



## Six Vie for Sarasota City Commission Seats

The City of Sarasota will elect two at-large Commissioners in the November election. There are currently six candidates vying for the two seats. That means there will be an election on August 23, coinciding with the Primary Election to determine the three candidates that will advance to the runoff in November. All City of Sarasota residents are eligible to vote in this election. The two current at-large Commissioners are Hagen Brody and Jennifer Ahearn-Koch. Brody has thrown his hat into the ring for the District 2 County Commission seat; while Ahearn-Koch is running for re-election.

of the Florida League of Cities, Ahearn-Koch has been honored with their “Home Rule Hero” award for three consecutive years. She was recently elected as President of the ManaSota League of Cities and is a board member of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program. Learn more: [www.voteforjen.org](http://www.voteforjen.org)

### DAN LOBECK

Lobeck, a local attorney specializing in condo association law, is running because he sees no candidates “willing to stand up to the development interests who would turn this City into something less than the special place so many now seek to call home”

Lobeck has been an outspoken opponent to Commissioner actions such as proposals to increase building heights and densities, the right to public hearings and public approvals for major developments. Lobeck favors measures to promote truly affordable housing in appropriate locations, not just using a gain of scant “attainable housing” for those earning as much as \$108,000 a year as a shameful excuse for developer giveaways.

Lobeck opposes squandering hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to replace the iconic Van Wezel while so many truly pressing needs are being unmet. He favors public investments in underserved communities and spending what is needed to fight crime, build affordable housing and treat the homeless, expand parking, clean sidewalks and improve neighborhoods.

Learn more: [www.lobeckforsarasota.com](http://www.lobeckforsarasota.com)



### JENNIFER AHEARN-KOCH

Ahearn-Koch is currently serving her fifth year as an at-large Sarasota City Commissioner. She first became active in her own neighborhood as President of the Tahiti Park Neighborhood Association. Subsequently, Ahearn-Koch served as the neighborhood representative to the Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations (CCNA) and served on their executive committee. As a Commissioner, she does her homework- reading materials in advance, asking relevant questions, and listening to citizen input. Her top three issues are preserving the environment, ensuring the right of citizens to peaceful enjoyment of their homes, and improving traffic flow and safety. Recently she has turned her attention to inclusive zoning as a possible way to boost affordable housing

Ahearn-Koch volunteer experience includes a number of local organizations, such as SOS Save our Tree Canopy. As an active member

### IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

Mon, July 25 - Voter Registration Deadline

Sat, Aug 13 - Sun, Aug 21 - Early Voting

Sat, Aug 13, 5pm - Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed

Tues, Aug 23, 7pm (Election Night):

Voted vote-by-mail ballots must be received in the elections office

### SHELDON RICH

Rich has been a Florida resident for over 16 years; initially residing in Palm Beach Gardens. He and his wife moved to Sarasota almost five years ago to be closer to family. Before moving to Sarasota, Rich served as the elected President of two Homeowners Associations and Vice President of a Condominium Association. In Sarasota, Sheldon was appointed to the Sarasota Police Complaint Committee where he serves as a member and Vice Chairperson. He has been a volunteer at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall for the past three years.

Sheldon is the owner and president of SJR Associates, LLC, a healthcare consulting company located in Sarasota. He has over 30 years’ experience in the pharmacy field; having practiced in hospital, retail and managed care pharmacy.

Rich is running for office because he believes the board doesn’t really listen to, or act on, citizens’ concerns. His top issues include public safety, addressing green initiatives and traffic concerns and making downtown and St. Armand’s more accessible. Learn more: [www.SheldonRichforSarasota.com](http://www.SheldonRichforSarasota.com)



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## Meet our new Station Manager

By Lev Siegel

Jesse Coleman is a Florida native, born and raised in Palmetto and Bradenton. From a young age Coleman’s values have guided his life.



Experiences in his youth gave him insight into inequality and left him with the desire to make the world a better place.

Coleman has been involved with WSLR and Fogartyville from the early days. His first experience with Fogartyville was playing an Open Mic when the venue was still located in Bra-

denton. When the radio station was located on Myrtle Avenue, Coleman played live on the air for WSLR with his band Cassolette, an indie pop sextet, whose credits include a successful tour of the east coast and selling out the Knitting Factory at the NYC Popfest.

Cassolette was formed in 2009 with Coleman featured on guitar and vocals, his wife Ciera on vocals and keyboard, along with bandmates Darren Ankersmit on guitar and vocals, John Ewing on bass, and Todd Weissfeld on drums. A long-time music lover and musician, Coleman picks up the guitar and plays once in a while, but isn’t actively gigging with Cassolette.

These days, Jesse’s focus is on his family, including his two children, Calvin and Juniper. Calvin and Juniper attend school in the area and are “sweet and smart kids” says Coleman. Calvin is “a brainiac” and Juniper is very empathetic. He loves to watch them grow. Jesse isn’t completely out of touch with his musical side; he and the family regularly bust out the karaoke and indulge their passions. Ciera serves as the Marketing and Outreach Coordinator for the City of Sarasota.

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(Find out how on page 12)

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BY MEGAN HOWELL



Megan Howell, Executive Director

**We at Second Heart Homes are often asked: What do homeless people need the most? Our short answer: HOMES.**

To that end, our community-based nonprofit acquires, improves and maintains houses that, thanks to our supporters, become homes to single men and women who were living on the streets – harming themselves and disrupting neighborhoods and business districts.

Placing these folks in homes is only part of the challenge: Our clients must overcome mental-health challenges that have either contributed to or been a result of their homelessness.

Once people leave the streets, they must adapt to a way of life in order to achieve dignity and self-improvement. They must tend to their mental and physical health, develop new habits and foster positive relationships. These changes are difficult; they are the focus of our work.



The first two female clients of Second Heart Homes' first women's mental health housing home.

Clients join us based on their commitment to remain sober and pursue personal goals toward self-sufficiency. In many cases, our clients gain and hold jobs at local businesses; in all cases, they help keep their homes clean and attractive.

Many of our vulnerable clients have experienced trauma, abuse and been stigmatized. We strive to provide them a safe, home-like environment, where they can focus on improving their lives. They receive targeted case management, mentorship and participate in workshops that help them integrate into the community.

**Second Heart Homes** provides critical support services in partnership with community-based groups and volunteers. Some clients stay in our homes for a short time, then achieve their goal to have their own place. Others need our homes indefinitely.

We currently operate six homes in the Sarasota area, five of which we own, and recently acquired a house in Manatee County. By the end of 2022, we plan to serve 50 people. Our long-term vision is to increase the number of people we serve through additional home acquisition, maintain our gold-star quality of care and perfect our model so it can be replicated in other communities.

**Second Heart Homes** has grown in just three years, without government funding, thanks to generous

donations from individuals and foundations.

Nevertheless, the demand for homes and services remains strong. So, what are the best, immediate ways to help our nonprofit – and its local staff and board of directors – reduce homelessness and mitigate its deleterious impacts on our communities? Financial contributions are vital and they can be matched, up to \$500. Go to [FlanzerTrust.org](http://FlanzerTrust.org) and select “*Second Heart Homes*” as the recipient of a donation. Checks can be mailed to **Second Heart Homes, PO Box 3886 Sarasota, Florida 34230**. (We are a 501(c)(3) organization.)

As for volunteers, we are in dire need of someone to give monthly haircuts/beard trims to our male clients!

You can also learn more about us, and some of our clients, by attending a *free ice cream event* provided by **Ben and Jerry's of St Armands** (at their shop, on July 13 from 6 pm to 8pm).

**For more information, contact Megan Howell at 941-577-6568 or [megan@secondhearthomes.org](mailto:megan@secondhearthomes.org)**

*Critical Times is a publication of WSLR, Inc.*



**MISSION:**

WSLR+Fogartyville is a center for creative expression and community engagement that amplifies the voices of our diverse community and promotes peace, sustainability, democracy and economic and social justice.

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# Organizing to Protect Women's Rights

BY KATE DANEHY-SAMITZ

Women's Voices of SW Florida is a grassroots organization dedicated to defending civil liberties and reproductive freedom.

