



DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Of Upper Pinellas

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Guest Speaker, Susan Glickman
Director, Southern Alliance for Clean Energy
MONDAY, APRIL 26, 2021
Noon-1:30 pm via Zoom

Susan has worked with Southern Alliance for Clean Energy since 2001 as a consultant and lobbyist and was named Florida Director in August 2013. Susan has a background in running political campaigns and also directs SACE's Action Fund in the Sunshine State. A native of Florida, Susan has consulted with many national organizations such as Natural Resources Defense Council, Ceres, Advanced Energy Economy, Union of Concerned Scientists, Physicians for Social Responsibility and Environmental Defense Fund. She developed and directed The Florida Business Network for a Clean Energy Economy, a coalition of business leaders working together to advance the clean energy economy.

Prior to energy and climate issues, Susan worked to grant the FDA authority to regulate tobacco with the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids; to institute a nation-wide health tracking system with Trust for America's Health and for the first time to fund prostate cancer research with the National Prostate Cancer Coalition.

Susan was appointed by both Governors Rick Scott and Charlie Crist to the Florida Commission on Volunteer Service. She was Founding Chair of The Florida Commission on the Status of Women. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Speech from the University of Texas at Austin and an A.A. from Florida State University. Susan resides in Belleair Beach on Florida's central Gulf coast.



President's Message Mary Freeman

One week, two mass shootings

Eighteen deaths in one week are unfathomable but yet it happened.

It's become an all-too-familiar routine in America: A mass shooting in a public place that shakes our collective consciousness is quickly followed by thoughts and prayers, media attention, and calls to action. Then days go by, the news passes, and nothing changes in Congress.

That ends now. This year is different. Not only did the American people send the strongest gun-sense trifecta in history to Washington, but the once-feared National Rifle Association is now desperately trying to stay relevant as its money and power run dry in Washington.

Support for background checks on all gun sales were already overwhelmingly high and bipartisan before two deadly mass shootings in Atlanta and Boulder shook our country—93 percent of Americans support them, including 89 percent of Republicans and 89 percent of gun owners.

Some critics think we are going to replay the same debate of prior years, but this is a different America than it was more than eight years ago in Sandy Hook. Back then, the NRA was a formidable foe, a flush-with-cash Goliath to our volunteers' humble but fierce David. But with the NRA on the ropes like never before, that is one of the reasons this time, this moment, this opportunity is different. David will finally win.

We are also at a different place culturally than we were after Sandy Hook eight years ago. We've seen brands and corporations stand up to support gun safety and limit weapons in their stores. We've seen gun safety go from a political third rail to an issue to run and win on.

The NRA wants you to believe nothing can be done to stop the violence that shattered lives in Atlanta and Boulder from happening again. We all know that is not true. Now is the time to push the Senate to do the right thing and pass background check legislation. Because this moment is different. We are different. And we are stronger than the NRA

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
LUCINDA JOHNSTON,
NEWLY ELECTED CHAIR OF THE
PINELLAS COUNTY DEMOCRATIC
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.**

She will serve as Chair until Dec. 2024.
In addition, Lucinda is a new member of the DWCUP!

**CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME!
WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO HELP YOU ELECT
DEMOCRATS IN PINELLAS COUNTY!**



Our Legislature: Democratic Women's Club of Florida Liaison Report

Oh, Florida Legislators, we know that you have some Democrats in the mist, but you could at least 'act' like you are working with us.

The 2021 Legislative Session is half-way over. This is a very good thing, as the more they meet the worse it gets. Our tireless Democrats are being overrun with new bills and amendments. Please reach out to your Democratic representative and send some love as this session has been the most fascist moving session in recent history.

This legislative session has been a nightmare for any of us on the left. Even our centrist colleagues are aggravated with the scaled focus of the ALEC's ([American Legislative Exchange Council - ALEC](#)) templated legislation regarding the **2021 Jim Crow** voter roll backs. (HB 7041 & SB 90) This piece of unconscionable cruelty will include limited drop off locations. It will ban providing water to anyone within the 150-foot radius of the polling location. Ballot drop off boxes will be removed, leaving us to use the US Postal Service or dropping your Mail Ballot at your local (or distant) Supervisor of Election (SOE) office. There will be NO 'collection' of ballots, so grabbing your neighbor's ballot to drop off at the SOE will be illegal. YES, my friends, Republicans are scared of your vote.

In addition to being threatened by Democrats, Republicans are intimidated by our Public Education system. There are so many levels to this year's attack on our school system.

