



Vol. 18
July 2026



Remember Independence Day July 4, 1776-2026

A Letter from AFSWFLC President Barbara Vaughn

Hello AFSWFLC Members and Friends,

"Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday, dear America.
I thank God for you!"

God could have had me born anywhere in the world to whichever parents He chose. He put me in the greatest country in the world and gave me great parents! How can I ever thank Him enough?

As we celebrate our 250th birthday, I've been watching some of the coverage on Fox News of the "State Fair" happening on the National Mall. The Trinity Broadcasting Network has also been televising live from the Mall. It's been wonderful to watch so many people enjoying themselves, celebrating our great nation! It almost makes me forget about the evil that is trying so hard to destroy us. I do hope that this time of celebration will turn some hearts back to the many things that our dear country offers.

Our visiting soccer fans have certainly been wowed by the things they find so BIG and so readily available in America! And everyone I've seen interviewed comments on how nice Americans have been to them, how friendly and hospitable everyone is. That's because we're Americans, and we're mostly grateful for that. That's just how most of us are.

Now it's up to us to help keep it that way! Get in the fight! It's going to take all of us to defeat the evil and keep America the best land in the world! Hope to see you on July 8th at our membership meeting - and, bring your like-minded friends!!

GBYRG! Barb Vaughn, President AFSWFLC

48 Days Until the August 18th Primary

VOTE 'AMERICA FIRST'

BECAUSE WE ARE THE GRASSROOTS OF AMERICA

In the end, elections aren't won by the side with the best arguments.

They're won by the side that shows up, puts in the work, and follows through to convert voters. It's a proven fact.

But will the right and the AFSWFLC act on it?

250th Dinner Dance Held on D-Day Thank You

The AFSWFLC fundraiser dance was a success with 107 tickets sold. Thank Tom Babicz who used his business skills to improve the numbers. It was light-hearted with good food, delightful camaraderie, and much needed funds to pay our litigation.



July Meeting Date

July 8, 2026, is the next AFSWFLC meeting at 11 am to 1 pm at the Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice 34285. <https://www.yelp.com/biz/venice-community-center-venice> The speaker is Bobby Williams for Governor.

Special 250th Birthday Celebrations

July 3 Brian Gurl presents America the Beautiful—a Patriotic Show. 7:30-9 pm Venice Presbyterian Church, 825 The Rialto, Venice Island. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/brian-gurl-tickets-1978438949155> for tickets.

JULY 4 INDEPENDENCE DAY!! Freedom Fest at Cool Today Park North Port 5:30-9:30. Inside the stadium, Firecracker Lane along the concourse has a vibrant mix of vendors and community organizations offering unique goods, information and local connections. Live music, featuring [Dukes of Brinkley](https://www.northportfl.gov/Event-Directory/Freedom-Festival).
<https://www.northportfl.gov/Event-Directory/Freedom-Festival>

As of 6/20/2026, Sarasota County has 327,742 Active Voters, with 161,893 Republicans, 80,376 Democrats, and 85,533 Third Party Voters

This is Our Nation's 250th Birthday

A Free People Will Not Survive Unless They Stay Strong.

The Burden of Debt is as Destructive to Freedom as Subjugation by Conquest.

"The Founding Fathers belonged to an age when debt was recognized for the ugly spectacle that it is. They considered frugality a virtue, and even when an emergency compelled them to borrow, they believed in borrowing frugally and paying back promptly. Nearly everyone finds it to his advantage or absolute necessity to borrow on occasion and becomes a necessary evil. Nevertheless, the Founders wanted the nature of debt to be recognized for what it really is: evil, because it is a form of bondage." Debt should be abhorred like the plague. They perceived excess indebtedness as a form of cultural disease.

Jefferson wrote: "The maxim of buying nothing without the money in our pockets to pay for it would make our country one of the happiest on earth."

Concerning national debt, "the Founders of the American Commonwealth had the wisdom born of experience to know that the debts of a nation are no different from the debts of individuals...The Founders knew that dire circumstances, such as war or other emergencies, could force a nation to borrow, so they authorized the federal government to do so in Article I of the Constitution."

One interesting and important belief and commitment our Founding Fathers had was that "debts of one generation should be paid for by the generation that incurred them. They wanted the rising generation to be genuinely free - both politically and economically." For debt to be passed on to a future generation would be bondage or involuntary servitude - "something for which they had neither voted for nor subscribed." To our Founding Fathers, that would be a blatant example of "Taxation without Representation," the very reason for which the Revolutionary War was fought!

"When we trace the history of the national debt, we find that the policy laid down by the Founders has been followed by every generation until the present one."

Websites to find this data: [U.S. National Debt by Year](#)
[U.S. National Debt Clock](#) (scary looking!!)