Towards the close of the regular Manatee County Commission meeting on June 8, 2021, Commissioner James Satcher expressed his interest in bringing an abortion ban to the County — even though Manatee County has no freestanding clinics that provide abortion services. While the commissioners recessed for summer, Women's Voices of SW Florida mobilized.

At the next regular meeting, on July 27, commissioners were greeted by about 70 constituents voicing their opposition to the proposed ban. Community members utilized every moment of public comment to speak out against the waste of taxpayer dollars, time and energy.

of the leaked SCOTUS draft opinion on Roe V. Wade, **Women's Voices of SW Florida** led back-to-back local marches in Sarasota and Bradenton — each march garnered support and attendance from over two hundred. At the national



In Manatee County, members dressed as 'Handmaidens' to express opposition to the proposed abortion ban.

Mark Lee Dickson, of Right for Life Texas, was also in attendance to pitch the legislation. If approved, it would have been the first county-wide abortion ban to span multiple municipalities in the nation. A Freedom of Information Act request, filed by Women's Voices, revealed that Dickson and Right for Life Texas, had already sent the proposed draft legislation to Commissioner Satcher. No other commissioners were aware of its existence.

Over the next six months, Women's Voices of SW Florida dedicated themselves to bringing awareness of this government overreach, informing neighbors, organizing demonstrations, and filing many FOIs. They successfully organized one of the largest marches in Manatee county history on October 2, in tandem with the National Women's March. Working with grassroots organizations from all over the state; over 1,500 gathered in defense against the revocation of the fundamental American right to self-agency.

Despite the response from constituents, commissioners voted 4 to 3 to ask Attorney General Ashley Moody to render a legal opinion on the proposed legislation. Women's Voices of SW Florida members did the same. And, in December 2021, Moody provided a written response: The county is "not authorized to adopt an ordinance regulating (other than reasonable zoning ordinances) or banning such clinics."

This was a short-lived victory for women's reproductive rights in Manatee County. In the wake

level, they attended marches in Washington DC and Maryland.

During the 2022 legislative session, **Women's Voices of SW Florida** traveled to Tallahassee almost every week to speak out against a smorgasbord of right-wing, autocratic bills including: HB5, a 15-week abortion ban with no exceptions for survivors of rape, incest or human trafficking; HB1557, "Don't Say Gay," effectively sets a precedent, making queer existence unacceptable in Florida; SB1808, an anti-immigrant bill, punishes companies that transport migrant children to Florida shelters while their immigration status is

Members of **Women's Voices** made several trips to Tallahassee to speak out about legislation they opposed.

determined.

HB7, "Stop WOKE" Act, prohibits workplace training or school instruction that teaches how people can be privileged or discriminated against based on their race, gender, or national origin. Each one of these bills passed through the House and Senate, and was signed into law by Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Since then, Women's Voices of SW Florida has redirected efforts to raising funds for local abortion aid, housing and education. Through GoFundMe and direct donations of cash, clothing, food and household items, they were able to rehouse a single mother who had lost her job due to COVID-19 "Their contributions are truly changing the lives of this woman and her two young kids that will grow up in our community," said Meghan Garfield. Currently, they are organizing a back-to-school drive and will be collecting donations throughout the summer and are working on a GED Fund for single mothers.

In honor of their first anniversary, **Women's Voices of SW Florida is hosting a Party and Fundraiser on July 17.**

Full details aren't available yet, but follow them on **Facebook at fb.com/womensvoices.SWFL** or email **womensvoices.swfl@gmail.com** for further information.



WVSWFL Presents:  
**School Drive '22**

Each year, about 1 in 3 Floridian families sending their kids to school can't afford the school supplies they need. Help us help students and parents in our communities!

START HERE:  
[tinyurl.com/WVSWFL-BTS2022](https://tinyurl.com/WVSWFL-BTS2022)  
[gofundme.com/f/WVSWFL-BTS2022](https://gofundme.com/f/WVSWFL-BTS2022)

# County Commission Candidates Face Primary

The August primaries will decide which Sarasota County Commission candidate will represent their respective parties in the November General Election. There will be **Republican primaries in both District 2 and District 4. Democratic candidates will face a primary in the District 2 race.** Florida is a closed primary state - so you have to be a registered Republican to vote in the Republican primary, or a registered Democrat to vote in the Democratic primary. If you are registered NPA (no party affiliation) or third party you will have to wait until November to vote for the one of the candidates that makes it through the primary.

## DISTRICT 2



**Lourdes Ramirez** was the first Republican to jump into the race for the *District 2 County Commission seat*, while speculation continued as to whether **Christian Ziegler** would be filing for re-election. When it became more likely

that Ziegler would not be running, Siesta Key architect **Mark Smith** threw his hat into the ring. With County Commissioners now being elected by single member districts, District 2 has become the only district with a Democratic-majority. The winner of the Republican primary will face the winner of the Democratic primary in the November election. Currently three Democrats are competing for their party's nomination: Former Sarasota City Mayor **Fredd Atkins**, current City Commissioner **Hagen Brody**, and Siesta Key activist and construction company owner **Mike Cosentino**. (You can learn more about these candidates in the April edition of Critical Times). The four-year county commissioner job pays \$91,821 annually.



A self-described moderate, **Smith** served for many years on the *Siesta Key Village Association Board of Directors* and was also part of the leadership of *Save Our Siesta Sand 2 (SOSS2)*, which advocated for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to find a source of sand other than *Big Pass* to renourish South Lido Key Beach. They did not oppose renourishment, they were just concerned that removing sand from Big Pass would result in negative impacts if Lido was hit by a powerful storm.

Smith graduated from Riverview High School in 1973 before earning his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Georgia Institute of Technology. Traffic, water quality and affordable housing are some of the issues he said he wants to focus on as a commissioner. In 2010, Smith ran an unsuccessful campaign against **Nora Patterson**, an incumbent, in the Republican primary for County Commission District 4.

**Ramirez** has a master's degree in business administration and believes the county needs to grow smartly and diversify its economy. She is *President of the Republican Women's Club of Sarasota* and has been a member of the *Sarasota Republican Executive Committee* for nine years. She has also been active with the *Sarasota County Council of Neighborhood Associations* and the *League of Women Voters*.

**Ramirez** touts herself as a fiscal conservative advocating for lower taxes and cuts to government spending. Lourdes is no stranger to the Commission Chambers. She is an active and engaged citizen who regularly advocates against what she sees as overdevelopment of the county. She is currently involved in a lawsuit with the County over the approval of an eight story hotel on the edge of Siesta Village. Ramirez previously ran for the County Commission in 2014. You can learn more about her campaign here: [www.lourdesramirez.net](http://www.lourdesramirez.net)

## DISTRICT 4

Republicans **Mark Hawkins** and **Joseph Neunder** have filed to run for the *District 4 Sarasota County Commission seat* currently held by **Alan Maio** (Maio is term-limited). The winner of the Republican primary will face Democrat **Daniel Kuether** in the Fall.

**Joe Neunder** is a local chiropractor and currently serves on the *Venice City Council*. A native of Buffalo, New York, he moved to Florida as a teenager. Joe swam competitively for Swim Florida and Venice High School, and graduated from Pine View School. He continued his education at Florida's public universities and earned a Doctorate in Chiropractic Medicine from Life University in Georgia.

Joe defines the secret to Sarasota's success as small government, low taxes, balanced budgets, respect and support for law enforcement and first responders, and protection for the natural beauty that surrounds us.

Home remodeling contractor **Mark Hawkins** has also filed for the *District 4 County Commission seat*.

Hawkins previously served on the *County's Charter Review Board* and also served for 5 years on the *Planning Commission*. He has lived in Sarasota for 60 years and is concerned with what he calls 'out of control' growth. His plan if elected is to focus on updating the County's infrastructure, protecting our waterways, developing workforce housing, and lowering taxes.

The winner of the Republican primary will face Democrat **Daniel Kuether** in the November election.



# Write-In Loophole Impacts Manatee County Races

Florida is a closed primary state. This means that a voter must be a registered member of a political party to vote in that party's primary election. This works reasonably well in regions where the two parties are competitive and viable. However, it becomes a problem when a district is dominated by one party or the other. For example, when you have a district where only one party is viable, the primary election becomes the pivotal election in deciding who will be elected, and everyone not in the party is excluded from having any role in the election.

