny.Nelson72@gmail.com)

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# Opinions/ Letters

## The bizarre start to Tampa Bay's most competitive congressional race

Source: UNKNOWN

**The Rundown:** The race for Florida's 13th Congressional District will be one of the most closely watched in the country. And the start has been ... unorthodox, to say the least. The seat opened up when incumbent Rep. **Charlie Crist** announced he'd be running for governor, again. And plenty of people were happy to fill his spot. Let's get you caught up. **The players.** Six active candidates have filed to run, but most of what's going on centers around the Republican candidate who jumped in first — **Anna Paulina Luna**. One of her would-be opponents has already [dropped out of the race](#) — after Luna got a temporary stalking injunction saying

he was going to kill her. We'll get into that in a second.

**Amanda Makki** [announced she'll run](#) in the Republican primary, too. There's also **Matt Tito**, who has hinted he's looking into it.

Both Tito and Makki already have an enemy in Luna. (Again, more on that in a bit.).

On the Democrats' side, state Reps. **Ben Diamond** and **Michele Rayner**, national security consultant **Eric Lynn** and customer service employee **Christian Hotchkiss** have kept mostly quiet campaigns. Libertarian **Frank Craft** has done the same.

**The injunction.** In June, Luna got temporary stalking injunctions against then-candidate **William**

**Braddock**. In her petition for the injunction, Luna wrote that she received information Braddock was going to kill her.

A St. Petersburg Police Department investigation found [no probable cause](#) to charge Braddock, but did detail a 30-minute-long call in which Braddock appears to be secretly recorded saying he has access to foreign hit squads and saying, "If the poll says Luna's gonna win, she's gonna be gone, she's gonna disappear."

Whether the injunction is made permanent will have to wait until September. [Here's why.](#)

In the injunction, Luna said that based on the information she received, Braddock said he was also conspiring alongside Makki and Tito. Neither were

served with injunctions, and both have demanded Luna apologize for including their names.

**The Turning Point debacle.** Tensions in this race aren't limited to just the courtroom. During a recent meeting of young conservatives at a [Turning Point USA conference in Tampa](#), Tito said he was abruptly removed by conference organizers at Luna's behest.

"She is the sole reason why I was kicked out of the conference," Tito said. While Turning Point spokesman **Andrew Kolvet** declined to comment, a member of Turning Point's advisory council, **Francisco Gonzalez**, backed up Tito's version of events.

[Cont'd on next page](#)

# Opinion/Letters

From prior page

Gonzalez said he asked around in the organization and was told Luna went to leadership and said Tito was taunting her. Tito said he didn't even see Luna at the event.

**James Blair**, Luna's spokesman, dismissed Tito's claim and said he is still waiting for Tito to condemn Braddock's actions.

**The context.** Why all of this here, now? For one, there's history. In 2020, Luna [beat out three other candidates](#), including Makki, to win the Republican primary for the same congressional seat.

In that race, she was [endorsed](#) by then-President Trump. The race reflected [an ongoing struggle](#) about what direction the GOP will take, with Makki coming from a Washington, D.C., background while Luna entered politics as a personality in conservative media.

Luna's entry into the race in 2020 wasn't typical either — she was new to Pinellas, voted for former President **Barack Obama**, used model photos of her in fatigues on mailers and filed to run before registering as a voter in the county.

She also [changed her last](#)

[name](#) to Luna weeks before launching her campaign.

And of course, this election cycle, both Republicans and Democrats will fight tooth and nail for Florida's 13th District. If Republicans flip the seat and a handful of others, [they can win back the U.S. House](#).

All this when [nobody knows what the district will look like](#) by election day. 🍷

Let us ask how much would it cost for the US to have a British-style National Health Service which covers 100% of the population? Well, the current NHS budget is £133 billion (pounds). If you were to apply that to a population the size of America's (approx 5 times the size of the UK) it would cost you £665 billion to provide healthcare for a country with the USA's population.