The 1st a bill that will move ALL charter schools into the State University System, whereby, taking the home rule oversight out of the School District's hands by passing home rule. Once in the State University System, our own Sen. Brandes has legislation that will take the search for new University President's out of the Sunshine Law. Yes, they will be bringing back the 'Good Ole' Boy Network. Finally, the legislature is surgically removing the Florida Retirement System (FRS), from all teachers. Yes. ALL teachers. Let's give the Republican legislature credit where credit is due. They are keeping the FRS available for law enforcement and firefighters, for now. (That will be handled at a future legislative session) With all this said, prayer will be back in the classroom in the fall. (HB 529 & SB 282 Moments of Silence in Public Schools) Allelujah! (Sarcasm)

Letters to the Editor, (please copy DWCUP), Tweets and handwritten letters to the members of the Legislature are the best ways to get our values heard.

Here are a few pieces of legislation that the Democratic Women's Club of Florida supports:

HB		SB		Maternal Health
1381	Brown	1540	Gibson	Outcomes

Revises DOH's duties under Closing the Gap grant program; revises requirements for Closing the Gap grant proposals; requires department to establish telehealth minority maternity care pilot programs in specified counties by specified date; provides for funding of pilot programs.

Revising the definition of the term "facility" to require at least one dedicated lactation space be provided

Bills of Concern, 2021 Session

Criminal Justice, Children:

SUPPORT H 807/ S 636 (Powell), also H 771/ S 638 (Powell): Children awaiting trial must not be held in adult prison
SUPPORT H 809/ S 640 (Powell) Removes mandatory prosecutions of children as adults, leaves it to the discretion of the prosecutor

SUPPORT H 303/ S 1452 (Powell) Prohibits the arrest of a child under age 10

SUPPORT H 1331 (Casello)/ S 1646 (Powell) At an initial employment interview, employers cannot request information on applicant's juvenile delinquency records

Police procedure:

SUPPORT H 521 and 1451/ S 868 (Powell) Puts limits on no-knock search warrants

SUPPORT H 505/ S 992: Applicants to become police officers must have previous employment records unsealed and checked, have enhanced criminal background checks and psychological screening

SUPPORT H 1473/ S 1148 or S 1982 (Powell) Requires law enforcement officers to intervene when another officer is using excessive force and render aid to the injured person

SUPPORT H 879/ S 1192 (Powell) Mandates continuing professional education on mental health for police officers

SUPPORT H 577/ S 1742 (Powell) Creates a database on use of deadly force by police officers including circumstances and the decedent's race

SUPPORT H 1525 (Joseph) / S 1866 In addition to the above, adds an early intervention system for police misconduct

The courts:

SUPPORT H 1613/ S 1812 (Powell) Provides preventative, pre-petition legal representation to an indigent parent in child custody cases including domestic violence, right to housing, and parentage.

Medical marijuana: **SUPPORT H 335 (Eskamani)/S 1820 (Powell)** Protects public employees from personnel action based on prescribed medical marijuana use

Healthcare: **SUPPORT H 1433/ S 1878 (Powell)** Requires hospitals and surgery centers to notify the patient's designated caregiver when they are discharged

Voting Rights: **OPPOSE SB 90 (No House companion)** Voters must reapply for a vote-by-mail ballot for each general election.

Civil Liberties: **OPPOSE HB 1/ SB 484** Gov. DeSantis' bill "Combating Public Disorder." Inhibits and punishes Black Lives Matter and other protesters by requiring demonstrators be held in jail after an arrest; enhances demonstrators' misdemeanor charges to a felony; and penalizes cities and counties that redirect law enforcement funds.

Environment: **OPPOSE SB 88** (No House companion) Makes people who are inconvenienced or injured by farm operations unable to sue unless the farm is in violation of State or Federal environmental law and is located within ½ mile of their residence. And if the suit fails, makes the plaintiff liable for the farmer's costs and expenses. (This is by request of our last speaker, Patrick Ferguson of Sierra Club, advocate against cane burning in the Glades.)

Women (& other) Prisoners:

SUPPORT HB693 (Hinson, Eskamani) / SB 792 (Taddeo) Requires body cameras for all corrections officers at Lowell Correctional Institution, a women's prison near Ocala FL. Lowell is under investigation by the US Department of Justice for rampant sexual abuse of prisoners by staff.

SUPPORT HB 165 (Hart. No Senate companion) Establishes all prisoners' right to air conditioning OR ventilation; at least 20 minutes to eat a meal; access to food in emergencies; PPE, menstrual supplies, toothpaste and soap.

SUPPORT HB 235 (Hart) SB 472 (Berman) or SB 1032 (Perry, a Republican) Allows a prisoner to be eligible for parole after 65% of sentence rather than 85%.

Reproductive Healthcare:

OPPOSE H 351/ SB 744: Prohibits abortion after 20 wks pregnancy stating a fetus at that stage can feel pain. (American

College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists disagrees:

<https://www.acog.org/advocacy/facts-are-important/fetal-pain>

SUPPORT HB 6039 (Eskamani) Removes the 24 hour wait for abortion in FL (currently "on the books" but not enforced due to an injunction) AND restores public funding for general medical and reproductive health services to entities that also provide abortion.

