

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN'S CLUB

Of Upper Pinellas

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Guest Speaker Representative Anna Eskamani
 September 27
 Zoom 12PM--Zoom



Florida House 2021-22

A bridge builder, Anna flipped her legislative seat in 2018 and won her re-election by an overwhelming majority in 2020. She made history as the first Iranian-American elected to any public office in Florida and has championed critical issues like economic justice, environmental protection, equality for all, funding for public schools, human trafficking and sexual assault prevention, and support of arts and culture funding.

A track record of kind sacrifice, endless hard work, and iron-clad values, Anna is known across the state and nation as a leader who is unbothered, unbossed, and committed to the people of Florida.



President's Message Mary Freeman



On September 9, 1940 women had only had the right to vote for 20 years. A group of women in Pinellas County gathered together at the home of Mrs. Ralph Richards actuated by a desire to bring into closer co-operation the women of Upper Pinellas. The organization from henceforth to be known as the Democratic Club of Upper Pinellas County. By September 30th they had 75 members. While we have remained consistent, I wish I knew their secret to attracting members. Maybe we have forgotten how precious the 19th amendment was to women.

On August 18, 1920, the Tennessee General Assembly by a one vote margin became the thirty-sixth state legislator to ratify the proposed amendment, making it the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Senator Smith of South Carolina opposed giving women the right to vote, he said, because to allow it would induce "sectional anarchy."

Florida was not one of the states that ratified the Nineteenth Amendment during 1919-1920. In fact, neither house of the Florida legislature had even voted on the measure. Though the legislature would pass a law in 1921 that provided the vote to all residents, it was not until 1969 that it symbolically ratified the Nineteenth Amendment, which was passed by Florida's Senate and House of Representatives on May 13, 1969, and approved on May 22 without the signature of Governor Claude Kirk.

So as that group of women gathered together with no prior examples to follow, they accomplished the unimaginable, that today in the year 2021 their small group would still be here providing a platform for Democratic candidates to get their message out. Enlightening, informing and educating women in Democratic politics remains our mission.

Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

81st Anniversary

September 9



Democratic Women's Club of Florida Political Committee
15346 Ponce DeLeon Lane
Clermont, FL 34714
www.dwcfc.com

July 27, 2021

Ms. Mary Freeman, President
Upper Pinellas County DWC
871 Ibis Walk Pl. N.
Apt. 5115
St. Petersburg, FL 33716

Dear Madame President,

Thank you for your *very generous* donation of \$500 to your Political Committee! Your donation will be put to good use to support our endorsed candidates AND to increase the Democratic voter turnout.

As an expression of our appreciation for your donation, enclosed please find a 4'x6' Biden Harris banner. We hope that your Club will soon be able to meet face-to-face again, and when you do, you will be able to display this banner proudly!

Again, thank you for your donation!

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy".

Nancy Hurlbert, Chair
954-254-1000



THEY'RE BACK!

Re: Preserve Clearwater Point - Families and Taxpayers Matter (Chart House Hotel)

It's been more than two years (February 7th, 2019) that our Clearwater Point grassroots campaign volunteers organized and filed two filed lawsuits against the City - Decade Properties – Developer Jeff Keierleber – and Attorney [Brian Aungst, Jr., which resulted in disheartening defeat.](#)

[Decade is moving NOW to Level II of the Planning Process and have submitted their Site Plan to the City Staff Design Review Committee \(DRC\).](#)

While Decade has been sent back several times for more specifics/details by the DRC i.e., for “incompleteness,” each time, they’ve hired another consultant to address the particular issue. Next is the Community Development Board (CDB) Public Hearing, scheduled for **Tuesday, September 21st**!

Decade’s proposal will raze the Chart House, a boutique hotel, located at 850 Bayway Boulevard and build a new hotel structure of 60 rooms, 8 floors, on .661 acres, covering the lot with 75% concrete in our primary residential neighborhood and affecting our 465 families.

Our Clearwater Point neighborhood Lead Team has been in contact daily with the Clearwater Planning Department questioning several components of the Site Plan plus verifying that the “concessions,” the “promises,” Decade made to us are included. We continue to ask for clarification. Our top-of-mind, troubling elements of Decade’s submission include:

1. **compliance** to current 2021 City/County CODE specifically: “The proposed development of the land will be in harmony with the scale, bulk, coverage, density, and character of adjacent properties in which it is located” and questioning the Code requirements as regards to building on the current hotel footprint vs NEW construction on the adjoining vacant land parcel;
2. **setbacks**, especially the hotel’s North setback abutting the concrete seawall of Clearwater Bay;
3. **environment**, noting that the plan lacks any environmental impact study, will eliminate any potential seagrass beds and provides no protection for our manatees, sea life and abutting waterways;
4. **infrastructure**, puzzled that there is no urgency with Clearwater’s last Wastewater Collection System Master Plan completed in January 2011 Water Supply and Treatment Master Plan completed in October 2004! Decade’s Site Plan states: “*proposed storm water system will have a connection to Clearwater Harbor, so attenuation will not be required;*”

