



The Flagler Beach Democratic Club

Monthly Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2020

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm via GoToMeeting

Officers: President Sally Hirst, VP Communications Sherri Sanders, Treasurer Trish Marion, VP Events Greg Schulze, Secretary David Gillon

Board Members: Lori Gold, Barbara Haspiel, Cassy Moran, Valerie Kimball, Randi Fasnacht

Pledge of Allegiance

Treasurer Update

Trish Marion reports that FBDC's current balance is \$2,465.16. A modest donation will soon add to the total. Barbara Haspiel says she received \$40 from a woman who supports Joe Biden for President. A Republican, the woman said she hopes the donation will help someone who wants to put a pro-Biden sign in their front yard, just as she did.



August Primary Election

FBDC President Sally Hirst opened tonight's virtual meeting by noting that it is just 118 days until the November election, but importantly, it is just weeks until the August 18th primary election. Some races will be decided in August; other races will determine the Democratic candidates that move on to the November election.

U. S. Congress 6th District: Voters will determine whether Clint Curtis or Richard Thripp be will face Republican Congressman Matt Waltz in November. Waltz is in his first term. The Daytona Beach News-Journal published an interview with both candidates. <https://www.news-journalonline.com/news/20200711/democrats-choice-for-congress-clint-curtis-or-richard-thripp>

County Commissioner, District 3: The race will be decided on August 18th. Kim Carney and David Sullivan, two Republicans, face no opposition in November.

Other races include School Board, Public Defender, and Circuit Judges, and Committeewomen in Precincts 7 and 19 . In Palm Coast, voters will choose a mayor and two city council members.



Be Vocal

Vote Local

FlaglerElections.com

Voter Information

In the run-up to the August 18th primary election, here are some important dates to remember.

July 20 is the deadline to register to vote, or to update your party affiliation. To do so, the Supervisor of Elections asks that you consider using Florida's online voter registration system. [RegisterToVoteFlorida.gov/home](https://www.registertovoteflorida.gov/home). For paper forms instead of going online, go in person to the Supervisor of Elections office at 1769 E. Moody Blvd in Bunnell.

August 3-15 Early Voting takes place at three locations in Flagler County. (1) Flagler County Supervisor of Elections Office at 1769 E. Moody Blvd in Bunnell; (2) Flagler County Public Library, 2500 Palm Coast Parkway in Palm Coast; and (3) Palm Coast Community Center, 305 Palm Coast Parkway NW in Palm Coast. Early voting polls are open 10am to 6pm.

August 8 is the deadline to request your Vote-By-Mail ballot. Vote-By-Mail is highly recommended. It is the safest and easiest way to guarantee your vote is received and counted. (For the November election, the deadline to request Vote-By-Mail is October 24.) [FlaglerElections.com/Vote-By-Mail-Absentee](https://www.flaglerelections.com/Vote-By-Mail-Absentee)

Be sure to mail your Vote-By-Mail ballot on time. It must arrive at the Supervisor of Elections office by 7pm on primary day, August 18th. A postmark does not extend the deadline.

To return your Vote-By-Mail ballot in person, go to the Supervisor of Elections Office in Bunnell. Visit their office or use the Secure Drop Box at the SOE main entrance. During Early Voting, August 3-15, you may also go to one of the three Early Voting sites during polling hours.

Check out your sample ballot at [FlaglerElections.com](https://www.flaglerelections.com) > My Voter Info > (enter your information) > View Sample Ballot.

Cori Hermle for County Commission

Cori Hermle, the Democratic candidate for County Commission, District 1, joined our virtual meeting. Cori is running unopposed in the primary; her opponent in the November general election will be Republican Andy Dance. Despite the

complications of running for office during a pandemic which limits face to face contact with potential voters, she has received strong and enthusiastic support in her run for office. She's pushing for government accountability, saying she's concerned about the decisions being made by the current county commission. For instance, the old emergency operations building is now being sold, asking price \$750,000, despite the huge amount of debt, in the millions of dollars, the county took on to buy it and update it. For starters, she says we need to come up with a plan. We need to get a better idea of how we're spending our cash, our taxpayer dollars, especially when we're likely to be facing a horrible economic situation in the years ahead. Another concern for Hermle is quality of life for Flagler County. She says, again, it gets back to the decision making process. Amendments to zoning, last-minute decision making, lack of forethought as to how decisions will affect the the community, potentially burdening the infrastructure. She said, based on work she's done with stakeholder groups, she is concerned about damage to the the environment. She is a state government employee with the Florida Department of Agriculture, working on water supply and water quality issues related to the agricultural industry. She works with them as stakeholders on various different projects. She says there is a way to have growth but it has to be smart. You have to have a plan, she says. She says there is a way to integrate the infrastructure you need, the quality of life you need, while preserving the environment. It means planning it out, articulating the goals, and putting it on paper. And most importantly, sticking to the plan.

