



DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Of Upper Pinellas



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THE DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

OF

UPPER PINELLAS

HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Monday, December 3, 2018

11:00-2:00pm Royal Palms of Largo,

200 Lake Ave NE, Largo

\$30 - cash or check made out to DWCUP to

Shelby Freeman

960 Starkey Rd. #1404, Largo 33771

Entertainment provided by Dale Badway

Menu: Chicken Marsala

Please note for Chef's Choice Vegetarian

Chocolate Truffle Torte

Punch, coffee, tea, water

Honored guests, drawings for fabulous prizes and more!

Guest Speaker, Melinda Perry, Chief Operating Officer RCS

Donations to the Haven of RCS would be appreciated. They are always in need of hygiene items (bar soap, shampoo and conditioner (including ethnic products), etc), underwear and socks for women and children (all sizes, new), gift cards that will allow women entering shelter to purchase special needs items, and baby food/formula and bottles. Gift cards for gas, bus passes, major stores also welcome.

President's Message:

Donna Dennis

The election is over but not really. Three major statewide races are yet to be decided definitively. Overall, however, we feel like the blue wave skipped right over Florida. We put our all into this campaign and yet, we did not prevail. Our frustration is palpable.

But I'm a "silver linings" kind of person. What I see is that Pinellas County Democrats were better organized and got more accomplished than ever before. We need to maintain the organization and processes developed in this election cycle and build on them. Special thanks go to the grassroots workers and their endless efforts to get out the vote, educate the voter, follow up on the mail in ballots and now, chase down provisional voters so their votes can be counted. Kudos to those in North Pinellas who made the campaign office a reality and led trainings in each part of the campaign process.

We also saw that nationwide, the Democrats have recaptured the House of Representatives and it looks far more like America than ever. Many media outlets describe the "Pink Wave," as so many women gained seats—and several of them were minority women. The hope is that there will be more civil, inclusive law-making plus investigation of the possible corruption and bad behavior in DC. Studies show that women govern differently from men and that could help restore cooperation and collaboration. The goal of legislators should always be doing best for the American people, not serving corporate masters/donors.

The reality is that we are already in the next campaign cycle. We may live in a predominantly red state, but we are true blue and will not lay down and lick our wounds. In fact, after the two hours I allowed myself to be very low, I got two calls from women I don't know who found my number on the website or Facebook and called to become more active and get busy on registering more voters, including those convicted felons who can now be re-enfranchised. One woman discussed with me ideas for outreach to the minority communities in our area. By the afternoon, I felt like I got back my energy and enthusiasm for the work ahead. Seriously, it never ends!

I want to thank all of you for your commitment to democratic ideals. I also want to congratulate Charlie Crist, Jennifer Webb, Jeff Gow and Nicole

Carr. These were all great Democratic candidates here in Pinellas County who won their races. We will continue to support and work for local, state and national Democratic candidates and build the blue bench.

And now, I want to invite all of you to celebrate ourselves and our hard work with a fantastic holiday party. We will have a full meal (not just the salads of the past luncheons) in a beautiful holiday setting with professional entertainment plus sing alongs of holiday songs. We have Melinda Perry of RCS to speak about their work this year. And what awesome drawings we'll have with some very special prizes, like a Presidential Seal of the Obama family, an afghan, a massage, gift cards, stunning gift baskets and other great items. Please send your check in to Shelby Freeman as soon as possible. We will end this year stronger than ever!

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**The Changing Florida Electorate—
A recap of a presentation by Dr Susan MacManus**

At the October meeting of the DWCUP, Dr Susan MacManus, Professor Emeritus of USF, discussed the changing demographics of Florida's voters. For example, we are undergoing a "generational replacement"; that is, the majority of registered voters are now the three youngest generations of voters, known as Millennials, Gen X and Gen Z. That's the youth of this state, and they are more ethnically diverse and more likely to be independent than to have a party affiliation.

What is truly surprising about these younger voters is that they rarely watch regular network TV and for the most part, don't see all those political ads that we complain about routinely. Their news sources are social media and it has been a presence all of their lives. They don't talk on the phone; they text, tweet, Instagram and Snapchat. Even Facebook is passe.