Now, at this critical time and the pending September 21st Community Development Board hearing and CDB’s decision, we’re asking for any assistance, expertise, strategy, idea from you, our neighbors, those of you who work to maintain the integrity of our communities. Would you help us to refute Decade’s - Developer Keierleber’s - Attorney Aungst’s Site Plan, most especially on the **4 elements noted above!**

If you have any information that will benefit us, please contact us via email: rudychris@icloud.com or phone: 214-923-6549 before **September 1st!**

With appreciation, The Preserve Clearwater Point – Families and Taxpayers Matter Lead Team:

Christine/Chris & Rudolph/Rudy Michalek

Richard DeSantis

Jim Gifford

& Barney Watt

Ilana Wechsler

Susan

<p>Christine/Chris & Rudolph Rudy Michalek 855 Bayway Blvd. #707, Clearwater Beach, Florida 33767 ... 214-923-6594 ... rudychris@icloud.com</p>

2021 Redistricting—Call to Action!

We need you! The results of the 2020 U. S. Census determined that Congressional representation for the State of Florida will increase by (1) additional district. The U. S. Constitution requires the State to add this new district as well as to redraw the boundaries of the existing districts, so that all districts are nearly equal in representing the current population. The DWCUP is joining the North Pinellas County Democratic Club in issuing a **Call to Action** for its members and followers to contact their Pinellas County state legislators, asking them to formally sign the **Fair Districts Pledge** as they complete this process.

There is an action plan for us to follow. We want everyone to call our legislators by phone, send them emails, Twitter messages and postcards to encourage them to sign the pledge. Postcards have been printed that you can use in your mailings.

It's easy for members and followers to obtain legislator phone numbers, email addresses, Twitter handles, and mailing addresses. There are even sample scripts for you to use.

Here's the link to download the instructional document:

https://mscusercontent.com/74c696d7682de3e0dfdf9f5e0/files/e45f1594-5a70-faf6-7ac4-7dc8d4774623/2021_Legislative_Redistricting_Call_To_Action.pdf

We encourage you to visit the Democratic Party North Pinellas Outreach Center, 1410 N MLK Ave, Clearwater, FL to participate in postcard writing. The office is open Monday through Saturday from 12 Noon to 4 pm.

More information is available at the NPCDC website, <https://northpinellademocrats.com>.

Learn more about the pledge by visiting www.FairDistrictsCoalition.org.

Note from the 1st Vice President

I want to congratulate the fine Democrats would are moving forward in the St. Petersburg election. I am looking forward to supporting them in the November election.

With the impending redistricting, the Republican held state government is poised to wreak havoc in the already gerrymandered districts. I am calling on you to contact your representatives, Democrat or Republican, to do justice for the citizens of Florida and keep districts neighborhood friendly and to not surgically cut meandering districts.

We are embarking on a new day. The Florida legislative session starts early this year. The Democratic Women's Club of Florida is gearing up for the session, I am asking you to join the weekly Zoom meetings to be up-to-date on the irresponsible proposed legislation that will emanate from the 'Frat Boy' representatives that we have currently running the government.

You may contact me at dunedin7@gmail.com if you would like to join me on the Legislative Zoom meetings. We meet on Tuesdays at 6:30pm.

I am writing this article from Long Island, New York. The weather is beautiful here, although, the remnants of Hurricane Ida are due to visit us Wednesday.

The political atmosphere, here, is like upper Pinellas. There are "No Masks" signs, "Do Not Tread on Me" signs and a tangible air of "I want my personal freedoms."

On a happier note, and quite to the contrary, Manhattan was a delight. Most folks were wearing masks. Most restaurants requested proof of vaccination before entering. The influence of 'we are in it together' was palpable.

There was one prevalent exception, NONE of the New York Police Department law enforcement officers were masked, neither outside nor in. It is a stark contrast to the mostly compliant New Yorkers.

As I make my way back to Pinellas County, I am looking forward to being home and getting back to work on registering Democrats and making sure that all Dems are signed up for Vote by Mail.

All the best~

Karen Mullins

1st Vice President

Democratic Women's Club of Upper Pinellas

2021 Nominating Committee

This is an election year for the DWCU and the DWCF. The Chair of our Committee is Donna Dennis, dennis33@hotmail.com.

