

NORTH PORT AREA REPUBLICAN CLUB GENERAL MEETING September 28, 2026

Meeting Called to Order at 6:04 PM by Mark Frandsen, President.

Invocation: Dawn Frandsen Pledge of Allegiance Led By: Sean Burroughs

Dignitaries, Candidates and Officials were introduced. Guests were welcomed. Audio and Video Recording is not permitted at these meetings.

All in attendance were required to sign in. Members in good standing were provided name tags and lanyards.

Meeting began with the following:

- The Sarasota REC Vice-Chair Alice Rothbauer spoke to thank our club for their assistance with the Primary election. She also discussed the Sign-up Genius now available for General Election Early Voting and Election Day volunteers. The final REC meeting before the Election will be held on October 8th at the Carlisle in Sarasota. All candidates on the Voter Guide will speak.
- This is near Der Dutchman.
- Mark then announced that the REC Election for the Board positions of Treasurer, Secretary, Vice Chair and Chairman will be held December 10th. This will also be held at the Carlisle in Sarasota.
- North Port Republican Club will hold their Christmas Party this year again at Tarpon Point. It will be on December 14th at 6:00pm. The menu selection will be Seafood Risotto, Burger Plate, Coconut Shrimp and Fish and Chips. The cost will be \$35 per person. Yes, our club makes a small amount on this event.
- Mark discussed in detail, the rules and process for endorsements of candidates by the REC.
- Contact Mark or Marian for volunteer sign up for early voting and election day. We need a lot of help. Also, since Alice was present, she can help direct volunteers to the sign-up page on the REC website.
- Matthew, a staffer for Representative James Buchanan thanked everyone for their support. He reminded us that over the 8 years Mr. Buchanan was in office, he was able to bring \$224 Million of appropriations back to the district. This year alone he has delivered \$67 Million and has passed many bills throughout his tenure.
- Donna Carter the President of the South County Club announced they will have a candidate forum on October 14th from 11 am to 1 pm at the UCC on Shamrock.
- Jerry Nicastro announced the 2nd Annual North Port Police Officers Association Gala on October 10th. Materials were distributed with details of the event.

Mark then introduced two North Port Commission City Candidates that responded to our invitation. First introduced was Elaine Allen-Emrich the Candidate for District 4. Elaine spoke of her work as a reporter for Sun Media and her long residency in North Port. This allowed her to research issues facing the City in depth and it provides her a great knowledge base for the job of City Commissioner. She also spoke of the many times she went to Tallahassee to lobby for the Hospital and other funding needs for this community. Lastly, she discussed the impacts to the city if Amendment 3 passes.

Next, Phil Stokes the Incumbent Candidate for District 5 spoke. He has been endorsed by the REC. He outlined his ideas and goals for the next 4 years if elected. He gave a clear description of the City's request to the court for a decision on how money may be legally borrowed since the previous referendum on borrowing was not approved by the voters. He fielded many questions from the audience on various City of North Port concerns.

The featured speaker was then introduced. Sherry Brenneman is a member of the policy committee for the REC and has attended several workshops on the November Ballot Amendments. Her points were as follows:

Amendment #1: To increase the Florida budget stabilization fund from 10% of budget to 25% of budget. Currently it is close to the 10% targeted goal. Proponents believe this allows the state to have on hand greater reserves for economic declines or catastrophic emergencies. Opponents say that amounts removed from the budget to satisfy this higher savings threshold could be used for other services.

Amendment #2: To exempt the annual personal property assessment of farmers. Those in favor believe this will reduce burdensome regulations and taxation that pressure the Florida AG industry. Opponents believe this loss of funds will affect rural county budgets.

Amendments #3: To increase the Homestead exemption on property taxes from \$50,000 to \$150,000 in 2027 and then \$250,000 in 2028. Schools are protected. Budget priorities are to include Safety, Education, Infrastructure and Environment. Spending to be limited to core services. Proponents cite direct relief to Florida homeowners. Local and county budget spending has dramatically outpaced population growth and inflation. Spending needs to be reigned in. We do not rent our homes from the government. Opponents believe this will create uncertainty for local and county budgets. Services will be cut and there are no replacement funds for the lost revenue. This alters the State Constitution.

Various questions and discussions about these topics occurred. Concerns on both sides of each Amendment.

Final Announcements were:

- Sample Ballots are available today.
- Sign up to volunteer at the Red Tents during the next election.
- Ask others to vote. Tell neighbors and friends.
- NO OCTOBER MEETING DUE TO ALL THE EARLY VOTING.

Meeting Concluded at 7:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marian L. Patricoski, Secretary