This was supposed to be fixed by a **1998 constitutional amendment** passed by Florida voters with 64 percent support. Under the amendment, when candidates from only one party are running for state office, the primary is opened for all voters - like a general election. This allows all citizens to have the opportunity to choose the person who is going to represent them, regardless of party.

Unfortunately, politicians figured out how to game the system. In 2000, a



Carol Whitmore



Jason Bearden

state agency issued an advisory opinion stating "a write-in candidate constitutes opposition in a general election" as it related to Article VI, Section 5(b) of the Florida Constitution. In other words, the advisory opinion concluded a write-in candidate was enough to close a primary election in Florida. It's important to note that a write-in candidate has never won any major election in Florida and they don't pay filing fees or collect petitions when qualifying for office. This makes it all too easy for individuals to close primary elections by propping up write-in candidates to create an unfair political advantage. Both parties have used this anti-democratic tactic to their benefit.

## Manatee County Impacted by Write-in Loophole

The write-in loophole is currently being used to disenfranchise voters in two

races in Manatee County. In the Manatee County District 6 race where incumbent **Republican Commissioner Carol Whitmore** is being challenged by Republican **Jason Bearden**, **Robert Lesh** and **Manuel Antonio Llamas** have filed as write-in candidates thus closing the primary to all Democrats, third party and NPA voters. (*No Democrat has filed to run in the race, so essentially the winner of the August primary will be the next Commissioner*). Both of these individuals have openly declared their support for Bearden and Lesh admits to filing at Bearden's request.

The Manatee County District 4 Commission race between incumbent Republican **Misty Servia** and fellow Republican **Mike Rahn** will also be a closed primary. **Timothy Norwood** filed as an Independent candidate in February of 2021 but had failed to raise the money needed to qualify as of 6/13/22. To ensure a closed primary, **Daniel Charles Hansen** filed as a write-in candidate. Hansen has stated that he does not plan to raise money or advertise his campaign.

Current voting numbers in Manatee County show 120,010 registered Republicans, 78,972 registered Democrats and 74,636 registered as members of third parties or with no party affiliation (NPA).

*continued on page 5*

# Efforts to Pass Gun Legislation

In June, a number of state lawmakers pushed for a special session to address gun regulation in the wake of the fatal mass shootings in Uvalde, TX and Buffalo, NY. Rep. Joe Geller (D-Aventura) sent a letter to newly appointed Secretary of State

session on gun control as the state has already prioritized efforts to improve school safety.

In June, facing intense pressure to act in the wake of recent mass shootings, the U.S. Congress passed and President Biden signed a package of gun regulations that would expand

dangerous. The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act also includes funding for school safety and mental health programs. Although incremental, it is still the most significant gun safety measure in decades.

On the same day, the Supreme Court delivered a decisive blow to gun regulations striking down New York's 100-year-old law restricting the carrying of guns in public. In his 130-page opinion, Justice Thomas wrote that states may continue to ban guns in 'sensitive' public places —

like schools, courts and government buildings — but warned that local authorities should not define the category of such places too broadly. Justice Kavanaugh, joined by Chief Justice Roberts, noted the limits of the decision. States can still require people to get a license to carry a gun, Kavanaugh wrote, and condition that license on “fingerprinting, a background check, a mental health records check, and training in firearms handling and in laws regarding the use of force, among other possible requirements.”



About 400 people called for action to prevent gun violence at a rally organized by Moms Demand Action following the mass shootings in Buffalo and Uvalde.

Cord Byrd calling for the special session. At least 60% of lawmakers in each chamber must be in support of a special session in order for it to take place under the polling rule. The News Service of Florida reported only 19 Republican lawmakers responded to the poll on holding the session — all of them voted against it. All 57 Democrats who replied supported the idea. Governor DeSantis also has the power to call for a special session, but said he sees no need for a special legislative

background checks for potential gun buyers under the age of 21, create criminal penalties for straw purchases and gun trafficking and provide federal money for state 'red flag' laws to allow guns to be temporarily taken from people deemed



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scan to see my work!

Loopholes continued from page 4

That means that 56% of Manatee County voters will be disenfranchised by this maneuver.

## Efforts to Eliminate the Loophole

In 2018, an attempt was made to get the state's Constitution Revision Commission to put an amendment on the ballot to fix the loophole. The proposal was narrowly defeated by commission members. The failure of the commission or lawmakers to reform the write-in loophole helped spur a citizens group to propose an even bigger change on the 2020 ballot.

**Florida Amendment 3, the Top-Two Open Primaries for State Offices Initiative** was on the ballot in Florida as an initiated constitutional amendment on November 3, 2020. This proposed constitutional amendment would have all state House, Senate and gubernatorial candidates — Democrat, Republican and independent — run in open primaries, with the top two vote-getters facing each other in a general election. Ballot initiatives must win the support of 60% of Florida voters in order to pass. This amendment only received support from 57% of voters and, therefore, was defeated.

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If you're making plans to simplify your surroundings this summer, a great place to start is to donate that vehicle you don't use anymore. It's easy, pick-up is free, and we turn the proceeds into **GREAT RADIO**.

Learn more at [wslr.org/donateyourvehicle](http://wslr.org/donateyourvehicle) AND... you could even get a tax deduction in the process.

# LIVE FROM Fogartyville

COMMUNITY MEDIA AND ARTS CENTER

Sarasota's premier listening room, but concerts aren't all we do. In addition to our live concerts, we also host other arts and cultural events, educational events, and sponsor events in the community.  
at 525 Kumquat Court's West entrance. (in the alley, Sally)



ALL SHOWS: Student tickets available at 1/2 price (show ID at door); Kids 12 and under are free. Unless otherwise stated.

3-4pm Saturdays, July 15-August 20

8p Friday, August 26 FREE to all

**\$60 All are welcome.**  
Melanie Lavender presents:  
a 6 week  
**Poets Unplugged:  
Writing Workshop**



Hosted by Melanie Lavender

**New Poets Unplugged:  
A Live Culmination  
of student work  
from the workshop, starring...  
You?!**

The power of spoken word is undeniable as an art form. Local spoken word artist **Melanie Lavender** will be teaching a six week course at Fogartyville that will end with a performance on Friday, August 26th.

**Students will learn different poetry writing techniques, delivery of poetry, and public speaking/performance. Performance will be Free on August 26th - you can enter as separate event on website.**

8pm Saturday, July 23

**\$20 members/\$22 non**

an exploration of culture, society, race, love and the complexities encountered as we navigate life's obstacles

**Lauren Henderson** An eclectic jazz vocalist who's influences spread across genres producing a distinct yet versatile sound.



4-6pm Sunday, July 31

**\$15 Adults/\$5 Students**



**2022 Jazz Club Scholarship Winners**  
Beverages will be available. No discounted tickets.



Tuesday, September 13, 6:30pm

The Sarasota Vegan Society, with permission by Thomas Wade Jackson, presents a screening of the documentary "A Prayer for Compassion." This film strives to inspire and encourage those who are spiritual or religious to extend their compassion for all life, including all species, and to make choices in alignment with this value. There may be a Zoom meeting with the filmmaker after the movie.



## Documentaries to open your eyes to the human condition...

WSLR will be a Screening Partner for the **2022-2023 South Arts Southern Tour of Independent Filmmakers**. The Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers is a one-of-a-kind program that connects independent documentary filmmakers with communities throughout the South for screenings and conversations.

**2022-2023 Southern Circuit Film Selections**



**Mama Bears** - Mama Bears is a feature-length documentary that explores the many ways in which the lives of conservative, Christian mothers are impacted and utterly transformed when they decide to affirm and advocate on behalf of their LGBTQ children. As members of a private Facebook group—which they call the "mama bears" because of the fierceness with which its members fight for their offspring's rights—they offer one another support and understanding in the struggle to overcome the teachings of their evangelical churches.



**REFUGE** is a story about fear & love in the American South. A leader in a white nationalist hate group finds healing from the people he once hated - a Muslim heart doctor and his town of refugees.

