

Two Issues Driving City Commission Race

BY CATHY ANTUNES

Voters will select City Commissioners for Districts 1, 2 and 3 this November, and a look at the candidates financials indicate two major issues are in play: the Selby Garden Master Plan and the potential resurrection of a strong mayor amendment. The nature of the Selby Garden Master Plan has been a matter of contention between residents and Selby boosters. The first proposed Selby plan, was turned down by the City Commission in late 2019. The strong mayor issue may be revisited as a number of candidates expressed interest in a strong mayor during the primary.

The first Selby Master Plan proposed a 69' garage, with a 485 car capacity and rooftop restaurant. The latest iteration of the Selby Master Plan has a garage 39' high, with a 450 car capacity. While the height of the garage is reduced, it's footprint is larger. The rooftop restaurant is gone, but a ground level restaurant will stay open until 10 pm for patrons. With the proposed garage car capacity only reduced by a meager 7%, it appears this plan will still bring a level of event noise and activity concerning to residents.

Rob Grant, a District 3 candidate who came in a close third in the primary, shared an experience demonstrating the intensity of interest in the City Commission race by at least one Selby supporter and campaign donor. Bill McComb, the spouse of a Selby board member, called Rob Grant's direct

supervisor at West Coast Black Theatre Troupe, Grant's employer, the day after Grant filed to run. McComb explained to me that he was concerned about a NextDoor social media post where Grant suggested that a protest take place in front of Selby CEO Jennifer Rominiecki's house. Concerned that such a gathering could be dangerous, McComb contacted WBTT to make them aware of what Grant was saying online, and that it was perceived as threatening. The offending NextDoor post authored by Grant was a response to his neighbor, Karen Hall, who expressed frustration that Selby supporters did not care about how Selby events were creating too much noise for nearby residents.

"I think we need to start a party on wheels and roll by everyone's house at 11pm blaring music 75 decibels. How long before they call the cops?" wrote resident Karen Hall.

"I'm in!" Rob Grant replied. "We can start at Jenny Rs house in Arlington Park."

Grant wrote this on NextDoor on October 31st, 2019. On June 12th, the day after he filed to run for the City Commission, Grant's employer was called by McComb regarding the comment on social media. McComb says his intention was to express his concern that this commentary could create a dangerous situation. Grant understood the call to his employer as an attempt to intimidate him into silence, or even to discourage him from running. This incident certainly illustrates how fraught the Selby Master Plan issue has become.



Willie Shaw

What can be gleaned from the finance reports of candidates?

In District 1, Kyle Battie is challenging incumbent Willie Shaw. A native to Sarasota and Newtown, Shaw has been a receptive ear for

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residents concerns since his election in 2011. Kyle Battie has returned to Sarasota after a modeling



Kyle Battie

career in New York and Miami. Shaw voted against the Selby Master Plan, moved by citizen concerns over noise, traffic and loss of green space. Battie says Sarasota's arts and cultural community is "under attack" (naming Selby Gardens, the Sarasota Orchestra and Mote

Marine). Selby supporters, including Marianne and Bill McComb, Teri Hansen and Ken Shelin are contributors to Battie's campaign. Strong Mayor supporters Michael Barfield, Paul Caragiulo, Suzanne Atwell and Linda Holland have also donated to Battie, as have developers Pat Neal, Mark Kauffman and Jesse Biter. Willie Shaw's financial supporters include Newtown leaders Jetson Grimes and Fredd Atkins, as well as strong mayor opponents and neighborhood advocates Eileen Normile, Kathy Kelley Olrich, Gretchen

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Dark Money Defeat

BY CATHY ANTUNES

The defeat of Sarasota County School Board member Eric Robinson by political newcomer Tom Edwards is certainly one of the most noteworthy

outcomes of Sarasota County's August 18th elections. As one political observer described it, this is the most significant political event in Sarasota County in the past ten years. When a newcomer is outspent ten times by the incumbent, and the newcomer wins, it is big news.

