



Vol. 19
August 2026



July 4, 1776-2026

REPUBLICANS WHO STAY HOME ELECT

DEMOCRATS

A Letter from AFSWFLC President Barbara Vaughn

Hello AFSWFLC Members and Friends,

It's getting late! Better hurry! But it's not too late. If you haven't decided which candidates will get your vote, you still have time to do some research.

The primary election is less than 3 weeks away. The mid-term election is just 3 months from Monday! And, so much is riding on both elections. I know, I know, we've all heard that before. "This is the most critical election ever!" But the more I think about it – and pray about it – this is the first time since I've been old enough to vote that the competitors are mostly either pure, proud Americans or socialist/communist. That's a pretty scary thought, so maybe the pundits are right about that? We all get campaign pieces in the mail everyday but they're usually not very informative and pretty quickly end up in the round file.

That's all the more reason to do your homework!

If you get a chance to hear candidates speak, especially if there's a Q&A time, you can usually get a feeling about them. Likewise, if you see the candidates in a debate. But don't stop there! Do a Google or Bing search just based on their name. Then read several sites that come up - good, bad, or indifferent. And, don't forget to check out the candidates' own web pages or Facebook. You might find some information you hadn't heard before and it might – or might not - effect your vote. I sincerely encourage you to vote based on your own moral compass and your own sense of values, but you need to be sure who shares them.

You're going to hear a lot about splitting the vote, i.e. so that two good candidates lose out to an inferior one. But I really hope that if we all vote our values, the right candidate will win!

How about taking a look or another look at some less well-known candidates? I'm thinking of Teresa DeWitt or Frank DiCicco, both running for school board seats, along with Michelle Pozzie, who most of you know. We need all three of them elected to maintain our conservative majority, and you can vote for all three no matter where in Sarasota County you live!!

Check out Joe Neunder, running for re-election to the County Commission, District 4. He's run into some really nasty rumors and baseless charges lately from his opponent, who has been charged with not living in the district. So, Joe could really use your help!

And, our friend Vic Rohe is fighting an uphill battle against seriously establishment opposition; people who play politics as a game and have already designed who will win each position they're contesting. He's running to fill the State Senate seat previously occupied by Joe Gruters. Tough race, thanks to the "powers that be!" Help him out if you can!

We're lucky to have several good candidates running for State House, District 74. But my favorite candidate is Nick Pachota. He's spent the last two terms as Mayor of the City of Venice and, that's good local experience in my book! There are other candidates who are very acceptable, but they don't have Nick's experience.

Another candidate I want to give a "tip of the hat" to, is our friend, Vic Mellor. We know Vic as the developer of The Hollow, where many of us – and our families - have spent enjoyable time. Sadly for us, Vic returned to his home state of Rhode Island in the interest of bringing another conservative representative to the US Congress. We hated to give him up, but we applaud his efforts to bring Rhode Island back into the conservative fold. It will be very good to see him add to the Republican narrow majority!

Here are addresses to look them up: <https://joeneunder.com/> <https://michellepozzie.com>
<https://nickpachota.com/> <https://vicmellor.com/> They all work – I tried them. You can go deeper with your research.

Yours truly,
Barbara Vaughn, President AFSWFLC

16 Days Until the August 18th Primary

VOTE 'AMERICA FIRST'

BECAUSE WE ARE THE GRASSROOTS OF AMERICA

Elections are won by the side that shows up, and engages voters.

FACT. But will the **AFSWFLC act on it?**

Local elections are winnable. Find volunteers who hate to lose, and then knock on doors. This is the one tactic that wins small races every time. Local candidates win because they show up at the door and talk to real people. [Click HERE to Read More](#)

"LOCAL ACTION HAS NATIONAL IMPACT."

August Meeting Date

August 12, 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 Matt The Welder Taylor for FL Agriculture Commissioner. Invite your friends to hear him. Go to his Facebook page and read how a real conservative wants to save old Florida.

As of 8/1/2026, Sarasota County has 329,471 Active Voters, with 163,164 Republicans, 80,721 Democrats, and 85,586 Third Party Voters.

Current Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Voting results as of July 31, 2026:

As of Aug 1, 2026	Ballots Requested	Ballots Returned(Voted)	Percentage Returned
Total – county-wide	81996	24792	30.2%
Republican	30258	9451	31.2%
Democrat	34984	11161	31.9%
NPA	14757	3691	25.0%
Other Third Party	2000	489	24.5%

Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom. Thomas Jefferson

Help school board candidates sign wave for 1 hour

During the first week of school, in front of schools at parent pick up time, Michelle Pozzie has proposed the following schedule:

August 10 - Cranberry in North Port

August 11 - Venice Elementary and Venice High School (right next to each other)

August 12 - Taylor Ranch Elementary in Venice

August 13 - Southside Elementary in Sarasota

August 14 - Laurel Nokomis in Nokomis

This is approximately a 1-hour commitment.