**Stay Prayed Up** - The only thing mightier than Lena Mae Perry's electrifying voice is her faith. She's spent the last 50 years sharing and sharpening both as the steadfast band-leader of The Branchettes, a legendary North Carolina gospel group that has packed churches throughout the South and lifted weary hearts as far away as Ireland. The documentary follows Perry and The Branchettes as they prepare to record their first, fully live album, a hallmark in the canon of Black gospel groups.



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**Hazing** - Filmmaker Byron Hurt takes viewers with him on a journey to explore the culture of hazing. Byron talks to family members of deceased young people, as well as survivors, to reveal the underbelly of groups that haze. HAZING will take a fascinating look at identity, belonging, groupthink, control, power and dominance, bystander intervention, race and gender, and violence.



**Outta the Muck** - Family, football and history come to life in an intimate portrait of the Dean family, longtime residents of the historic town of Pahokee, Florida. Told through stories that transcend space and time, Outta The Muck presents an intimate portrait of a community that resists despair with love, remaining fiercely self-determined, while forging its own unique narrative of Black achievement.

that resists despair with love, remaining fiercely self-determined, while forging its own unique narrative of Black achievement.

**Home from School** - This film dives into the history of the flagship federal boarding school, Carlisle Indian Industrial School, and follows the modern day journey of the Northern Arapaho Tribe as they seek to bring home the remains of three children who died at Carlisle over 100 years ago.



The 2022-23 schedule is not finalized, but the first film will be screened on **September 20th**.

**WSLR is looking for community members interested in joining our Board of Directors To qualify as a candidate for the Board,**

**you must have been a member of WSLR+Fogartyville for at least one year.**

If you are an experienced leader looking to actively support work that inspires people to build a better world, please read on to consider whether **YOU** might be a great WSLR board member!

**We're accepting applications of interest through August 10, 2022.**

More than audio outlets, volunteer-based community radio stations are cultural institutions in their communities, reflecting the unique concerns and passions of the people who live there. With a system based on openness and collaboration, and diverse programming produced by volunteers and funded by listeners, community radio stations are cornerstones of participatory democracy, offering ordinary



citizens the chance to exercise First Amendment rights in a mass medium and audiences the opportunity to directly support the programming that is of interest to them.

While the world is facing growing threats from authoritarianism, disinformation, and climate change, and local news outlets are shrinking the need for an outlet to discuss what's happening in our community and connect community members through music and educational events is more important than ever. We are in a growth stage and are looking for Board members with a bold vision to help WSLR+Fogartyville realize its bold

vision to meet our community's needs of the next 10 years by expanding our audience through new media platforms and partnerships, increased listener engagement, and implementing new programming to serve the community both on-air at WSLR and in-person at Fogartyville.

Joining the WSLR board of directors provides a unique opportunity to work with like-minded people to amplify the voices of our community and help promote the values of peace, justice, democracy and sustainability.

Board members work collaboratively and on committees to provide general oversight of WSLR, assuring its integrity, continuity, and financial solvency. All board members share our commitment to building an equitable and inclusive culture as we work to build a more just world.

Not ready to serve on the Board? Consider serving on one of our Committees – Fund Development, Radio Programming, Community Advisory Committee or our Anti-Racism & Inclusion Committee. Please email us at [info@wslr.org](mailto:info@wslr.org) or call 941-894-6469 if you are interested in getting involved!

We encourage interest from Black, Brown, Indigenous, and Asian people, people with disabilities, people of diverse sexual orientations and gender expressions, and other marginalized identities that are underrepresented in nonprofit media organizations.



# wslr lp 96.5 fm

## WEEKLY PROGRAM GUIDE

### listen on the air

- WSLR-LP 96.5 FM Sarasota
- WBPV-LP 100.1 FM Sarasota

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- archive.wslr.org Music shows are archived for two weeks. News and public affairs are available for download, and expire later.

Americana · Folk · Cajun · Acoustic · Bluegrass
Blues · Roots · Jazz · R&B · Soul
Electronica · Dubstep · Club · Hip-hop
Freeform · Eclectic
Rock · Punk · Jam · Indie · Pop
News · Public Affairs
World · Spiritual

Find out what's playing On Air on the website. You can also find a playlist for the day, all playlists, AND NOW you can leave a "tip" for your favorite show! We get by with a little help from our friends.

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12 mid.		Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	All Mixed Up Syndicated	And You Don't Stop Syndicated	In My Room Syndicated Midnight Music Meditations The Musician's Son
1 a.m.	Deep Threes Syndicated					Synthelectico Syndicated	
2 a.m.	Music Automated playlist	Midnight Special Syndicated	Music Automated playlist	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Music Automated playlist		
3 a.m.							
4 a.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Music Automated playlist	Music Automated playlist
5 a.m.							
6 a.m.	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)		
7 a.m.							
8 a.m.	Blues to Bluegrass John D.	Blue Groove Mark Gruder	Generation X Alecia Harper Music with a Purpose Pat Monahan	Eclectic Blender Dave Pedersen	Latin Explosion Juan Montenegro	AfroSonic Taxi Syndicated	A Way With Words Syndicated
9 a.m.	Shortwave Report Critical Times Week in Review	TUC Radio Sea Change Radio	Peace & Justice Report Tom Walker & Bob Connors	The Detail Cathy Antunes	Surreal News Lew Lorini & Steve Norris	TownTalk TampaBay With Good Reason	The Detail Cathy Antunes (Rebroadcast)
10 a.m.	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Radio Reset Sharon Preston-Folta	Law and Disorder Syndicated
11 a.m.		Nuestra Musica Mariano Afro Cuban Jazz Frankie Piniero	Blue Groove Jazz/World Edition Mark Gruder BantuNauts Raydio Syndicated	Metropics Carlos Pagan	Complex Waveforms Mark Zampella	Juke In The Back Syndicated	Folk Alley Elena See Syndicated
NOON	Music of the World Marco Ciceron	ALTERNATE WEEKS				Hard Knock Radio Syndicated	
1 p.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	HipRawk Nation Syndicated	Dadee-O's Collector's Corner Dadee-O
2 p.m.				Basement Boxes & More Purple Mike High Tide Susan Runyan	Everything But the Kitchen Sink Jazz Edition Art on the Air Everything But the Kitchen Sink Art on the Air	Community Conversations Melanie Lavender Train to Skaville Syndicated	Velvet Hammer Blues Beth Hammer
3 p.m.	Positive Friction John Haupt	Second Wind Seany G	Rhythm Revival Rev. Billy C Wirtz	ALTERNATE WEEKS			
4 p.m.			Jazz And More Brian Jones	Ted's Head Ted	Friday Happy Hour Bartender Tommy D.	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Global Village Syndicated
5 p.m.	Music Museum Ed Foster	Synthetic Age JR Indie-licious Sheila Jane					
6 p.m.	Economic Update Richard Wolff Capitol Update State News	Ralph Nader Radio Syndicated	Ruthless Truth/Critical Times Laura Flanders Show	Alternative Radio Syndicated	Critical Times Week in Review Counterspin (Syndicated)	Scenario Radio	Donne Del Mondo Syndicated
7 p.m.	Yesterday's Dead Today Mark Binder	The Root Cellar Roger & Peter	Acoustic Waves James Hawkins The Old Folk & Americana Festival	Retro Cocktail Hour Syndicated Velvet Radio Elissa Bello	Ripper's Rarities Russ Yodice	New Radio	Soul Kitchen Paul Junior Rock Sexy Syndicated
8 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS				
9 p.m.	First Voices Syndicated	Bullwinkle's Corner Keith Winkle	Random Precision Alex	Music Is The Best Mark Markus	Songs for Knitting & Mayhem Laura Dark Side of the Tune Syndicated	Sonic Cafe Syndicated	Lounging After Dark Syndicated
10 p.m.	Indigenous Nation Syndicated				ALTERNATE WEEKS		
11 p.m.	Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	All Mixed Up Syndicated	And You Don't Stop Syndicated	In My Room Syndicated Midnight Music Meditations The Musician's Son	Cafe Chill Syndicated
12 mid.							

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# Analysis: Laying Siege to Public Education

BY CATHY ANTUNES

Sarasota's school board meetings have become the battleground for America's culture war.