Celebrate America

Simple ways your family can embrace a season of American pride

- Add patriotic decorations and traditions to your home. Visit the **Moms for America Store** to gear up.
- Read, listen to, and watch inspiring stories about America's history
- Plan a family adventure to explore historic sites and landmarks

Sarasota School Board Meetings

The board's next meeting time is **3 pm** scheduled for **July 22**.

- August 19, 2026
- September 16, 2026
- October 21, 2026
- November 18, 2026
- December 16, 2026

Note: The July meeting starts at 3:00 pm due to summer schedule adjustments. 1960 Landings Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34231

To email all School Board members:

schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net

Sarasota Memorial Hospital Board Meetings

Contact Lisa Roulet lisaroulet@proton.me for any information.

Meeting schedule:

Tuesday, July 28 2:00 pm Kolschowsky Research & Education Institute, Morganroth Auditorium, 1st Floor, 1880 Arlington Street, Sarasota, FL 2-4 pm
Tuesday, Sept. 22 3:30 pm Regular board meeting, 5:00 pm Final Budget and Tax Millage meeting
Tuesday, Nov. 17 2:00 pm First meeting with newly elected board members

Sarasota County Commissioner Meetings

July 7, 8, 4000 S. Tamiami Trail., Venice 34293 9 am - 5 pm

Charter Review Board Meeting

6 pm Location and date to be determined.

Sarasota MAGA Patriots Meeting

July 13 Sarasota Maga Patriots Meeting. New location! KOWORX 1101 Tamiami Tr. Venice Island 34285 5:30 check-in. Meeting 6-8 pm

July 29 S. Sarasota Tiger Bay "Hob Nob"/Meet the Candidates (candidates invited by Venice Chamber). Hotel Venezia [425 U.S. 41 Bypass N, Venice, FL 34285](#)
Go to: www.sctigerbay.com 4:30-7 pm

Coastal Conservative News

Welcome to Coastal Conservative News (CCN)—Your trusted source for faith-based, family-focused & freedom-driven news. <https://www.youtube.com/@coastalconservativenews>

Red Tent Time Again

Sarasota MAGA Patriots have set up **Red Tents** volunteering again. We always have fun meeting other patriots at the **"Red Tent" early voting** extravaganza from August 8-August 16. So ***sign up early and sign up often.***

We are looking for two volunteers for each shift, as well as someone who can set up and take down the tent daily. We're planning to have four early voting locations, which are listed below. Click the link for SignUpGenius on the location you prefer and select an open time slot. Please consider taking at least 1 or 2 shifts!

Valerie Kammermeier is the site coordinator for the Anderson Building tent and the North Port Supervisor of Elections Office tent. If you have questions about those locations, please contact her directly at ValerieKammermeier@gmail.com or 847-322-1355. Patty Johnson is the site coordinator for the Colonial Oaks tent and the Gulf Gate Library tent. If you have any questions about those locations, please contact Patty Johnson directly at patgard@gmail or text her at 727-460-9939.

Here are the links:

Anderson Bldg <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BABAE2AA1F5C07-64554470-anderson>

Colonial Oaks
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BABAE2AA1F5C07-64564988-colonial>

Gulf Gate Library
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BABAE2AA1F5C07-64565001-gulf>

North Port SOE
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4BABAE2AA1F5C07-64565022-north>

2026 Candidates

Chris Gleason Is a candidate for FL US Senate <https://www.voteforgleason.com/>

Matt the Welder (Taylor) Is a candidate for Agriculture Commissioner
https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=1550611753733896&id=100063552580946&mibextid=wwXlfr&rdid=iqDyccMSBerQkeNS#

Eddie Speir Is a candidate for FL House #16 eddie@eddiespeirforcongress.com

Les Nichols, Nick Pachota, and Jennifer Winkler are candidates for FL House #74
jennifer@jenniferforflorida.com

Greg Steube incumbent for US Congress District 17 (unopposed)

Vic Rohe Is a candidate for FL Senate District 22, www.vic4fl.com

Mark Smith running for re-election Sarasota County Commission District 2
Marksmithforsarasota.com

Joe Neunder running for re-election for Sarasota County Commission District 4

Teresa DeWitt Is a candidate for District 1 School Board www.electteresadewitt.com

Frank DiCicco Is a candidate for District 4 School Board
www.frankforschoolboard.com Fdicicco50@gmail.com

Michelle Pozzie Is a candidate for District 5 School Board <https://michellepozzie.com/events>

Alexandra Coe and Bill VanAllen are both candidates for same Sarasota County Charter Review Board Dist. 2 seat. Take your pick. Both are very viable candidates.