Learn more about Cori Hermle, donate to her campaign, at her website, [hermle.us](https://www.hermle.us)



Adopt a Highway

The FBDC cleaned a section of Florida highway on June 17th as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program, removing 150 pounds of trash along State Road 100. Seven members of FBDC cleaned from Colbert Lane near Publix to the intersection of Moody Blvd and A1A. You'll see Florida Department of Transportation signs at both ends of that stretch recognizing the Flagler Beach Democratic Club for its work. One member said he enjoyed the hours he spent in an orange vest picking up trash because it was, during a pandemic, time safely spent with fellow members of the organization, and it felt good to do something positive for the community. The FBDC crew wore masks and practiced social distancing. Sherri Sanders spearheaded FBDC's Adopt-A-Highway effort, and customized our orange vests with FBDC lettering for our first outing. FBDC has committed to cleaning the highway four times a year. The next clean-up will be in September, volunteers accepted, check the calendar on the FBDC website for details. FlaglerBeachDemocraticClub.com

Rallies

FBDC's plans for rallies have been on hold at least until August because of coronavirus concerns, but there has been discussion around resuming them. If done correctly, primarily by carefully planning for social distancing, mask wearing, and messaging, some members are in favor of a resumption of our 4th Friday rallies at Wadsworth Park. Some members have suggested rallies that are less directly political, for instance, rallies around healthcare or the theme, Love Not Hate. The rallies may involve a relatively smaller number of people carefully positioned along the highway. As discussions continue, we are looking forward to the 4th Friday of August. Stay tuned. Check the calendar at FlaglerBeachDemocraticClub.com

Poll Volunteers

Sally Hirst spoke about the need for poll watchers. The Republican party has a history of using voter suppression techniques, the effect of which pushes likely Democratic voters off the voter rolls and out of the voting booth. News reports abound about the large Republican war chest that would be used to fuel legal efforts along those lines. To counter that threat, one of the things Democrats can do locally is to become official poll workers, and now, according to Sally Hirst, it is a bit easier to go through the process of becoming one. The Supervisor of Elections will provide the training. Sally said that the process of becoming a poll worker is easier than ever. There's more information at FlaglerElections.com/Get-Involved/Become-a-Poll-Worker. To become a poll watcher, contact Jo Lawn at jlown@lownlaw.com

Voter Rights, Voter Disenfranchisement in Florida



Governor Ron DeSantis

On November 6, 2018, nearly 65 percent of Florida voters—more than 5 million people—resoundingly approved Amendment 4, restoring voting rights to over a million of their fellow citizens. Since then, Governor Ron DeSantis has pushed to overturn voter sentiment on the issue. And the latest news isn't good: This month, The U.S. Supreme Court left in place a lower court order that likely will prevent hundreds of thousands of felons in Florida from voting in the November election. FBDC members discussed the issue only briefly at tonight's meeting. We have more recent information below.

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“I have said this before, and I will say it again. The vote is precious. It is almost sacred. It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy.” Rep. John Lewis, June 25, 2019
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Supreme Court Deals Major Blow To Felons' Right To Vote In Florida

<https://www.npr.org/2020/07/17/892105780/supreme-court-deals-major-blow-to-ex-felons-right-to-vote-in-florida>

Supreme Court deals setback to Florida felon voting rights

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/supreme-court-deals-setback-to-florida-felon-voting-rights>

Supreme Court deals blow to felons in Florida seeking to regain the right to vote

https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/supreme-court-deals-blow-to-felons-in-florida-seeking-to-regain-the-right-to-vote/2020/07/16/2ede827c-c5dd-11ea-a99f-3bbdff1af38_story.html

Florida presses case on felons' voting rights

Governor wants appeals court to keep ex-felons from voting unless they pay financial obligations.

<https://www.news4jax.com/news/florida/2020/07/22/florida-presses-case-on-felons-voting-rights/>

A More Liberal Supreme Court? Not When It Comes to Voting Rights

In four rulings in a row, the court has refused to ease voting restrictions.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/18/us/supreme-court-voting-rights.html?searchResultPosition=1>

Why the ACLU Is Suing Florida For Its New Poll Tax

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/voting-rights/voter-restoration/why-aclu-suing-florida-its-new-poll-tax>

Let the People (of Florida) Vote

Civil rights victories are never easy. Opinion by David Leonhardt (August 2019)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/09/opinion/florida-felon-vote-amendment-4.html?searchResultPosition=10>

Florida Amendment 4, Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative (background info)

[https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Amendment_4,_Voting_Rights_Restoration_for_Felons_Initiative_\(2018\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Florida_Amendment_4,_Voting_Rights_Restoration_for_Felons_Initiative_(2018))

Lawn Signs

Greg Schulze has been making some Biden for President signs, and they look good. Barbara Haspiel wastes no time delivering them. The FBDC has a sign making, sign delivery operation in place. Contact FBDC if you need a sign. Email us at FBDemocraticClub@gmail.com

Flagler County Democrats has signs reasonably priced at \$5 on their website, FlaglerDemocrats.com.

Candidate Cori Hermle will have signs soon in her run for County Commissioner, District 1. hermle.us



Place signs close to your house, not near the street, as some signs have been stolen. Signs placed on public easements or placed on a right of way could be cleared away if there's a complaint. If you lose your sign, contact FBDC and we will help you replace it. Email us at FBDemocraticClub@gmail.com

Membership

Thank you to all those who have joined the Flagler Beach Democratic Club, and especially, thanks to those who are up to date on membership dues. We are working hard work to turn Florida blue this November.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51pm



Contact Us

FBDemocraticClub@gmail.com

FlaglerBeachDemocraticClub.com

Facebook.com/groups/flaglerbeachdc/