

May 2022 Newsletter



President's Message

A Moment of Reckoning

“I hear you.” “I see you.” “I support you.” “I understand and empathize with your frustration, anger, pain, and grief.” These are just some of the sentiments I’ve shared with women this week after a leaked draft opinion written by Republican-appointed Justice Samuel Alito revealed that the Supreme Court is poised to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. If this happens it will deal a crushing blow to women and their fundamental freedom to make decisions about their own health care, their own bodies, their own lives.

Since the 2016 election, and subsequent SCOTUS fallout, I think we’ve all had moments of concern that *Roe* could eventually hang in the balance. If not, we should have. Does it really come as a surprise that this Court, given its current makeup, is prepared to join the divisive culture wars of today’s politics? We shouldn’t be shocked that several of the recently confirmed judges, who took an oath of honesty during their confirmation hearings and called *Roe* “settled law” and “settled precedent,” are now seemingly prepared to undo it.

As often as SCOTUS tries to assure us that they are NOT a political body, and at times admonish us for thinking so, their most recent action proves otherwise. The disclosure of this opinion brief is all the evidence we need to meet the standard of “beyond the shadow of doubt.” Sadly, the Supreme Court can and should now be considered a political body. Full stop. It has now become just as political and partisan as the House of Representatives, the Senate, and the Presidency. The loss of perceived impartiality and nonpartisanship will be the lasting legacy of Justices like Clarence Thomas and the Trump-appointed Gorsuch, Kavanaugh, and Barrett.

So, what happens now? Bowing to the potential political fallout of their actions, the Supreme Court may choose to table *Roe* until after the midterms. But we can’t fall for it. They played their hand way too early in the game and now it’s time to respond. We can assume with certainty that if they don’t overturn *Roe* before the midterms, they will do it after.

Reproductive rights, if they weren't already, are squarely on the ballot this November. We need to fight back with everything we have. We need to organize, fundraise, march, call, text, send postcards, do literature drops, post on social media, raise awareness, knock on doors, all of it. We need to do everything we can to galvanize our candidates and get out the vote. We cannot do this alone. **We need you!**

You've heard us say that "when Democrats vote, Democrats win." That proclamation is as true as the Republican agenda to overturn Roe. Turnout in November is **critical**. It starts with local races and ends on the national stage. We need every Democratic vote in Florida. Period. It will take all of us. The time is now. Will you join in the fight?

Write to us at northpinellasdems@gmail.com. Thank you for your support of the NPCDC and Let's Go Blue!

Tom Topping,
President, NPCDC



Don't miss the next Club meeting on Thursday, May 19

Social time begins at 6:30pm, business meeting from 7:00 - 8:30pm. We meet **in person** at the Scottish Cultural Center, 917 Loudon Ave. in Dunedin.



This month we are excited to welcome **Lauren Frances Book**. Lauren is the minority leader of the Florida Senate, a post she has held since April 28, 2021. She is a former educator who has served as a Democrat in the Florida Senate since 2016, representing parts of Broward County. Our May meeting will also feature remarks from several candidates for office, as well as updates on timely issues.

Can't be there in person? We'll send Zoom details via email on Wednesday May 18. Make sure we have your up to date email info, write to us at northpinellasdems@gmail.com.

Members, potential members and guests are all welcome at our monthly meetings.

An egregious attack against women is happening in our country. When at least 60% of Americans say they support keeping abortion legal why do a minority of mostly men, who were all nominated to the Supreme Court by Presidents who did not win a majority of the vote, have the ability to strike Roe V

Wade? This Constitutionally-protected right was settled nearly 50 years ago, and its reversal would effectively ban abortion in at least 22 states.

REPRODUCTIVE
**RIGHTS
ARE
HUMAN
RIGHTS**

There is even talk of preventing women from traveling elsewhere for abortions if their state bans it. DeSantis decided we cannot have a mask mandate here in Florida as a matter of "personal freedom", but if Roe is overturned I have no doubt Florida will ban abortions and try to prevent women from traveling to other states to obtain one. It is very clear to me that the Gubernatorial election in November will determine the future for every woman in Florida. Get involved, get working, we need to elect a Democrat to both the Governorship and the Senate, as well as every other race on the ballot.