Underneath the school board culture war another agenda appears to be at work—defunding public education. A free, quality public education is the bedrock of our democracy and our economy. Undermining public education by appealing to our worst instincts with wedge issues like CRT (Critical Race Theory) is a strategy to kill public education by declaring it broken and strangling funding via charter schools and private school vouchers.

Sarasota residents have had a front row seat for school board issues becoming a national political flashpoint. Local politicians including FL GOP Chair and State Sen. Joe Gruters and husband and wife team, FL GOP Vice Chair Christian Ziegler (Sarasota County Commissioner) and Moms for Liberty co-founder Bridget Ziegler (Sarasota County School Board). These politicians promote making school board elections partisan and claim CRT in the classroom is a real problem. It doesn't matter to them that CRT isn't taught in our public schools. Instead of advocating for clear and age-appropriate historical instruction, they have been purveyors of the CRT systemic-racism-wedge-issue boogeyman.

Hysterical hyperbole is a Ziegler tactic. Recently the commissioner advocated giving \$825,000 of our tax dollars to Rumble, a video platform broadcasting Russian state television (aka Putin propaganda) as well as QAnon conspiracy theories and COVID misinformation. He characterized constituents who were against funding with Sarasota tax dollars as "flag burners". School board member Ziegler appeared on a national news program claiming that CRT was being taught in public schools. A banner underneath her read "making kids feel bad for being white is chilling".

Take a deeper look into Florida's culture war "influencers" and you'll find Christopher Rufo. He is the architect of CRT, a term Rufo coined in a review of academic references in

 Bridget Ziegler @BridgetAZiegler · Dec 15, 2021  
Thank you to @realchrisrufo who has been instrumental in shining a light on CRT & what is at stake. #StopWokeAct1 @GovRonDeSantis



Bridget Ziegler and Christopher Rufo at the Governor's Stop WOKE press conference.

popular books on racism. He conflates CRT with anecdotes of clumsy diversity training or teaching. *And...Voila!* A rebranded wedge issue is born.

One result of Rufo's influence is HB 7, also referred to as "Stop Woke" and "Ban CRT" Act. Rufo spoke at the Governor's December press conference to announce the adoption of HB 7. At the conference, he claims to be "meticulously documenting Critical Race Theory in American Institutions". How does gathering anecdotes about over-the-top diversity training make him an expert on race relations? His most recent manifesto, *Laying Siege to the Institutions*, was published in Hillsdale College's *Inprimis* newsletter. In it, Rufo claims the subjects of race and gender in schools "can't be reformed from within." His solution is to destroy it. This is why "I call for a siege strategy," writes Rufo. His method for destruction — "Universal School Choice" — defunding public education through private school vouchers and corporate charter schools.

***Both the New York Times and Politico have published articles documenting Hillsdale College's close ties with the Trump administration.***

Both Ziegers are Rufo and Hillsdale College admirers. One of their children attends a local charter school founded by Hillsdale College. While the college is busy opening K-12 charter schools across the country, Rufo is waging his

"siege strategy" against public education. "Thank you to @realchrisrufo who has been instrumental in shining a light on CRT & what is at stake," tweeted school board member Ziegler.

There is a robust body of reporting describing how corporate charter schools siphon funding from public schools. One great resource documenting this exploitation is the white paper "Are Charter Schools the Second Coming of Enron?", published in the *Indiana Law Journal* and still available online. The authors describe how "unscrupulous individuals and corporations are using their control over charter schools and their affiliates to obtain unreasonable management fees for their services and funnel money intended for charter schools into other business ventures". Corporate charter schools offer endless opportunities for profiteers to pillage public education dollars while student outcomes are no better, and often are worse.

The management structure of corporate charters means that parental rights are actually diminished. A leaked Imagine Schools memo from November 2, 2009 makes it clear that parents are not to have a real role in school governance. The corporate charter school chain founder says the school boards are not to have real authority in running the schools. He recommends getting signed, but undated letters of resignation from parents serving on their school boards, to "protect" school administrators. Parents who believe charter schools offer them more influence must reconsider.

An important influencer of Florida's elected leaders and Moms for Liberty, Rufo is calling for laying siege to public education. The CRT wedge issue serves the interests of those who want to privatize public education, such as corporate charter school investors. A healthy, robust public education system is the bedrock of democracy and our economy. Take this seriously, our democracy depends on it.

## Proposed Charter Amendments

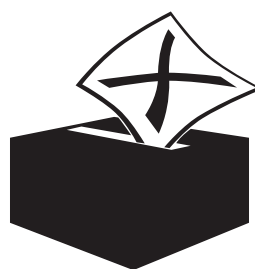
Just as the State Legislature has been restricting citizen's ability to place issues on the Statewide ballot, Sarasota County continues their efforts to make it harder for local residents to get Charter amendments before the voters.

In October 2021 the County's Charter Review Board approved two proposed amendments to Sarasota County's charter. In order to take effect voters will have to approve the changes. The Sarasota County commission will hold a public hearing **July 12** on an ordinance setting a special election to approve the changes.

The proposed amendments would change the process by which citizens can initiate charter modifications. Currently, a citizen proposing a charter amendment must get at least 10% of county voters to sign a petition to start the process of getting the amendment on a ballot. One Charter Review Board proposal would require citizens to obtain signatures from at least 10% of the voters in each County Commission district, instead of 10% of voters countywide. The review board also recommended that the county

produce a statement of the expected financial impact of any citizen-proposed amendment that would accompany the proposal on the petition and on the ballot. The second ballot question would add language stating that "Any proposed amendment shall not conflict with the Florida Constitution, general law, or the Charter.

Several community members opposed the amendments at the June Commission meeting on the basis that the changes will make it harder for citizens to get amendments before voters. The Republican Liberty Caucus of Sarasota also presented a resolution calling on the Commission to reject the proposals and send them back to the Charter Review Board for further review."



Current Charter Review Board Member Alexandra Coe is the founding member of the Liberty Caucus.

### This Independence Day, We Can Thank Tom Paine.



Thomas Paine is the author of "Common Sense", a pamphlet that outlined our form of government. Paine also served as citizen soldier during the American Revolutionary War.

Paine struggled to advance the promise of America. He was one of the first abolitionists, the father of Social Security, and an advocate for efficient and peaceful government.

As Veterans of the American military, the mission of Florida Veterans for Common Sense is to inspire Americans of today with the spirit of Thomas Paine.

**FLORIDA VETERANS For Common Sense** **Are You A Veteran?**  
Join our group!  
Go to our Web site or write for an application:  
[www.FLVCS.US](http://www.FLVCS.US) □ [contact@FLVCS.US](mailto:contact@FLVCS.US)  
P. O. Box 2311, Sarasota, FL 34230

Florida Veterans for Common Sense, Inc. is a non-partisan/non-profit 501(c)(4) corporation. Dues are 45.00 annually. Contact [FLVeterans@aol.com](mailto:FLVeterans@aol.com).



# Analysis: The Charter School Review Commission: Florida's Latest Mechanism for Destroying Public Education

BY CAROL LERNER

Just days before Florida State Senator Manny Diaz was scheduled to start his new position as Florida's Education Commissioner, Governor DeSantis gave him a welcoming gift by signing a little discussed bill, Senate Bill 758. It was written and pushed through the Florida legislature by Diaz in his capacity as state senator, and it will likely radically change the educational landscape in Sarasota and other counties throughout the state. This bill establishes a seven-member Charter School Review Commission with broad authority to review and approve applications for charter schools across the state.

As of July 1, when this bill goes into effect, local school boards will be stripped of their abilities to approve or deny most charter school applications. Charter applicants can still apply to local school boards, as they do now, and many of the locally based "mom and pop" variety of charter schools may continue to do so, but it is expected that the large corporate charter school chains, like Academica and Charter School USA, will go



Manny Diaz Jr.,  
Florida Commissioner of Education

straight to Tallahassee.

And why wouldn't they? The Charter School Review Commission will be appointed by Diaz as Education Commissioner and confirmed by the Senate. This is a classic case of the fox guarding the hen house. Education Commissioner Diaz left his employment on May 31 from the nation's largest for-profit management organization, Academica where he served as a high-level administrator, and then began his new job as Education Commissioner on June 1. Not just limited to SB 758, Diaz spent his entire ten-year legislative career writing laws that explicitly favored charter schools and other forms of school privatization.