Former GOP chair Eric Robinson faced no opposition in 2016 when he ran for school board. Many attribute Robinson's unopposed status as a school board candidate in 2016 to intimidation of potential opponents by Robinson's access to a bottomless supply of cash via his management of numerous political committees (aka dark money). Two people did file to run against Robinson back then, but both withdrew. Because he ran unopposed, Robinson's name never appeared on the 2016 ballot. He became a school board member without facing the rigors of questions, debate and assessment by the electorate.

This time, the District 3 school board race was really a race - between two candidates. Given how

Robinson's spending dwarfed that of his opponent, Tom Edwards, we may be seeing encouraging signs that voters are paying closer attention to, and participating more, in local elections.

The amount of money spent on the Sarasota County District 3 School Board race is staggering. According to reports on the Sarasota Supervisor of Elections website, Robinson campaign expenditures totaled \$214,100.54 through August 14th. Robinson was also supported by Protecting Our Students, a political committee funded by the Sarasota Classified Teachers Association. Expenditures for Protecting Our Students for mailers supporting Rose and Robinson - reported from July 21 through September 1 - amount to \$34,865.78. This brings the total reported political spending benefitting Robinson's candidacy to \$248,966.32.

Why would anyone spend nearly a quarter of a million dollars on a school board race?

In contrast, Tom Edwards campaign reports spending totaling \$24,963.

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Calling Partners For Eat Local Week

BY RYAN SMITH

Mark your calendars for **March 14-21, 2021**, to join the festivities of the 10th Annual Eat Local Week, a week-long celebration honoring the rich local food environment of Sarasota and Manatee counties.

In order to raise awareness around the region's local food network, Transition Sarasota is calling for event partnerships to help celebrate this year's theme, **"Dare to Grow."** The theme aims to inspire community members around the literal topics of growing food in the Greater Sarasota area, and also hopes to encompass the many ways tending a growth mindset intersects with culture and community to create action and awareness around how individual food choices affect the world around us. In stride with their recent capacity-building announcement—the [receipt of a \\$10,000 donation from leading partner Enza Zaden USA Research](#)—Transition Sarasota is undoubtedly in the spirit of daring to grow, by way of elevating their impact on the local community's commitment to a more equitable food system.

Transition Sarasota has chosen to move this year's Eat Local Week to March, as well as take it online for the safety and well-being of our community. They invite community leaders to join the growing roster of businesses and organizations partnering to create independently organized events. This year presents a unique opportunity for out-of-the-box thinking and collaboration as we take the celebration into people's homes through their digital devices. Virtual event formats could take many forms, including behind-the-scenes tours, interactive presentations, games, picture challenges, or cooking/growing classes with a supply box pick-up. Transition Sarasota is open



Inspired by last year's 'Food Waste' theme, community members dive into a lesson in canning with Sunshine Canning during 2019's Eat Local Week celebration.

to new and unique ideas of every caliber to bring attention to local leaders and practices that are addressing challenges and inspiring solutions at the heart of growing the local food movement.

Year after year, Eat Local Week brings together a dynamic lineup of community advocates to spark dialogue around local food culture, and Transition

Sarasota would love to hear event ideas that excite leaders committed to supporting and eating locally. Those interested to learn more about Eat Local Week's partnership opportunities and responsibilities, please don't hesitate to visit transitionsrq.org/eatlocalweek or contact Executive Director, Rebecca Brey at exec@transitionsrq.org.



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Follow the Money in City Races

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Serrie, Dan Lobeck and Susan Chapman, with Democratic Party leaders Christine Jennings and Michael Shelton in the mix.

In District 2, former City Commissioner Terry Turner is challenging incumbent Liz Alpert.