Respectfully,
Dawn Burke, NPCDC Board Member

**Watch for and join Pro Choice demonstrations in our area
on Saturday May 14.**



August 23 Primary: Get The Facts and Get Involved

All eyes are on the August 23 primary election in Florida. Some things to know:

- Florida's primary is a closed, by party; we will only vote for our Democratic nominee for offices such as Senate, Representative, Governor.
- The Senate primary is packed with 9 Dem, 8 NPA, 7 Rep including Marco Rubio, the incumbent, who won in 2016 by a margin of 7.7%.
- Non partisan races are critical. Everyone votes in these races in August, they are not party specific. If a candidate wins 50% plus 1 they win the office in August and don't have to wait for November.
- 4 out of our 7 Pinellas County school board positions are up for election in August. If one individual gets over 50%, they win in August. Our School Board needs our leadership and voice now more than ever. Battles over health measures, parents rights, banning of books, public school funding and more are all on the August 23 election agenda.
- Elections will occur for Circuit Judges in 11 Groups and County Judges in 8 Groups. Realize that every judge has the potential to impact our lives and our culture.

Fundraising Facts

Several of these races need to reach 700,000 voters, countywide. That's expensive for candidates. We encourage you to give now to the candidates, and

causes, you believe in. The August election is only 15 weeks away. Candidates are planning right now for media expenses, doorhangers, direct mail, ads and more. Waiting to give does not help them win.

- Non partisan local elections: you and each member of your family could give up to \$1,000 per person, per candidate you support.
- US House races: the limit is higher, at \$5,800 per individual.
- To donate, search the candidates name to reach their website. 99.9% of candidates provide the ability for you to donate online.

The bottom line is that candidates with the most money (totals are reported every month) get press as the most successful and with the most support. This is a voter influencer.

Democratic clubs like ours must abide by specific limits, set by the state. Clubs can donate no more than \$500 total, across all candidates, in the course of the year. The NPCDC does not donate to Democratic candidates until after the primary, for the November election cycle.

When we tell you we are raising money to help elect Democrats, know that your donations to the Club pay for expenses like postcards, stamps, text message and phone campaigns, supplies and more. Our focus is to inspire people to Vote By Mail and Vote for Democrats. Historically, Republicans in our area turn out at 85 %. Democrats have averaged 60% at best. We have to beat them! We want to turn out at 90%.

Resources

- Ballotpedia is a good source of info. By entering your address you can view a [sample ballot](#) for your location.
- For local facts and to request a mail ballot go to votepinellas.com.
- Florida facts, data and FAQs: <https://dos.myflorida.com/elections/>
- For a list of qualified candidates (deadline is June 17): <https://dos.elections.myflorida.com/candidates/CanList.asp>

Voting Rights Protect Every Other Right

There are lots of reasons to check your voter registration regularly.

First, verify your current address. This is vital, as it defines your polling location, your district, and determines delivery of your ballot for Vote By Mail. Second, check your name, be sure it is spelled correctly and matches your current identification. Third, if your signature has changed you'll want to update that. And finally, be sure you haven't been purged from voter rolls. It happens more often than you think.

1. Go to the website for the Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections <https://www.votepinellas.com/>
2. If you're not already registered to vote you can do so online. Use this same link to check or



update your existing voter registration.

<https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home>

3. Take one more step and request to Vote by Mail

<https://www.votepinellas.com/VoteByMail>

When Democrats vote, Democrats win.

Click here to Become a NPCDC Member

The North Pinellas County Democratic Club has launched its Spring Membership Campaign. Membership in the NPCDC supports our mission to help elect candidates of the Democratic Party to local, state, and national offices. Each day we hear in the news more reasons why this year's elections are critical. We are currently sending postcards to Democrats to encourage them to sign up for Vote-By-Mail. You'll also see our active support for Democratic nominees in the fall elections with additional community outreach activities. But we cannot do this without YOU!

A few of our neighbors expressed why they are members:

A Clearwater resident said, "I appreciate the potential of our work in North County. Together, we can invest and communicate to the many Democrats who feel alone, and perhaps overwhelmed with [a] Republican state. It gives me comfort to know that, when I could, I have planted my feet right here, for our Democracy."

A Dunedin resident said, "I am a member of the North Pinellas County Democratic Club because it allows me to work locally with community events in support of the things I believe."

A Palm Harbor resident said, "I joined the NPCDC because I was very worried about issues such as

An Oldsmar resident

said, "Membership in NPCDC is a good way for me to stay aware of and better understand important issues and activism in our area. Exposure to the collective knowledge and experience of the club's officers and members helps me put local issues in context – it helps me see how we can fit into the bigger picture and make a difference. The Club provides opportunities to meet and speak to candidates and connects me to activist groups that I would not otherwise know about. Sure, you can attend meetings without being a member, but the membership fee is small and the funds help support Club campaigns to further Democratic interests, like yard signs, postcards, postage stamps, meeting space, the website, Safety Harbor 3rd Friday, the North County Democratic Headquarters, and much more – you get big returns on the small membership fee!"

