



Vol. 20
September 2026

July 4, 1776-2026



A Letter from AFSWFLC President Barbara Vaughn

Hello AFSWFLC Members and Friends,

It was a difficult election. We knew it was going to be. Election night brought lots of shock and too much sadness. My heart is broken for our defeated school board candidates, our favorite commissioner in district 4, and our would-be state senator. But, on the brighter side, we congratulate Nick Pachota, and we are behind him in his run-off race for our State Representative for District 74. We also congratulate Erin Halstead on her win, and we wish Alexandra Coe the absolute best in her run-off for Charter Review Board. We are also cheering for Brad Baker who won a seat on the Sarasota Hospital Board.

Now, we have just about eight weeks until the main event: election day, Nov 3rd.

If you will check out our newsletter, you will see a list of deadlines that might apply to you. Please, please take your opportunity to have a say.

I hope you will join us in our new location on Wednesday, September 9th at Koworx in their event room. Koworx is a large white building that sits back off the road at [1101 S. Tamiami Trail](#). If you come over the Circus Bridge, it's just past the car dealership on the right side of the road. There's plenty of parking, and there will be signs to guide you to the room.

We are delighted that we'll be welcoming County Commissioner Tom Knight to "educate" us on Amendment 3. Lower property taxes? It sounds like such a good idea...but is it?

And, here's your early "warning" about our Christmas Party. It will be held on our normal meeting day in December, which this year falls on the 9th.

We'll join with our friends at the Sarasota MAGA Patriots for a delicious buffet luncheon at the Hotel Venezia. And, as usual, we'll have a few surprises up our sleeves.

Hope to see you on September 9th at Koworx and bring your friends! It's going to be an informative time, and you will want to be there!

GBYRG! Barb

Yours truly,
Barbara Vaughn, President AFSWFLC

**15 Days Since August 18th Primary
62 Days Until the November 3rd Election**

**VOTE 'AMERICA FIRST'
BECAUSE WE ARE THE GRASSROOTS OF AMERICA**

**Elections are won by the side that shows up and engages voters.
FACT. Did the **AFSWFLC** act on it? Only 33% of registered Republican voters bothered to show up to vote in this crucial election.**

This is Our Nation's 250th Birthday.

A Free People Will Not Survive Unless They Remember History

250 years of being the United States is an opportunity to celebrate America, what she represents and to fight for the essential values and liberties we all cherish. What does America mean to you?

The Declaration of Independence gave reasons to be “absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown.” What happened over the next 250 years was the greatest expansion of personal liberty and prosperity in all human history.

No free government can be preserved unless we return to fundamental principles often. Especially today when the leftists are voting for Democrat Socialists and the right is drawn to populism.

So, it is worthwhile to ask: What do we as Americans stand for? What priorities and values do we hold in common? How do we recommit to the things that made us a shining city on a hill?

Two-hundred and fifty years ago those men pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor. We can be grateful they did. And it is up to us to continue. Mike J. Reitz
The Mackinac Center for Public Policy



2001 – 2026

On the Campaign Trail

Allyx, Matt, Valerie



Jen Roach Teresa DeWitt Matt Taylor Erin Halstead



"LOCAL ACTION HAS NATIONAL IMPACT"

AFSWFLC's next meeting is September 9th.

New location: 11 am to 1 pm at KOWORX at 1101 S. Tamiami Tr., on the island next to the GMC dealership. Our speaker is County Commissioner, Tom Knight.

September 15th is the next Sarasota School Board meeting. 6 pm

- October 20, 2026
- November 17, 2026
- December 15, 2026, [1960 Landings Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34231](#)

To email all School Board members:

schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net

Please attend school board meetings in person or watch on the [Sarasota School Board's YouTube channel](#) (live or later). It's all recorded, so watch any time.