The Charter School Review Commission is intentionally biased in favor of charter schools. Diaz wrote into the law that members picked by him for this seven-member commission must have charter school experience. The Commission will have the authority to review and approve applications for charter schools across the state. Not only will we see the for-profit management companies that dominate many Florida counties applying this way, Sarasota and other Florida counties will see large corporate non-profit chains like the KIPP

schools, which currently only has one school in Florida, knocking on the Commission's doors. High performing school districts like Sarasota that have successfully limited the number of corporate schools, will be particularly targeted. It could drastically change the educational landscape here over the next ten years

Groups like Support Our Schools and Protect Our Public School Manasota, fresh off a 5-0 Sarasota County School Board victory in keeping the for-profit Charter Schools USA out of Sarasota County, are joining with like-minded grassroots organizations across the state to fight the establishment of the Charter School Review Commission. It will highlight the corruption and conflicts of interest rampant in the Florida Department of Education and in much of the Florida legislature that has made Florida the most privatized state in the nation in education. The coalition, backed by the Network for Public Education, an organization formed by national education leader Diane Ravitch, will advocate for the return of decision-making to local school boards, fight school privatization in every form, and halt the attempts of so many state leaders to destroy public education in Florida.

Carol Lerner is the founder of Protect Our Public Schools Manasota.

## No Citizen Initiatives Make the Ballot this Year

Florida's big businesses, upset about recent citizen initiatives, including one aimed at *raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour*, have thrown a lot of effort into encouraging legislators to place legal obstacles in the way of groups trying to get initiatives on the ballot. Nearly **900,000** voter signatures are needed to get a Constitutional amendment on the ballot. **Lawmakers in recent years have imposed a variety of restrictions on the citizen initiative process** to limit paid signature gathering, limit fundraising, and shorten the time for acquiring signatures. Their efforts seem to have paid off this year as there will be **no citizen-initiated amendments** on the ballot.

As of June 9, 2022, **three statewide ballot measures** were certified for the November General Election ballot - all of them placed there by the State Legislature. This does not augur well for future citizen initiatives, including a possible marijuana legalization effort.

The citizen initiative process is one of four ways to amend the **Florida Constitution**. Proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution can be made by a joint resolution of the Florida Legislature, a citizens' initiative, a proposal from the Constitutional Revision Commission, or a proposal from the Taxation and Budget Reform Commission. Voters must approve citizen initiatives with a 60% vote share for provisions to be added to the constitution.

Interest groups have used the citizen initiative process in recent years to pass constitutional amendments on issues that were unpopular in the Legislature, including establishing *felons' right to vote* and the *medical marijuana* program. The *citizen initiative process* has been one of the key safeguards against an unresponsive legislature, allowing citizens to **have a direct voice**.

### 2022 Proposed Ballot Amendments

**Amendment 1** would authorize the state legislature to pass laws prohibiting flood resistance improvements made to a home from being taken into consideration when determining a property's assessed value for property tax purposes.

**Amendment 2** would abolish the Florida Constitution Revision Commission which is authorized to meet every 20 years and has the power to place items on the ballot.

**Amendment 3** would authorize the Florida State Legislature to provide an additional homestead property tax exemption on \$50,000 of assessed value on property owned by certain public service workers including teachers, law enforcement officers, emergency medical personnel, active duty members of the military and Florida National Guard, and child welfare service employees.

### No Gambling Expansion in Florida

The group that came closest to getting an initiative on the ballot was Florida Voters in Charge (FVIC). Headquartered in Jacksonville Beach, Florida, it is the lobbying arm of gambling conglomerate Las Vegas Sands, from which it receives the bulk of its funding. (FVIC received more than \$75 million in funding, with \$73 million coming from Las Vegas Sands. This made it the non-candidate PAC in Florida with the most revenue in 2021.) In 2022, Florida Voters in Charge was the proponent of two gambling-oriented ballot initiatives. The first, eventually known as the Florida Casino Gaming Expansion Initiative, would have allowed expansion of casino-style gambling into northern Florida, provided that the casinos were built 130 miles away from any Seminole Tribe-owned casino. The second initiative, supported by online betting firm Draft Kings, would have legalized online and venue-based sports gambling in Florida. The second initiative failed to gain traction and was dropped in January 2022.

FVIC's primary opposition came from the Seminole Tribe of Florida, operating through its own Standing Up for Florida PAC, which spent more than \$39 million in its fight against FVIC, buying television ads and accusing FVIC of improperly obtaining signatures. The Seminole-affiliated PAC also attempted to launch a petition that would give the tribe exclusivity over sports betting in Florida. FVIC was further hampered in its efforts to collect signatures by a 2019 amendment that made it illegal to incentivize signature collectors by paying them based on the number of signatures they acquired. In June, U.S. District Judge Allen Winsor issued a ruling that included a permanent injunction against the \$3,000 contribution limit, to political committees supporting ballot initiatives (which passed in 2021), saying it violates the First Amendment.

Over the past six years we have been watching the slow dismantling of our democracy. Serious damage was done at the federal level under former-president Trump. It continues at an accelerated rate in Republican-controlled states with the passage of hundreds of voter and citizen suppression laws. Powerful backers of the Republican party; billionaires, corporations, white supremacists, and religious nationalists, have decided that democracy no longer serves their purpose and that crippling it is necessary to maintain power.

They know that the violent overthrow of an established democracy by military coup or insurrection is difficult to engineer and risky if unsuccessful. The January 6 attack on Congress demonstrated that.

Instead, the American conservative party has turned to a more modern method of disabling a democracy: “incumbent takeover”. Incumbent

takeover, or “authoritarianization”, is a slow process implemented by elected officials who use the powers of state to change the political playing field, ensuring their permanence in power. Tactics include appointing loyalists to the courts, taking control of the security and civil service apparatus, weakening whistle-blower protections, ignoring basic Congressional civility, changing election rules, gerrymandering districts and putting partisans in charge of the election process.

In addition to dismantling the checks and balances built into our constitutional structures, the modern autocratic playbook includes strategies for “cowering” and “confusing” the general public, civic organizations, and businesses. They promote “big lies” and conspiracy theories and then use state power to threaten businesses, schools, universities, and journalists. Tactics include flooding

communities with guns and allowing open carry of weapons in public spaces – an intimidation strategy to stop citizens from voting, assembling, or protesting.

Because “authoritarianization” or “incumbent takeover” tactics are so incremental, citizens find it difficult to notice what is happening. Like the frog in the pot on the stove that fails to jump before being boiled, citizens may not recognize the chipping away of legal protections and fail to act as their freedoms and democracy are lost.

Many in the Sarasota community are expressing alarm at the Republican Party’s turn to authoritarianism under Trump and his ilk (DeSantis, Abbott, etc). Most have never contemplated having to go beyond voting to protect our democratic state and few have experience in the non-violent strategies often required to stop an autocratic assault. But in these

upcoming election cycles, contributing to pro-democracy candidates and voting, though doubly critical, will not be enough.

A new website, CHOOSE DEMOCRACY NOW, will be launched by the end of the month. The purpose of the site is to mobilize citizens to step off the curb and take actions beyond voting. The website will be a coordinating platform for Sarasota and the broader Florida community with resources to understand the GOP assault. It will provide a place for amplifying the voices of those individuals and organizations in the community committed to protecting and strengthening our democracy.

Watch for the new website. Become a democracy activist and volunteer to help preserve a free and democratic future for our community, our children, and our grandchildren.

## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Editorial: Reassessing Renewables BY COTY KELLER

Every minute, every ounce of personal and physical energy, every dollar is crucial in the race to keep global warming below 1.5OC increase over pre-industrial levels. With that in mind, an assessment of the adequacy of various so called “renewable energy” was conducted. The result of the full report are posted at <https://tinyurl.com/2m93nau7>, and accessed with this QR code:



Renewable energy comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished. The table lists the major types of renewable energy. On the left we have the renewables that have become part of the climate problem because they emit heat trapping gasses (plus some – particularly ethanol and biodiesel- are harmful to our soil); on the right we have non emitting renewables.