Ali Hopper Is a candidate for Sarasota County Charter Review Board Dist. 3

Taylor Collins Is a candidate for Sarasota County Charter Review Board Dist. 4

Erin Halstead Is a candidate for Sarasota County Charter Review Board Dist. 5

True American-born, America-loving, Christian and other religious citizens are NOT the establishment's choice. But we should be your choice—because we are you.

Visit our America First Southwest Florida Caucus website at:

AFSWFLC.ORG

Call to Action Call 202-224-3121

Farm bill - [H.R.7567](#) - **Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026**, was received in the Senate on 05/19/2026.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/7567>

Section 12006 of that bill corresponds with 'H.R.4673 - Save Our Bacon Act'
<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4673>

The Save Our Bacon Act and Section 12006 of HR-4673 essentially results in **nationalizing** our food supply as per:

<https://merylnass.substack.com/p/the-save-our-bacon-act-section-12006>

This is bad, bad, bad.

Urge Senators Ashley Moody and Rick Scott to maintain protections for local farmers, and **remove Sec 12006** (the Save Our Bacon language) **from [HR-7567](#)**.

<https://www.rickscott.senate.gov/>

<https://www.moody.senate.gov/contact-us/>

#2 Call to Action Call Steube, Moody and Scott 202-224-3121

ACT NOW: U.S. Representative Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) has introduced the American System for Sustainable Immigration and Mass Immigration Limitations Achieved Through Imposing Oversight Nationally (ASSIMILATION) Act ([H.R. 8827](#)). Introduced on May 14, 2026, ***it would repeal key provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965, the Hart-Celler Act.***

If enacted, ***the ASSIMILATION Act would limit family-based immigration to immediate family members only — spouses and minor children — ending the endless chain migration that has allowed one immigrant to sponsor dozens of extended relatives.*** It would also repeal the “Green Card Lottery” U.S. Diversity Visa program.

"America is not a boarding house for the world. For decades, our immigration system has been weaponized against American workers, American families, and American culture.

Contact your U.S. representative and senators, and urge them to co-sponsor and support H.R. 8827, the ASSIMILATION Act, while removing the unconstitutional E-Verify provision.

The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil,
but

because of the people who don't do anything about it.

Albert Einstein

Offices Up for Election in 2026

Federal

U.S. Representative, 17th Congressional District

State

Governor, Lt. Governor, Cabinet Members (Attorney General, Chief Financial Officer, and Commissioner of Agriculture), State Senate District 22, 73rd House District, 74th House District, 75th House District

County

County Commissioner Districts 2 and 4

Charter Review Board District 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

Hospital Board Northern District Seats 1 and 2

Hospital Board Central District Seat 2

Hospital Board Southern District Seats 1 and 2

School Board District 1, 4 and 5 (This is THE CRITICAL RACE!) - as of this date, vote for **Teresa DeWitt, Michelle Pozzie and Frank DiCicco.**

Judicial – Numerous

Visit RightVotes.com for Conservative Voting Information



Join AFSWFLC Telegram

Click the link below to join our club's Telegram social media messenger.

[CLICK THIS LINK](#)

Mark Your Calendars

Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed: **Thursday, Aug. 6, 5 p.m. 941-861-8618**

The Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections is looking for poll workers, and the training schedule is posted. The newsletter is in the link: <news@sarasotavotes.ccsend.com>

August 18, 2026: Primary Election

Training window:

July 20-25; 27-31 (Sarasota)

August 3-7 (Venice)

August 10-13 (North Port)

Early Voting: August 8 - 16

November 3, 2026: General Election

Training window:

October 5-10; 12-16 (Sarasota)

October 19-23 (Venice)

October 26-29 (North Port)

Early Voting: October 19 - November 1

Call Our Officials

Gov. DeSantis	850-717-9337
Sen. Rick Scott	202-224-5274
Sen. Ashley Moody	202-224-3041
Rep. Greg Steube	202-225-5792
Fiona McFarland	941-361-2465
James Buchanan	941-429-4560
Danny Nix	941-899-0810
White House	202-456-1414

Legislation on Florida Bills

Stay informed.

Watch tracked bills: <https://flsenate.gov>

Meredyth Morrow 908-343-5104 and Andy Dubois 352-933-6353
andy@libertycitizen.com

The 2A group works to get bills supported. - **This takes action from the members to call and set appointments-** contact Kevin McAuliffe to get involved.
401-924-1744 km727@aol.com

12 Govt Operations House committee bills all passed last Nov. or Dec. that take away freedom of information. It is very concerning that with every single bill this committee passed this session, more is hidden from us. **We need to be diligent and vocal.**

Link to the Government Operations Subcommittee site:

<https://flhouse.gov/Sections/Committees/committeesdetail.aspx?Committeeld=3303>

FastDemocracy <mailto:notifications@fastdemocracy.com> Sign up to get House and Senate bill updates.