As we continue to move toward the pivotal 2022 elections we hope you will show your support for the Club by becoming a member today.

We offer three (3) membership types:

*** Individual Member - \$25** for one (1) year

health care and the climate crisis and I was hoping the Club would provide opportunities to support Democratic candidates. I was not disappointed! Since joining I have been able to participate in post card parties, a texting team, sign waving (complete with music booming and flags flying), phone banking, and canvassing. There was also never any pressure. It was understood that everyone has different interests, abilities, and time available. The best part though, has been meeting so many like-minded individuals whom I now consider family."

* **Household Member - \$15** for one (1) year. This is a person from the same address who joins at the same time as an Individual Member
* **Lifetime Member - \$250** for lifetime membership rights

You must reside in Pinellas County and be registered to vote as a Democrat to join our club.

[Click here to see Volunteer Opportunities](#)

Wear Orange

The first Friday in June is National Gun Violence Awareness Day, and June 3-5 is designated as Wear Orange Weekend. It's a time when people come together to honor survivors of gun violence and demand a future free from this crisis. Moms, students, veterans, survivors, and others wear orange throughout the weekend to show their support—in every state across the country.

Wear Orange originated on June 2, 2015—what would have been Hadiya Pendleton's 18th birthday. Just one week after performing at President Obama's 2nd inaugural parade in 2013, she was shot and killed at the age of 15. In the aftermath, teenagers in Chicago who wanted to honor their friend wore orange to raise awareness around gun violence.

Today, Wear Orange honors Hadiya and the more than 110 people shot and killed *every day* in the United States, as well as the hundreds more who are wounded. National Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Weekend is right around the corner. Save the date and share it with your friends.

Given Gov. DeSantis recent statement that he expects to pass a "Constitutional Carry" gun law in Florida while he is still governor, our actions to prevent gun



violence are more important than ever before.

Click [here](#) to purchase event gear.



Poll workers help America vote. The integrity of our elections is a concern for everyone. You can help support our democratic process by becoming a Pinellas County poll worker.

[Click here to Be a Poll Worker](#)



Ever wondered what it takes to hold a voter registration drive? Wonder no more. Join a Zoom training event hosted by Florida Dems. Get the facts today.

[Click here for Training Info](#)

Club Merch

Carry your NPCDC pride, or display our Democratic values on your lawn. Your donations are used for voter outreach, now more important than ever. Yard signs at \$20 and tote bags at \$10. We've made it easy with links from our website.



[Click here to Buy Totes or Signs](#)

Mark Your Calendars



Lots of things happening in May!

- **Sunday May 15** join the Annual Picnic of the Greater Tarpon Springs Dem Club at Anderson Park
- NPCDC will be at the Safety Harbor Street Festival on **Friday May 20**

Check out our Club's website for up to date information about these and all current events.

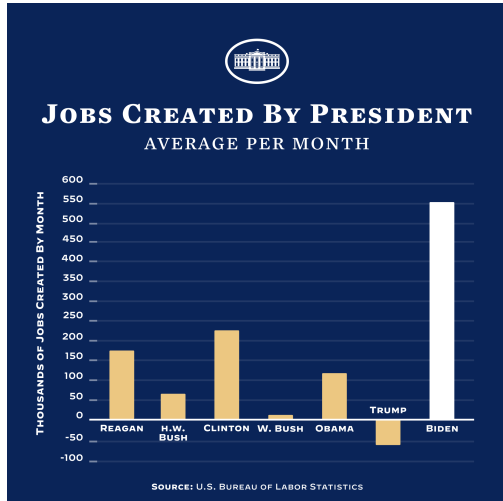
[Click here for the Club Calendar](#)

Elections Have

Your Club uses multiple channels to

Consequences

share vital information with you:



- Monthly Club meeting at the Dunedin Scottish Cultural Center
- Club website at NorthPinellasDemocrats.com
- Facebook Group: [NorthPinellasDems](https://www.facebook.com/NorthPinellasDems)
- Twitter: [@NPinellasDems](https://twitter.com/NPinellasDems)
- Instagram: [NorthPinellasDems](https://www.instagram.com/NorthPinellasDems)
- Email from northpinellasdems@gmail.com
- *And this newsletter!*

[See the Newsletter via PDF](#)



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