Major Types of Renewable Energy	
Biomass sources of energy create heat trapping gasses.	Non emitting sources of energy
Wood and wood waste	Hydropower
Municipal solid waste	Geothermal
Landfill gas and biogas	Wind
Ethanol	Solar
Biodiesel	

Sources: NRDC, EIA, and DOE

Zero emissions, not renewability is the important property for our energy sources. To reduce, and expeditiously eliminate human caused emissions, the technical solution is pretty much agreed on by the experts (Project Drawdown, Union of Concerned Scientists -Solutions. Bill Gates- How to Avoid a Climate Disaster). We must reduce energy consumption. We need to electrify almost everything and generate all our electricity from zero emission sources of energy. It is therefore of utmost importance that everyone understands what those sources are.

Zero Emission Energy Sources
Rooftop Solar (Onshore/Offshore)
Geothermal
Nuclear
Solar hot water
Small hydropower

Source: Project Drawdown

We need to stop emitting heat-trapping gasses and improve soil management. This requires abandoning certain renewable sources of energy. We should commit to not uttering the term “renewable,” and when others use the term, take their remarks with a grain of salt.



Some forms of renewable energy can help solve the climate crisis, but others contribute to the problem by creating emissions and degrading our soils. Focusing on renewables distracts us from the urgent task at hand of STOPPING all emissions, restoring full photosynthesis, and improving the management of our soil. Let’s drop the renewable concept and instead focus on zero emission sources of energy (wind, solar, geothermal, nuclear, and small hydro) and beneficial farming/land management practices (regenerative agriculture, silvopasture, afforestation, composting, native landscapes).

*William (Coty) Keller is a local ecologist. He lives and works in Port Charlotte. <https://www.ecopapak.org>*

**Here are some ideas for us all to be part of the solution.**

Consider giving up the use of the fireplace to stop emissions from burning wood.

Stop supporting campaigns for “100% clean and renewable energy.” While some of these programs have produced marginal improvements, they are not efficient or effective enough to get us to 70-100% reduction/elimination of emissions by 2030. Instead, encourage policies such as low carbon portfolio standards. LCPSs are a more effective and affordable way to reduce carbon emissions because they require utilities to purchase low carbon electricity produced from zero emission sources.

Support Carbon Fee and Dividend. A national price (a fee) on emission, with revenues returned to households (the dividend) is the fastest and most equitable way to reduce our nation's emissions.

Let’s re-purpose and re-name government agencies (for example the National Renewable Energy Lab, and DOE’s office of energy efficiency and renewable energy) to focus on mitigating the climate crisis instead of the proliferation of exclusively renewable energy programs.

The plant-rich diet is #4 of Drawdown’s 100 solutions. As Zen master Thich Nhat Hanh has said, making the transition to a plant-based diet may be the most effective way an individual can stop climate change.

Let’s stop subsidizing farmers to grow corn and soybeans to make biofuels. Instead, we should be paying farmers to store carbon, help the climate and save farms. It makes sense to incentivize silvopasture and regenerative agriculture practices.

We can act in our own yards and neighborhoods. Using electric or battery operated landscape equipment, powered by the sun, eliminates the pollution from gas and diesel fuels.

Using composting (#60 on the Drawdown list) instead of synthetic fertilizer results in less heat trapping gas emissions and soil better able to store carbon. Native trees, shrubs and grasses are able to tolerate natural soils and local rainfall patterns, salt air, etc. Natives also fight off the loss of diversity by their long-established relationships with the local insects, birds and other wildlife. Through photosynthesis, they sequester carbon. Replacing lawns that use fertilizers can reduce heat trapping gas emissions. Nitrous oxide emissions (including those from fertilizer) are 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

Projects that replace parking lots, and other spaces with native trees and shrubs can work wonders for our communities. Afforestation, creating new forests where there were none before, is Project Drawdown’s #15 of 100 solutions for the climate crisis.

# Editorial: Reflections on January 6th

BY GENE JONES

As we learn more about the insurrection on January 6, 2021, the case is clear that it was a concerted effort to overturn our constitutional republic by Trump supporters.

Trump initiated the turmoil by claiming that the election was stolen and the Republican Party swallowed his lie. Trump's misinformation campaign weakened our democracy and laid the groundwork for the attack on the Capitol.

Repeatedly disseminating misinformation to weaken a government is a well-established propaganda technique. The damage is done because many citizens become uncertain about the truth and conclude "We don't know who, or what, to believe." As a result, they are demoralized and more easily manipulated by ideologues.

More dangerous are those who believe the misinformation and become "true believers". Over time, as lies are spewed repeatedly by their leaders, followers internalize the false belief and democracy is de-legitimized. In a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll, 53 percent of Republicans still believe Trump is the true president.

Spurred on by their extremist Republican leaders, the true believers took their belief to its logical conclusion and tried to overthrow our elected government. Many of the staunchest Trump supporters like the leadership of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers have now been charged with seditious conspiracy, which is the intention to "overthrow, put down, or to destroy by force the Government of the United States." Some have pled guilty.

The attack on the Capitol was so lethal that several people died and many were wounded. The vote to certify the election was delayed and the insurrectionist came close to stopping it.

Fortunately, patriots responded to the attack with quick thinking and courage. Someone grabbed and secured the box containing the electoral vote certifications from states. Vice President Pence refused to be whisked away from the Capitol. Representatives and Senators stayed late into the night to complete their Constitutional duty amidst a Capitol in shambles.

We came close to a governmental collapse on January 6th, and the danger has not subsided.

The Ipsos/Reuters polls confirms the true believing Republicans have not been dissuaded from their false belief. Most Republican leaders still hold President Biden as illegitimate.

The true believers can fairly be described as extremists because they are not committed to democratic norms or principles. A hallmark of American democracy is abiding by election results. Even today, the extremists won't accept the presidential election results. In Florida, most



Proud Boys at the 4/25/22 March for our Future in downtown Sarasota. Photo credit: Allan Mestel

Republican leaders are complicit with the extremists. Representative Steube, for example, advertises proudly that he still stands shoulder to shoulder with Trump.

The extremists don't support democracy. They want a strongman leader. While planning the insurrection the Proud Boys hailed emperor Trump.

**As patriots and loyal citizens, we must protect our democracy. We must reject the extremists.** If they continue to be put in positions of power, we will see more chaos like January 6. The extremists don't have policy ideas to make America better. Their motivation is to grab and hold power so their anti-democratic ideology can be imposed on us all.

# Editorial: How to Tackle the Rent Crisis

BY KARLA CORREA

With the federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds drying up and rent continuing to skyrocket due to profit-hungry corporate landlords, workers will slip even deeper into poverty and homelessness unless action is taken to protect us immediately. With virtually no protections in place for tenants, landlords have near-unlimited power. Local governments have the authority to begin to shift that power imbalance to empower and protect tenants.

*Here are some actions that local municipalities can immediately take to protect renters:*

## 1. Declare a Housing State of Emergency - RENT CONTROL



Declaring a housing emergency would allow for residents to vote on rent control through a city-wide or county-wide referendum. Sarasota has seen some of the highest rent increases in the entire country. As of June 23rd, Orange County commissioners have directed their legal staff to draft an ordinance to control rent increases, which will need to be voted on by Orange County residents. Renters in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Miami, Jacksonville, and Naples are also currently fighting to get their local governments to allow them to vote on rent control. Don't be fooled by the real estate industry which says that rent control will make the issue worse. It's very simple: rent control keeps people in their homes.

## 2. Required Rehousing

In Washington state, rent control is banned. The City of Seattle enacted an ordinance that required landlords to pay the rehousing costs of tenants who were forced to move in response to rent increases over 10%. Seattle showed that when there is a will to protect renters, there's a way.

## 3. Universal Right to Counsel

This policy would guarantee tenants the right to legal representation when facing eviction. According to the New York University Furman Center, 95% of landlords have legal representation in eviction cases, as compared to 1% of tenants. Tenants deserve a fair chance to fight back. St. Petersburg is currently considering this policy. If it is passed, it will be the first city in Florida to do so.