Our goals are: 1. SOE must verify citizenship, 2. Continue cleaning up voter rolls, 3. More in-depth audits of election machines as well as precinct and count options, 4. Tighten VBM requests.

Defend Florida has Voter Integrity ZOOM calls on Tuesday nights at 7pm. DefendFlorida.org

Citizens Renewing America Alliance Phone call every Thursday, 5-5:30 pm
<https://slingofdavid.com/signup> **4919 Pass WG8Fw2**

MAKE CONTACT: Congress at your Fingertips

If you call 877-827-3321 you can get the ***Congress at your Fingertips*** book for \$20. Request the book by email at: books@cqrollcall.com
The Congressional Quarterly (CQ) website is <https://info.cq.com/demo/>
Then call any governor, senator or representative directly.
Call: Rep. Greg Steube **202-225-5792**. Tamzin Rosenwasser

Cathi Chamberlain: Rules for RINOs

Best-selling author Cathi Chamberlain **Author/Speaker**
(727) 320-7746

Rules for RINOs: Alinsky Tactics to Fight Republicans in Name Only

ORDER: www.amazon.com/dp/1733274316

Rules for Deplorables: A Primer for Fighting Radical Socialism

ORDER: www.amazon.com/dp/0692170987

WEBSITE: www.RulesforDeplorablesBook.com

Email Cathi Chamberlain at: cathi.rulesforrinos@gmail.com

The John Birch Society

The JBS provides many easy-to-read brochures to hand out to reach others and to take back control of Congress.

Educational Materials - books; literature; the *New American Magazine* - a monthly printed and online publication with timely articles about current events

<https://thenewamerican.com/> **SUBSCRIBE**

Action Alerts - personal notifications via email or phone with details on critical upcoming legislation. Action Alerts, available regardless of membership, contain a link to automatically contact your representatives. Sign up at: <https://jbs.org/subscribe/>
Be informed and SUBSCRIBE.

Sharia-Free America Caucus

The newly organized Sharia-Free America Caucus stated purpose is to oppose the influence of **Sharia law** in U.S. legal and immigration systems, promoting legislation like the **No Sharia Act** and the **Preserving a Sharia-Free America Act**. However, the **Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)** has designated the caucus as an **anti-Muslim hate group**, citing what it describes as dehumanizing rhetoric and policies targeting Muslims.

Co-Chairman Keith Self (R-Texas) has over 50 members in the Caucus. **Call and ask Rep. Greg Steube and other Representatives to join this group. 202-224-3121**



Trumpers in SE FL rally in style.

Donations and Volunteers Are Needed

We appreciate and welcome volunteers' **stamp** donations for our mission to reach new registered Republicans. We have a total of **160,546** total active registered Republican voters as of 5/23/2026. Our outreach program has welcomed over 10,000 newly registered Republican voters to Sarasota County. **First class stamps are \$.78. Postcard stamps are \$.61.** <http://www.americafirstswflc.org>

America First SWFLC website: <http://www.americafirstswflc.org> Visit the website to see our pictures and newsletters, plus updates throughout the month.

Spend Cash on Fridays!
Support our economy by using cash.

Get Involved!

Write a 250 word or less letter to The Venice Gondolier editor. Ronald.dupont@yoursun.com Sign your full name, include an address and phone number, but it won't be used. Mail letters to: The Venice Gondolier, Letters to the Editor, 200 E. Venice Ave., Venice, FL 34285. PLEASE make rebuttals to liberal letters. Jump in and voice your opinion.

What is the America First Southwest Caucus?

We are an active grassroots organization dedicated to traditional economic and social conservative Constitutional Republic values. We pool our talents and energy into electing conservatives to public offices. Patriots to save our country. We're a working and social club where you can share your ideas for America's future with friends to implement political plans into action.

Meetings are the second Wednesday of each month (except December) at Venice Community Center (Ballroom D), 326 S. Nokomis Ave. near Jervey Library on the island. Light refreshments are served at 11:00 am. Guest speakers are scheduled.

We make it happen! We are America First SWFLC!

MEMBERSHIP DONATIONS DUE

If you know a Republican, NPA, AFP, IND or patriotic conservative who wants to join the America First SWFLC, bring them to a meeting for informative, political news and entertainment plus meet new conservatives with a similar heart for America, or send them to our website at <http://www.americafirstswflc.org>

Annual membership dues: \$35 individual, \$60 couple, and \$20 each additional family member.

Time to renew your membership dues. Bring cash or a check to the meeting, or use the link below to pay by credit card. Send checks to America First SWFL, 2357 S Tamiami Trail Ste 3, PMB# 200, Venice, FL 34293.
<http://www.americafirstswflc.org>

Disclaimer—The views expressed within the articles in this newsletter do not necessarily express the views of the Editor or AFSWFLC. They are provided here for information only!