Liz Alpert has gathered multiple donations from the developer/attorney Sypret and Meshad family, developer attorneys Bill Merrill, and Charlie Bailey and his wife Crystal, Selby CEO Jennifer Rominieki and her spouse Robert, Selby Board members Jeanne Weidner Goldstein, Teri Hansen and Marianne McComb (and husband Bill McComb), and developer Mark Kauffman. Terry Turner's campaign donors include former CONA (Council of Neighborhood Associations) board members Geri Swarmstedt, Wade Matthews, Bill Earle and Bill Zoller. Environmentalists Jono Miller and Julie Morris, former Dem leader Christine Jennings, former planning board member Bob Lindsay, developer attorney John Patterson and former County Commissioner Nora Patterson. developer Mark Kauffman, attorney Dan Lobeck, and former City Commissioners Elmer Berkel, Stan Zimmerman, Eileen Normile, David Merrill and Mollie Cardamone.

The winners of the District 3 primary, newcomers Dan Clermont and Eric Arroyo, will be facing off in November. Eric Arroyo's significant donations to his own campaign are



Dan Clermont

supplemented with support from attorney David Band, developer Jesse Biter, businessmen Doug Libertore and Mark Tuchmand (99 Bottles), as well as realtor Ryan Ackerman. Clermont's support comes from friends and family around the country, neighbor and planning board member Damien Blumetti, Selby board members Teri Hansen and Marianne McComb (and her spouse Bill McComb), Selby supporter and former City Commissioner Ken Shelin, former City Commissioner Suzanne Atwell, strong mayor advocate Linda Hollard, and developer attorney Charlie Bailey, as well as donations from the Sypret family.



Erik Arroyo

The City Commission elections are on November 3rd! Financial reports for City Commission candidates can be found on the City of Sarasota's website, www.sarasotafl.gov/government/city-auditor-and-clerk/elections. Look for the government section, and then find "general candidates 2020". Voters can do their own follow up to see who is supporting these candidates with contributions, as there will be more fundraising and political spending until November 3rd. In this intense political season, be sure to given local races close attention. With City Commission races, our form of government and the nature of local development are perennial issues.



Terry Turner



Liz Alpert

SRQ Strong Addresses Racism, Covid-19 Isolation

BY ANDY BLANCH

Sarasota Strong uses knowledge about trauma and resilience to help create a “community that cares for itself.” Since the group’s formal launch in August 2019, over 700 people have been involved in community conversations, trauma healing workshops, special events, and social action. The first months of 2020 brought new concerns and challenges. Covid-19 has increased isolation and anxiety, particularly among the elderly, and national attention to the country’s racist history has stimulated interest in anti-racism activities. In response, SRQ Strong has launched two new initiatives.

Raising Anti-Racist Children is a workshop developed and facilitated by Sarah Hu, a veteran Sarasota public school teacher, and Bill Clyburn, a retired psychological sociologist and one of the first students to integrate Sarasota High School. The workshop is designed for parents of children ages 7-12 who are newcomers to anti-racism work, and is conducted in three 1-hour Zoom sessions. The goals of the workshop are to: 1) provide opportunities for self-reflection about one’s own racial attitudes and bias, 2) improve skills and comfort level in discussing racial injustice with children, and 3) work towards raising children who

will be agents of social change. Sarah was moved to develop the workshop after the murder of George Floyd, when many of her “mommy friends” were seeking resources to help their children understand what was happening. She states: “When we realize that our silence allows the gears of systemic racism to keep turning, we can find the courage to start

“I’ve actually opened up the topic TO them. It’s something that I’ve shielded them from in the past, but now I see the gravity of having young, informed children.”

Another new SRQ Strong endeavor involves providing trauma-informed outreach, support and healing to older adults isolated due to Covid-19. Antoinette Johnson, co-chair of the new committee, states: “In this changing landscape, we are all learning to navigate our need for safety and human connection. We are committed to providing pathways of hope, safety, love and resilience to all who are feeling frightened, overwhelmed, vulnerable and alone.” Andrea Routh, who co-chairs the group, adds: “In keeping with SRQ Strong’s vision, we’ll work to implement grassroots programs to engage and empower people in Sarasota County to support older adults and their caregivers.” This work builds on earlier outreach and trauma healing

activities in senior housing complexes, including Casa Santa Marta and McCown Towers.

NOTE: SRQ Strong’s October community forum, featuring Dr. