



Vol. 15
April 2026

April – National Volunteer Month

A Letter from AFSWFLC President Barbara Vaughn

This is...THE GREAT ADVENTURE

As the song says, “saddle up your horses, we’ve got a trail to blaze!” It’s not an easy trail, but with hard work and God’s help we can do it – we can rid ourselves of corrupt, incompetent or even just plain evil leaders - at least here in our community of Sarasota County and our state of Florida. If other communities of We The People will do the same, we can change our nation! Don’t you want to be a part of that? Aren’t you ready for The Great Adventure?

Most of us have come to the realization that our world can be divided between good and evil, especially in politics. Evil is hard to beat, especially when good people don’t do enough to stop it or there aren’t enough of us. That’s our biggest problem here at America First South West Florida Caucus: we don’t have enough good people! I know they’re out there, we just need to identify them and invite them to join us! Will you do that?

Now let me tell you a little story about good versus evil in politics. Let’s talk about a young man, smart, well spoken, happily married with a couple of little kids. He’s not happy, in fact, he’s feeling very frustrated about how his local community is being run. So, he decides to run for town council. It’s not easy, he works a full time job and he’s not very well known, so it’s going to be an uphill battle.

But in spite of his total lack of experience, he hopes he’s ready for it.

Then, he’s approached by a really nice guy, someone definitely in the know, who offers

to help him. The nice guy just asks him not to mention certain local leaders in a negative way as he campaigns. In return the nice guy offers to support his campaign with funds, invitations to speak and introductions to important people.

Sounds pretty good and one thing's for sure, if he doesn't get elected, he won't stand a chance of initiating the changes he knows need to be made. So, he convinces himself that it's not really a compromise. And, it's just this one small thing, and just think of all the good things I can initiate when I'm elected.....uh huh

Some months later, while he's getting himself familiar with his newly elected position, the nice guy comes to see him about a certain piece of legislation on an issue close to his heart. Nice guy says, "no matter who tells you what about this issue, I expect you to vote NO."

So, there he is caught between good and evil based on one small compromise. Does he come clean publicly and risk losing his new position or join the legions of other politicians who just "go along to get along?" (no matter how far they have to go.)

Corrupt politics does not begin in Washington, D.C. It goes there with people who learned about it in their local communities. In D.C. it just takes on much larger and far reaching consequences. Let's do what we can to nip it in the bud here locally!

GBYRG! Barb

April Meeting Date

April 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 speakers will be Vic Rohe and Mark Smith.

Sarasota School Board Meetings

The board has recently changed the meeting times for board meetings from 6:00 p.m. to **10:00 a.m.** The board's next regular meeting is scheduled for April 15.

- May 20, 2026
- June 10, 2026 (3:00 p.m.)
- July 22, 2026 (3:00 p.m.)
- August 19, 2026
- September 16, 2026
- October 21, 2026
- November 18, 2026
- December 16, 2026

Note: The June and July meetings start at 3:00 p.m. due to summer schedule adjustments.

1960 Landings Blvd, Sarasota, FL 34231 Directions

To email all School Board members:

schoolboardmembers@sarasotacountyschools.net

Sarasota Memorial Hospital Board Meetings

There is a meeting on **May 19, 2026**. Contact Lisa Roulet lisaroulet@proton.me for any information.

Meeting schedule: Tuesday May 19 2:00 pm

Tuesday, July 28 2:00 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

Candidates for School Board

Michelle Pozzie - Is a candidate in District 5. She has been active going to school board meetings and speaking there for many years. The Mission Statement for Sarasota County Schools: Engage, elevate, and empower every student, every day!

Teresa DeWitt - is a candidate in District 1. She is known for her strong public speaking and advocacy, particularly in opposition to politicized education policies. Her stance has drawn attention during school board meetings, where she challenged the board's decisions and called for transparency and alignment with parental values.



Candidate for FL Senate District 22

Vic Rohe – is a candidate for FL Senate District 22. Currently he is on the



Sarasota Memorial Hospital Board.

Call to Action

Support H.R.3245 - The American Privacy Restoration Act

IMPORTANT: Contact our representatives with regard to H.R.3245 — a bill to repeal The USA PATRIOT Act, a.k.a. the “American Privacy Restoration Act”, introduced by Representative Anna Paulina Luna (R-FL-13) Call House Representatives and Greg Steube at 202-224-3121

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/3245>

U.S. Supreme Court Rules Parents Have the Right to Direct Upbringing of Their Children

The nation’s highest court recently delivered a **big win for parental rights and religious freedom**. In *Mirabelli v. Bonta*, the Supreme Court ruled that California cannot hide children’s gender transitions from parents. In a 6-3 ruling, the Court held that a California school district’s policy directing teachers to hide students’ gender transitions likely violates the religious liberty and due process rights of parents.

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 and Michelle Pozzie**.

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

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>

June 8th is the deadline to file as a candidate; the 12th to qualify for the office.

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

The season has started and to keep you informed here is some information.

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?CommitteeId=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

Sarasota Co. Fair - SRQ MAGA Patriots & AFSWFLC Put Up a Tent

Dan Gauthier hands out RightVotes cards at the County Fair.



Cathi Chamberlain: Rules for RINOs

Best-selling author Cathi Chamberlain, Author and 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 Rep. Greg Steube and other Representatives and ask them to join this group. **202-224-3121**

FL Republicans Lose Two House Seats in Special Elections

TAKE THIS AS A WARNING! Again, Democrats are motivated to win and Republicans stay home on their couch. One election was in President Trump's precinct.

https://patch.com/florida/across-fl/s/k5k0n/fl-dems-flip-2-seats-including-mar-a-lago-s-district-in-special-election?user_email=8e4043fc783bc2308a37fb384182bfa133b7f53f717d9258310d83056c0f4f4c&user_email_md5=17cb6c91b86ba8387ede80c5c93aeb0e&lctq=65ea21dc04c2e7b31702ddd4

Sheriff Hoffman: The North Port/Sarasota/Bradenton metro area is the sixth-fastest-growing in the country, he said, ahead of Dallas, Las Vegas, Atlanta and Denver.

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 **159,546** total active registered Republican voters as of 10/23/2025. Our outreach program has welcomed over 10,000 newly registered Republican voters to Sarasota County. **First class stamps are \$.78.**

Please Donate to the Lawfare Suit

<http://www.americafirstswflc.org>

LEGAL DONATIONS *Please make checks payable to AMERICA FIRST SWFLCAUCUS and mail to: AFSWFLC. PO Box 352, Venice, FL 34285
The judge has not sent us her decision on our lawfare case.

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.**

State Department Slashes Fee to Renounce U.S. Citizenship by 80%

The State Department has cut the fee to renounce a US citizenship from \$2,350 to \$450 after it was promised in 2023. The rule takes effect now driven, in part, by new U.S. tax reporting requirements for American expatriates.

<https://wltreport.com/2026/03/14/state-department-cuts-fee-renounce-citizenship/>

**AFSWFLC Members Meet Matt the Welder Running for
Ag Commissioner**

America First patriots and working-class voices, we're launching a true We the People movement. Join Eddie Speir to kick off our grassroots campaign for Congress FL-16! Friday, April 10, 2026, Inspiration Academy, 7900 40th Ave. W., Bradenton, FL 34209
Open doors at 6 pm. Program starts 6:30 pm Snacks and drinks

HEADLINE APPEARANCE: Matt The Welder

RSVP: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985323789899?aff=oddtcreator>
Trent Wayman

Eddie Speir for Congress Team 941-726-9956

Master Gardeners Plant Clinic – Jacaranda Library

On Thursdays between 1:30 to 3:30 drop-in for gardening advice from the Sarasota County Extension Services' Master Gardeners. Get started on your Victory Garden this spring. 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice 34293.

Socialism is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance, and the gospel of envy, its inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery. Winston Churchill

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 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 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, 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 our P.O. Box 352, Venice, FL 34285-0352. <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!