Sept. 22 is the Sarasota Memorial Hospital Regular board meeting, 3:30 pm

Meeting schedule:

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

- 09/08 and 09/09 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- Location: [4000 S. Tamiami Trail., Venice 34293](#)
- 9/22 and 09/23 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
- 09/23 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM Budget Meeting
- Location: Sarasota Co. Administration Center Chambers (North)
[1 Apex Rd. Sarasota, Florida 34240](#)

Charter Review Board Meeting 6 pm Location and date to be determined.

Sarasota MAGA Patriots Meeting is September 14 New location! [Gold Coast Eagle Distributing, 7051 Wireless Ct., Sarasota](#) 5:30 check-in. Meeting 6-8 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>

As of 9/2/2026, Sarasota County has 331,253 Active Voters, with 164,359 Republicans, 81,184 Democrats, and 85,710 Third Party Voters.

The Uni-party is not a thing. What is it? The idea that no matter who gets elected, Republican or Democrat, the outcome in American politics is basically the same. **In a Uni-party government our Constitution is eliminated!**

2026 Election Results

Byron Donalds for FL Governor

Greg Steube for US Congress District 17

Blaise Ingoglia for Chief Financial Officer

James Buchanan for FL Senate District 22

There will be a runoff election between **Pachota** & **Walker** on Nov. 3 for FL Rep Dist. 74

Mark Smith for Sarasota County Commission District 2

Jim DeNiro for Sarasota County Commission District 4

There will be a runoff for District 1 School Board (General Election, Nov. 3) between **Glover** & **Brandt**

There will be a runoff election on Nov. 3 between **Coe** & **Altier** for Sarasota County Charter Review Board 1

Chip Adams for Sarasota County Charter Review Board 3

Erin Halstead for Sarasota County Charter Review Board 5

Brad Baker 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.

Familiar Faces Show Up at the Victory Party after the Primary



Visit our **America First Southwest Florida Caucus** website at:
AFSWFLC.org

Visit RightVotes.com for Conservative Voting Information



Mark Your Calendars

Deadline to request

- **Voter registration deadline:** Monday, Oct. 5.
- **Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed:** Thursday, Oct. 22, 5 pm.
- **Early voting:** Visit the [Early Voting](http://EarlyVoting) page for dates, times and locations.
October 19 - November 1 8:30 am to 6:30 pm daily.
- **Election day:** Tuesday, Nov. 3; polls open 7 am – 7 pm; vote-by-mail ballots must be received in the elections office by 7 pm.

November 3, 2026: General Election

Training window:

October 5-10; 12-16 (Sarasota)
October 19-23 (Venice)
October 26-29 (North Port)

Call Our Officials

Gov. DeSantis [850-717-9337](tel:850-717-9337)

Sen. Rick Scott [202-224-5274](tel:202-224-5274)

Sen. Ashley Moody [202-224-3041](tel:202-224-3041)

Rep. Greg Steube [202-225-5792](tel:202-225-5792)

Fiona McFarland [941-361-2465](tel:941-361-2465)

James Buchanan [941-429-4560](tel:941-429-4560)

Danny Nix [941-899-0810](tel:941-899-0810)

White House [202-456-1414](tel:202-456-1414)

Legislation on Florida Bills

Stay informed.

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

Meredyth Morrow [908-343-5104](tel:908-343-5104) and Andy Dubois [352-933-6353](tel: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](tel: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 genuinely 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:](#) Open that page and see which bills would let Tallahassee hide more from voters — then call before the next one sails through.

FastDemocracy 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.

Tune in each Tuesday evening at 7pm EST to the Defend Florida Voter Integrity ZOOM calls. <https://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](tel: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](tel:202-225-5792). Tamzin Rosenwasser

Hurricane Preparedness Resources

It is 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** [727-329-7746](tel:727-329-7746)
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.

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** <https://www.americafirstswflc.org>

America First SWFLC website: <https://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 will not 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 are 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 [KOWORX at 1101 S. Tamiami Tr. next to the Buick dealership 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. Pay dues now and get September, October, November, December and 2027 for the price of one year. What a deal!

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.
<https://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!