Immigration: **SUPPORT HB 923/ S 300 (Taddeo)** Allows Florida DACA recipients and Florida residents with Temporary Protected Status to receive financial assistance ("in-state tuition") for higher education.

Education: **SUPPORT HB 75 (Grieco, Willhite, Casello) / SB 42 (Book, Polsky, Berman)** Feminine hygiene products must be available and free in public school restrooms.

Reemployment: SUPPORT H 207 (Eskamani Casello, Slosberg) /SB 592 (Powell, Berman, Polsky) Creates an Ombudsman for reemployment (unemployment) assistance, increases eligibility period and work criteria for benefits.

Gun safety: SUPPORT HB 167/ S 428 (Polsky) Firearms must be stored safely away from the access of minors.

LGBT Equality: SUPPORT HB 301/ S 690 (Polsky) Prohibits aversive counseling practices (“conversion therapy”) targeting LGBT youth under age 18.

SUPPORT HB 6017/ SB 558 (Polsky) Repeals FL’s ban on same sex marriage (currently “on the books” but not enforced due to a Supreme Court decision.)

SUPPORT HB 43/ S 194 (Berman) Adds Gender and Gender Identity, real or perceived, to protections under the Hate Crimes Act.

JFK Definition of a liberal - Democratic Underground

What do our opponents mean when they apply to us the label “Liberal?” If by “Liberal” they mean is they want people to believe, someone who is soft in his policies abroad, who is against local government and who is unconcerned with the taxpayer’s dollar, then the record of this party and its members demonstrate that we are not that kind of “Liberal”. But if by a “Liberal” they mean someone who looks ahead and not behind, someone who welcomes new ideas without rigid reactions, someone who cares about the welfare of the people- -their health, their housing their schools, their jobs, their civil rights, and their civil liberties- -Someone who believes we can break through the stalemates and suspicions that grip us in our policies abroad, if that is what they mean by a “Liberal,” then I’m proud to say I’m a “Liberal.”

**IT SHOULD NEVER,
EVER, BE ILLEGAL
TO GIVE A FELLOW
HUMAN BEING A
DRINK OF WATER.**

The Benefits of the American Rescue Plan on Florida

President Biden's American Rescue Plan will provide Florida with:

- \$9.2 billion in state fiscal relief
- \$7.6 billion in local fiscal relief
- More than \$7 billion in relief for K-12 schools
- Economic impact payments of up to \$1,400 per person (above the \$600 per person provided in December) for more than 14 million adults and 4.9 million children. This is 89% of all adults in the state and 89% of all children in the state.
- Additional relief of up to \$1,600 per child through the Child Tax Credit to the families of 3.8 million children, lifting 272,000 children out of poverty
- Additional relief of up to nearly \$1,000 through the Earned Income Tax Credit to 1.3 million childless workers, including many in frontline jobs
- Marketplace health insurance premiums that are \$1,410

With passage of the COVID relief bill, this could never have happened without the grassroots efforts to get voters out and flip Georgia blue to elect two Democrat Senators in that state's January run-offs.

It now appears there is a push by Republican lawmakers to restrict voting rights in 43 states, including Florida. The news comes as this weekend marked the 56th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, the day civil rights activists such as the late Rep. John Lewis were beaten trying to peacefully protest and cross the Selma bridge to protect Black voting rights.

H.R. 1 would strengthen voting rights and is currently before the Senate.
Join the continued fight to protect voting rights for all Americans

THE BUZZ

When I talked to Sen. **Joe Gruters**, the chairman of the state's Republican Party, in February, he gushed about how smooth Florida's election went in November."I would hope that Florida could be looked at as the model for the rest of the country. People have confidence in the integrity of the system."

Now, Gov. **Ron DeSantis** and Florida Republicans are ripping apart the voting system that Gruters is bragging about.

They're moving ahead with a bill to eliminate drop boxes that were used by 1.5 million Republican and Democratic voters in 2020. And they're forcing everyone who votes by mail to register every year. The cost will be tremendous, local election officials say.

And Gruters? He switched his tune. He's supporting the bill.

—
Steve Contorno, scontorno@tampabay.com

Our deepest condolences to **Maryann Stickels**, longtime DWCUP board member, on the passing of her husband, **William Stickels**. We know she will miss him greatly and we send our caring and sympathy.

In addition, we also send sympathy to **Mary Freeman**, our DWCUP President. William was her stepfather.

OUR VALUES

“ Democrats believe that cooperation is better than conflict,
unity is better than division, empowerment is better than
resentment, and bridges are better than walls. ”



Time to pay our annual dues!

Annual Membership Dues \$20.00

TIERED MEMBERSHIP

PLATINUM - 3 years for \$50.00

SILVER - 6 years for \$100.00

GOLD MEMBER - Member for Life \$200.00

Make checks out to DWCU or
Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas.

Mail to Donna Dennis
223 Island Way #4B
Clearwater, FL 33767



Next Meeting
May
TBA