Positions for the election are as follows:

President

1st Vice President

2nd Vice President

Treasurer

Recording Secretary

Region Representative

Please contact Donna Dennis if you are interested in running for office.



Caprice Edmond has asked that we post her request that members assist her to gather signed petitions from Pinellas County registered voters supporting her candidacy for a second term on the Pinellas School Board for the 2022 election cycle. This post does not constitute an endorsement by the club.

Just print out copies of her petition, sign (and have your friends sign) with the name, address and signature matching that on file with the Pinellas Supervisor of Elections. Collect the original forms and mail them to Caprice at: PO Box 35295, St Petersburg, FL 3370

Please click on this link to download a copy of the petition: <https://files.constantcontact.com/.../f45be17a-bbdf-472b...>
<https://www.facebook.com/Caprice-Edmond-Pinellas-County-School-Board-Member-District-7-118098150100022/>

This week [abortion care after six weeks of pregnancy was abruptly cut off in Texas](#) via Senate Bill 8.

The impact for Texans is immediate and devastating. This new Texas law bans abortion as early as 6 weeks and allows any person to sue a person or organization that provides abortion care or helps someone obtain an abortion after 6 weeks in Texas. The law makes no exceptions for rape or incest. It's disgusting and offensive.

This is a dark day for reproductive freedom but we must remain vigilant here in the State of Florida.

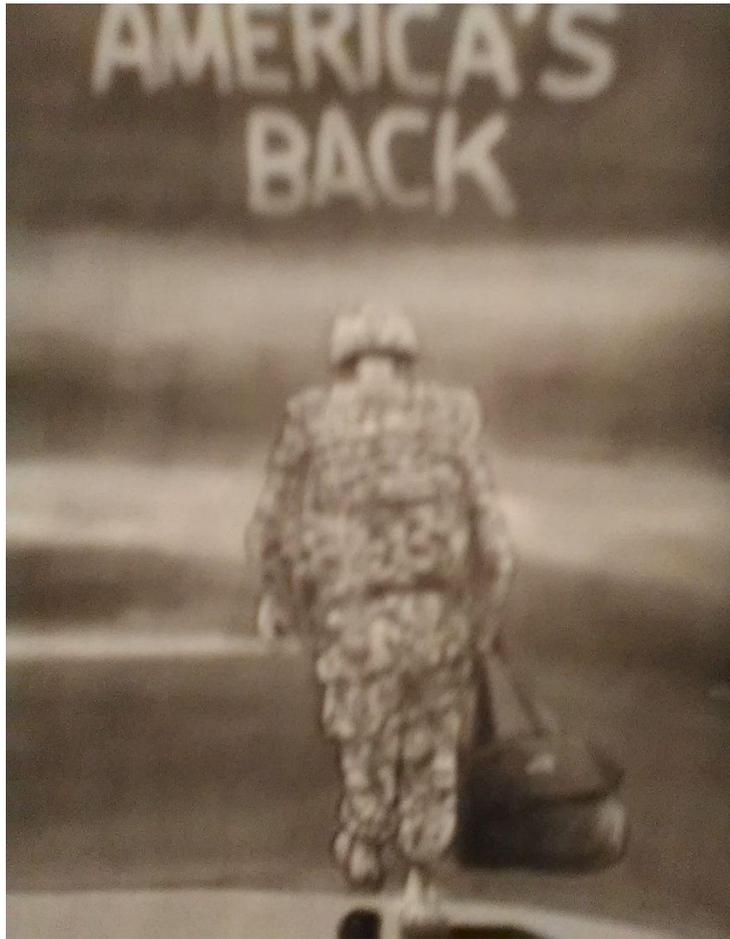
Before I ran for office I served as the Senior Director of Public Affairs and Communications at Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida. And before that I was a Planned Parenthood patient seeking access to reproductive care.

These issues are deeply personal for me -- and as we [wait for the U.S. Supreme Court to hear arguments on another anti-abortion law this fall](#), I want you to know that we are focused on pushing back against these same extreme attacks right here in the Sunshine State.

Indeed, this Texas law sets a dangerous legal precedent and could make a path for states to override people's constitutional rights. If the courts let this bill stand we can expect to see similar bills introduced in states across the country. **With nearly 600 restrictions introduced, 2021 is already the worst year for state legislature attacks on abortion since Roe v. Wade.**

Pregnant people have the right to make their own health care decisions without interference from politicians. Advocates are still fighting in court to ensure Texans have access to abortion -- and we'll keep fighting here in Florida too.

Onward, Rep. Anna Eskamani



October Meeting
Monday, Oct. 25th
12 Noon
Via Zoom