By the way, Tampa Bay (including Sarasota) is the largest media market in Florida, so we see more political ads than anywhere else in FL. Two-thirds of Democrats in this state are in the top three media markets—Orlando and Miami join TB in that group.

In no surprise to us, the majority of voters, 53%, is women. Women and minorities are still the base of the Democratic party.

And Florida remains the bellwether in American politics. The registered voter population is 37% Democratic, 35% Republican, 28% NPA (No party affiliation) and 1% minority parties.

Dr. MacManus predicted that there could well be recounts in this election and that's what we're seeing. As the national indicator of political races, we can look back and see how closely matched the two major parties are in political turnout. The division is clear and real and not going away any time soon.

House Election Results: Democrats Take Control

227

Democrats

10

Undecided

198

Republicans

218 FOR CONTROL

Gained 32 seats

53,305,874 votes (51.5%)

Lost 32 seats

48,370,650 votes (46.7%)

By John Romano in the Tampa Bay Times.

So, this was enlightening. Not just the results, but the implications. Basically, this election says that Florida is a purple state in theory only. The truth is you live in a Republican stronghold, and it is folly to argue otherwise. That goes for the state Legislature, the congressional delegation and the Governor's Mansion, too. Florida Democrats have a sizable lead in registered voters, and a fatal deficit in enthusiasm. Or brains. Or money. Or all three.

Elsewhere, voters clearly stood up to incivility and cynicism on Tuesday.

Not in Florida.

President Donald Trump called Democratic gubernatorial candidate Andrew Gillum a "stone-cold thief" and voters did not blink. He made immigration sound like a zombie apocalypse and the crowds cheered. He told Republicans to show up at the polls as if he were on the ballot, and in Florida they listened. Let's face it, this election wasn't about Ron DeSantis. Or Rick Scott, for that matter. This election was a referendum on Trump's presidency. And judging by the number of congressional seats flipped, much of the nation decided to send Trump a stern warning.

Not in Florida.

DeSantis, your new governor, ran a campaign that was comically bereft of vision or details. And it didn't matter. He beat a more charismatic candidate. He beat a candidate who had led in most of the polls. It's true that Gillum is a small-town mayor with a flimsy resume who may, or may not, be in trouble with the FBI, but that was practically an afterthought in the DeSantis campaign. He basically beat Gillum by running on the platform that Trump can do no wrong. That was the theme of his earliest ads, and that seemed to be the opinion of his supporters. Democrats may have outdone themselves when it came to voter turnout in this midterm, but Republicans turned out to be even more energetic. In other states, voters took a stand against a president's lies.

Not in Florida.

The state that handed Trump a victory over Hillary Clinton by 1.2 percentage points in the 2016 election, just reconfirmed its commitment with a 1.0 percentage-point victory in the 2018 gubernatorial race. And this isn't about parties or policies. We've disagreed about those for years, and still managed to maintain some semblance of camaraderie and propriety. This is about a president whose only loyalty is to his own glory, and who thinks nothing of attacking anyone who disagrees with him. And Florida voters are seemingly okay with that. In fact, they seem oddly infatuated with the idea. The state has been trending more and more Republican for the past two decades, and that's fine. There are arguments to be made that lower taxes and less regulation have boosted the economy. And eight years of Scott's leadership have actually solidified his popularity, not to mention softened his edges. But this election wasn't about partisan ideas. There was little in-depth discussion of policies in either the governor's race or Bill Nelson's vanishing Senate seat. This election set a new standard in Republican domination. This election says Democrats can't win in Florida even when they have momentum. In races all around the nation, voters rejected the politics of fear and anger.

Not in Florida.



Mary, we did it. We had 1.2 million conversations with voters at the doors and on the phones and together, we elected gun sense majorities in the U.S. House of Representatives, key governorships, and statehouses!

