

Lakewood Ranch Dems Feature Two Speakers

The Lakewood Ranch Democratic Club welcomes two guest speakers at their next meeting. Democratic State Rep. Michele Rayner and Tampa Bay's Regional Organizer for Planned Parenthood, Elizabeth Baker are the featured speakers July 13.

This Zoom meeting will start at 7 p.m. (plan to join at 6:45 p.m.) Register in advance at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlpdO2hrD4jGdFuPaoObuV_WjdW-fEw3zTW



Civil rights and social justice attorney Michele Rayner made history in 2020 when she was elected as the first openly LGBTQ Black female member of the Florida legislature. She currently serves Florida's District 70 that includes parts of Hillsborough, Manatee, Pinellas, and Sarasota counties.

In June, Rep. Rayner announced her candidacy for Florida's 13th Congressional District, a seat vacated by Charlie Crist who is running for governor. She is expected to give an overview of the 2021 state legislative session.



Elizabeth Baker is working toward progressive change, improving communities and protecting equal and safe access to reproductive healthcare. She works in a grassroots coalition with organizations

including Floridians for Reproductive Freedom, the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates and Florida For All.

Baker is leading resistance to the Manatee County Commissioners' unanimous approval to use county resources to explore two proposals that will seriously limit a woman's ability to make her own reproductive choices. The first is a "heartbeat" ordinance similar to Lubbock, Texas' recently passed law that bans abortions after the detection of a fetal heartbeat. The second initiative incentivizes women to give birth by creating a grant program for mothers served by the county's crisis pregnancy programs.