Please reply if you're willing and able to hold a sign. If you know someone who can, please let me know. It's all boots on the ground. valeriekammermeier@gmail.com

Candidates at the July AFSWFLC Meeting



**Bobby Williams for Governor, Nick Pachota for FL House #74,
Vic Rohe for FL Senate #22**

This is Our Nation's 250th Birthday

A Free People Will Not Survive Unless They Stay Virtuous

There was common agreement among our Founding Fathers as spoken by Benjamin Franklin: "Only a virtuous people are capable of freedom." The big question of independence hung precariously on whether or not the people were sufficiently 'virtuous and moral' to govern themselves.

To our American forefathers there seemed to be a common understanding that virtue/morality or "right conduct" was identified with the Ten Commandments.

Thomas Paine wrote that people were ready for independence. He said most people were "industrious, frugal and honest" and had not yet been "corrupted" in the same way he described many Europeans had been.

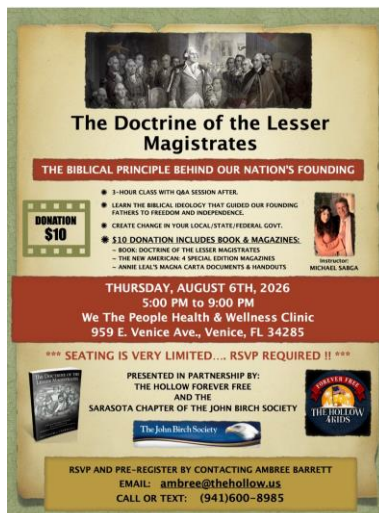
George Washington is quoted, "And let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. John Adams said, "Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other."

Thomas Jefferson said, "Virtue is not hereditary." They also needed it to be passed on to future generations, and were intensely aware that they would have to depend on the family, the church and education to "fuel the fires" of virtue and values to future generations.

Whitney Houston sings *The Star-Spangled Banner* in 1991 at Super Bowl XXV.

[To listen to Whitney's breathtaking rendition of our national anthem click HERE!](#)

RSVP and Attend the Message About Our Founding Fathers 8-6-2026



Sarasota School Board Meetings

The board's next meeting time is **6 pm** scheduled for **August 18**.

Scheduled meetings for remainder of 2026:

- September 15, 2026
- October 20, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- December 15, 2026 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, 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 Kolschowsky Research; Education Institute, Morganroth Auditorium, 1st Floor, 1880 Arlington Street, Sarasota, FL 2-4 pm

Sarasota County Commissioner Meetings

August 21, 25, 26 4000 S. Tamiami Trail., Venice 34293 9 am - 5 pm

Charter Review Board Meeting

6 pm Location and date to be determined.



Running for Charter Review Board are: Ali Hopper District 3, Alexandra Coe District 1, and Erin Halstead District 5.

Sarasota MAGA Patriots Meeting

September 14 Sarasota Maga Patriots Meeting. New location! Gold Coast Eagle Distributing, 7051 Wireless Ct., Sarasota 5:30 check-in. Meeting 6-8 pm
There is no August meeting. [FOR MORE INFO CLICK HERE!](#)

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 will set up **Red Tents** again. We always have fun meeting other patriots at the **"Red Tent" early voting** extravaganza from August 8-August 16. A list will start in July, at the meeting, so ***sign up early and sign up often.***

Never, never, never give up. Sir Winston Churchill

The legendary G. Edward Griffin on why "the oligarchy" that runs the world is shoving the corruption in our faces—the plan is to demoralize us so we don't fight back.

[To Read More – Click HERE!](#)

2026 Candidates

Paul Renner is a candidate for FL Governor <https://friendsofpaulrenner.net/>

Bobby Williams is a candidate for FL Governor <https://bwflgov.com/>

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, <https://eddiespeirforcongress.com/>

Greg Steube incumbent for US Congress District 17

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
<https://joeneunder.com/>

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

Frank DiCicco Is a candidate for District 4 School Board
<https://frankforschoolboard.com/> Fdicicco50@gmail.com

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

Bill Van Allen Is a candidate Sarasota County Charter Review Board 1

Alexandra Coe Is a candidate Sarasota County Charter Review Board 1

Ali Hopper Is a candidate Sarasota County Charter Review Board 3

Taylor Collins Is a candidate Sarasota County Charter Review Board 4

Erin Halstead Is a candidate Sarasota County Charter Review Board 5

Brad Baker Is a candidate for Sarasota Hospital Board

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

#1 Farm bill - [H.R.7567](#) - Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 The Save Our Bacon Act and Section 12006 of HR-4673 essentially results in **nationalizing** our food supply as per:

<https://merylknass.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

#2 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. 202-224-3121

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**

8/10 Paul Renner for Gov., Punta Gorda, Beef O'Brady's 941-445- \$15 buffet

[For more information click here!](#)

The Sarasota County Supervisor of Elections is looking for poll workers – 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?Committeed=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

No dream is too big, no challenge is too great. Nothing we want for our future is beyond our reach. President Donald J. Trump

Hurricane Preparedness Resources

It's critical for us to stay prepared. Rep. Greg Steube has a website for us.
<https://steube.house.gov/hurricane/>

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**

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 **162,425** total active registered Republican voters as of 7/20/2026. Our outreach program has welcomed over 10,000 newly registered Republican voters to Sarasota County. **First class stamps are \$.82. Postcard 4x6 stamps are \$.65** <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, AMF, 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!