When we said that we would throw out leaders who were bought by the NRA, it wasn't an empty threat — it was a promise. We made a promise that if our leaders didn't enact stronger gun laws, we would throw them out. **And that's just what we did:** in red, blue, and purple states across the country, Gun Sense Candidates turned into a Gun Sense Majority. Your countless hours spent canvassing and knocking on doors, talking to your neighbors, and phone banking potential voters have resulted in a surge of leaders who are committed to fighting for gun safety, winning their races *at every level of government.*

Women Won The House, But Reproductive Justice Is Still Under Attack

Statement by NOW President Toni Van Pelt

November 7, 2018

WASHINGTON-- Last night proved that voters were more determined than ever to elect feminists to positions of leadership, but women's rights are still being threatened and we have more work to do. Though voters in Oregon had the good sense to defeat a ballot initiative which would have prohibited the use of public funds to pay for abortion services, reproductive justice is still under attack. In West Virginia and in Alabama, voters have passed dangerous ballot initiatives which will preemptively criminalize abortion.

These measures threaten the lives of women. Not only do they open the door to banning abortion, but they will criminalize the act of receiving or providing abortion with a potential jail sentence. For many women, access to abortion will become increasingly difficult without the ability to use the resources of Medicaid.

The National Organization for Women (NOW) and its members are more empowered than ever to keep defending a woman's right to make her own choice about health care.

Together, we will continue demanding protections for women that include universal access to affordable health insurance coverage, broadly available sex education for middle and secondary school students, access to reproductive health care services for all girls and women, affordable insurance-coverage for contraception and safe, legal abortion.

We will continue to strengthen support for survivors of sexual violence by demanding the DNA testing of thousands of rape evidence kits, the removal of statutes of limitation, and other legislation that will assure women's safety at home, on the streets and at work.

Congratulations to our All-stars!

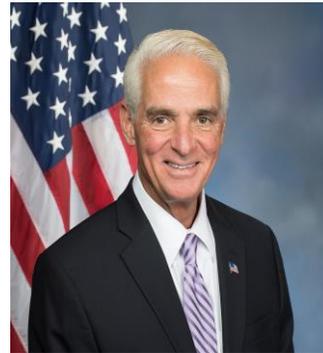
Standby for more after all ballots are counted.



Anna Eskamani
House District 47



Jennifer Webb
House District 69



Charlie Crist
Representative District 13

Florida House Victory: State of the State House

Democratic Gains

- House District 47:** Anna Eskamani (open seat)
- House District 63:** Fentrice Driskell (open seat)
- House District 69:** Jennifer Webb (open seat)
- House District 84:** Delores Hogan Johnson
- House District 103:** Cindy Polo (open seat)

Democratic Victory Over GOP Incumbent

- House District 30:** Joy Goff-Marcil
- House District 44:** Geraldine Thompson
- House District 59:** Adam Hattersley

Recount ordered in Florida's Senate, governor races

2000 all over again?





Words of Inspiration for November 2018

As Election Day draws near, and campaigning draws to a close, we are inspired by the power of elections, the vote and the possibility of a real change in Florida and in our nation.

When we look back on this election season, we can be proud that Democrats have candidates who represent every part of our society and who stood up for our values, duking it out in debates and all over social media. There is a lot is at stake ... take a moment to realize just what fundamental rights we, as women, could possibly lose. Reach inside and pull out your inner feminist as you vote and realize just how far we've come and just how much further we need to go. (Adapted from Amanda Chatel, Bustle, Oct 20 2016.)

Indeed, our votes are the emblem of women's equality, of the political freedom of all Americans. Our votes are a power, a weapon of offense and defense, a prayer. Understand what it means and what it can do for your country. Use it intelligently, conscientiously, powerfully. (Adapted from Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of The League of Women Voters.)

And, let's work to win, to Bring It Home!

Diane Lebedeff,
DWCUP Corresponding Secretary

#HonorThePress

Rachel Maddow is a Stanford graduate with a Ph.D in political science from Oxford. She got her start on Air America radio.

Her Emmy winning show on MSNBC was named a *Top show of the Decade* by WaPo in 2009. She won the Walter Cronkite *Faith & Freedom* award.



Fans love Rachel both for her warm, personable style and her keen ability to dissect, analyze & then re-assemble a complex issue in a way that finally makes sense.

**Rachel Maddow is a voice for the People
NOT an enemy of the people!**

Democrats Organizing for America



Next Meeting
January 28, 2019
11:30-1:30 pm
100 N. Osceola
Clearwater
Library