At current exchange rates that works out to \$851 billion USD. **So for \$851 billion, the US government could provide healthcare to 100% of its population.**

**How much does the US federal government spend right now on healthcare?** The combined Medicare & Medicaid budget for 2016 was \$970 billion, and the VA budget for veterans healthcare was \$70 billion. **So in total, the US federal government spend \$1,040 billion on healthcare in a single year to cover veterans, over 65s and the bottom 10%. For \$851 billion they could provide healthcare to 100% of the population, and still have enough money left over to give a \$200 billion tax cut to the American people, or reduce the deficit. It's amazing that right now the US government actually spends more on healthcare than it would cost to provide a universal healthcare system, European-style.**

**This is without even getting into the \$2.2 trillion in private healthcare spending that would suddenly be freed up as people no longer needed private health insurance, and could be spent on other things.**

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## Contact your Federal Representative!

**Senator Rick Scott** Washington, D.C.  
United States Senate 83 Russell Senate  
Office Building Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5274

Email: [help@rickscott.senate.gov](mailto:help@rickscott.senate.gov)

**Senator Marco Rubio** United States Senate, 284 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Main: (202) 224-3041, Toll free: (866) 630-7106 Fax: (202) 228-5171, TTY: (407) 254-5548 Tampa: 5201 West Kennedy Boulevard Suite 530 Tampa, FL 33609 Phone: (813) 287-5035 Call: (813) 977-6450

**Rep. Charlie Crist - 13th District** <http://crist.house.gov/> Washington, DC Office 427 Cannon HOB Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-5961 Fax: (202) 225-9764 **District Offices Seminole District Office** 9210 113th Street Seminole, FL 33772 (727) 394-6950 (727) 394-6955 (fax) **St. Petersburg District Office** 696 1st Avenue North, Suite #203 St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 318-6770

**Rep. Kathy Castor - 14th District** Washington Office 205 Cannon House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 Phone: (202) 225-3376 Fax: (202) 225-5652 **Tampa Office 4144 N Armenia Ave Suite 300 Tampa, FL 33607** Phone: (813) 871-2817 Fax: (813) 871-2864 Office Hours: 8:30 am - 5:00 pm **St. Petersburg Office University of South Florida - St. Pete Williams House** 511 Second St. S. St. Petersburg, FL 33701 Phone: (727) 873-2817 Office Hours: Please call in advance. Note: Please mail all items to the Tampa District Office address.

**Rep. Gus Bilirakis - 12th District** Washington, DC Office 2112 Rayburn HOB Washington, DC 20515 PHONE: (202) 225-5755 FAX: (202) 225-4085 **New Port Richey Office** 7132 Little Road New Port Richey, FL 34654 PHONE: (727) 232-2921 FAX: (727) 232-2923 **Tarpon Springs Office** 600 Klosterman Road Room BB-038 Tarpon Springs, FL 34689 PHONE: (727) 940-5860 FAX: (727) 940-5861 **Wesley Chapel Office** 5901 Argonian Drive Suite 102 Wesley Chapel, FL 33545 PHONE: (813) 501-4942 FAX: (813) 501-4944

For the most up-to-date information on your Federal, State, and County representatives including all contact information, Go to :

<https://www.votepinellas.com/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=R9k4r7jkBB4%3d&portalid=72>

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR & LAYOUT EDITOR

Wanda Schwerer  
[admin@largodemocrats.com](mailto:admin@largodemocrats.com)  
**PHOTO EDITOR**

Heidi Sanchez

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Additional contact information is available on

## Why Join the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club?

The club provides a variety of ways to stay informed and involved in local, county, state and national political discussions. But we're not just about talk. We will be part of the action in finding the best candidates and getting them elected, as well as supporting the most important causes. We will write letters, make phone calls, knock on doors, register voters, and whatever else it takes to bring change to our communities, our county and our state. But, just as important, we also want to make time to enjoy each other's company and celebrate each other's efforts at social events throughout the year. Grassroots politics is effective and fun!

As a member of the Largo/Mid-Pinellas Democratic Club you can:

- Meet other active Democrats
- Meet and get to know your elected officials and potential candidates
- Raise funds and work for candidates
- Participate in community service projects
- Hear speakers and discuss issues of local, state and national importance
- Attend special events and monthly meetings.