## 4. Ban the Box

Pass an ordinance prohibiting a landlord from requiring a tenant to disclose eviction history.

## 5. 60-Day Notice of Rent Increases and Month-to-Month Tenancies

Miami-Dade commissioners passed legislation requiring landlords to provide tenants 60 days written notice for any increases of more than five percent to the rental rate or when terminating a month-to-month lease.

## 6. End Income Discrimination

Most cities currently have no protections against source of income discrimination. Pinellas County is getting ready to pass a tenant's bill of rights, which would include an end to section 8 voucher

discrimination. Source of income discrimination disproportionately affects Black and brown people, women, and people with disabilities.

## 7. Landlord Registry

Establish a database of all rental properties and landlords in the city which will be accessible to the public. Landlord registries offer a way to keep track of code enforcement inspections.

## 8. Establishment of Office of Tenant Advocacy

A city-run department that would inform tenants of their rights, receive & publish complaints & connect tenants to available resources. This is more important now than ever. The tenants union is constantly receiving reports of illegal activities from landlords including turning off water and power, locking tenants out of their homes, entering tenants' homes without notice, and much more. Tenants need a fully-funded office to be able to address these concerns.

## 9. City-owned Public Housing

No more corporate handouts to developers for privately owned "affordable housing." We need the establishment of a city-owned and operated public housing program, available to all, with rents set based on income. Housing should be a public utility rather than a means to make a profit.

If you are interested in working on housing issues locally, please contact Ruth Beltran at [rmbeltran1@gmail.com](mailto:rmbeltran1@gmail.com).



These demands are immediately realizable, and the clock is ticking for the working people of Florida. Housing is a human right. We are seeing these massive spikes in housing prices not because people are moving to Florida or because of any housing shortage, but because housing is subject to the speculative real estate market. In order to guarantee housing as a human right, we need to deviate from pro-business, market solutions to housing, and toward ones that work to make housing a public good.

*Karla Correa is an organizer with the [St. Petersburg Tenants Union](#).*

# Local Media Helps a Community Thrive

## a community thrives®

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

This summer WSLR will participate in the 'A Community Thrives' fundraising challenge to raise funds to strengthen our News Department. A Community Thrives is a program of the USA TODAY NETWORK and the Gannett Foundation. The program supports community-building initiatives across the country, with a focus on historically under-served individuals and groups and awards grants to worthy causes and organizations aiming to improve their communities. The fundraising phase of the program will take place from **July 18 through August 12**, and grant recipients will be announced on October 5.

Last year with the proceeds from the ACT fundraiser WSLR started a *Community News Fund* and we were able to fund an additional part-time reporter. As our Community News Fund grows WSLR hopes to build a program of public service journalism modeled after *City Bureau*, a Chicago-based civic journalism lab. City Bureau has built a model for more equitable, inclusive and representational community news coverage. They work to bring journalists and communities together in a collaborative spirit to produce equitable media coverage and encourage civic participation. There are three elements to the program - a *Civic Journalism Reporting Fellowship*, the *Documenters Program* and a *free Public Newsroom forum* — which work together



Peter Gentile is stepping up to take over the responsibilities of News Coordinator from Becca Hadwen.

to broaden paths of entry into the journalism industry, increase transparency and accessibility at local public governance meetings and bring people into solutions-based dialogue.

Local community media is produced by the people who live in the community... and it introduces people to creating media. Many of the individuals that contribute to our News Team have no previous experience when they come to WSLR, and they leave with a better understanding of our community, how government works, and the power of the media. Local media drives conversation, serves as a public record and covers the news happening in your own backyard. Support it this summer by making a donation through the A Community Thrives website.



## Let's build change. Together.

Our current News Team is in transition with **Becca Hadwen** stepping down as News Coordinator as he moves into his new position at the *Multicultural Health Institute*. Becca was amazing and under his steady hand, we were able to grow the quality of our content and our outreach efforts. Becca will stay on for the summer to help with training our latest News Coordinator **Peter Gentile**. Some of you may know Peter as the co-host of "The Root Cellar" on Tuesdays night. He has extensive journalism experience and is stepping in to help our News Team continue to grow. Two New College Interns - **Basil Pursley** and **Jovi Christos** - and **Vana Prewitt**, a community volunteer round out the current production crew for our ½ hour local news broadcast. We also have a team of volunteers that assists with producing daily updates that are aired on WSLR. If you are interested in being a community reporter or helping with daily briefs, please contact us at [news@wslr.org](mailto:news@wslr.org).

## Sarasota City Commission Race from page 1

### TERRILL SALEM

Salem is a licensed general contractor and real estate broker with more than 15 years' experience building and remodeling residential, commercial, and light industrial structures.



He grew up the youngest in a household raised by a divorced mother of four. For years, Salem watched his mother struggle to pay rent, while often going without basic utilities such as electricity and water. This inspired him to become a homeowner early in life, and to use his knowledge to help others become homeowners as well. The father of three school aged children, hopes to "protect and preserve Sarasota as we know it," while making the city a more affordable place to live. "The commission has made decisions that don't consider the working class people of Sarasota," says Salem.

He currently serves as chair of the City's Planning Board. Previously, Salem served eight years as a medic in the U.S. Army and as a Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician for Sarasota County Fire Department. Learn more [www.salem4sarasota.com](http://www.salem4sarasota.com)

### CARL SHOFFSTALL

Shoffstall has worked as a licensed Commercial Pool and Spa Contractor in Florida for 40 years. Since 2007 he has owned and managed a construction company offering commercial design



and construction services for elevated condo pools, resort style pools, splashpads, playgrounds and associated amenities. Shoffstall and his wife have lived on Lido Key for 20 years. His volunteer experience includes serving three years as CCNA Chair, seven years as an officer and 16 years as a member. Shoffstall has also served as President of the Lido Key Residents Association since 2012, chairing the City's Parks, Recreation & Environmental Protection Advisory Board for 12 years and the Parking Advisory Committee since its inception. Shoffstall championed the Lido Beach renourishment project, which included dredging Siesta Key's Big Pass and pumping recycled sand onto Lido Key. He raised money to ensure that the renourishment of Lido was successful, as it faced opposition from Siesta Key residents. Learn more: [www.electcarlshoffstall.org](http://www.electcarlshoffstall.org)

### DEBBIE TRICE

Trice is a 25-year resident of Sarasota who has held positions in management, sales and marketing with IBM. She attended MIT and holds an MBA from the NYU Stern School of Business. Trice has been president of the Rosemary District Neighborhood Association for the past two years and served on the Sarasota County Charter Review Board. As commissioner, she wants to restore balance and collaboration to city decision-making, bring creative problem-solving to the community while addressing transportation, environment, and quality-of-life issues that are essential to sustaining a livable community. "One size does not fill all" says Trice. "Too often, governments fail to recognize this and set policies that apply to all, but help none." As commissioner she wants to "find solutions to the mismatch between the homes we need and the homes being built, while preserving the character of each of Sarasota's neighborhoods." Trice's public service and volunteer experience includes NAACP, AAUW, Girls Inc., First Congregational Church, United Way and RDA. Learn More: [www.DebbieForTheCity.com](http://www.DebbieForTheCity.com)



### Meet the NEW Manager from page 1

For 10 years Coleman worked at the downtown Whole Foods Market acting as manager for the Prepared Foods, Whole Body, and Bakery departments. These positions and his long-term commitment to the company gave Coleman invaluable skills in operational management. For the past two years, Coleman has served as manager for Blumenberry Farms, a local organic farm in East Sarasota. He oversaw plantings, harvests, crop production and field operations. Working with food was his way of doing something good for the community and the environment. "I've always been interested in radio. From an early age, a lot of my family members were big fans [of community radio]" says Coleman. "... WMNF was always playing. That was really instrumental in exposing me to eclectic music and perspectives that you don't normally see in the mainstream. That fueled a lot of my interests, I feel a little bit indebted to community radio" he said. Coleman begins his new role as station manager this summer while simultaneously continuing his education at USF where he is working on an interdisciplinary degree in Social Sciences with focuses in political science, government and global affairs. In his free time, he enjoys playing disc golf at Payne Park, fishing, spending time at the beach and other local parks, seeing shows at Fogartyville and other local venues.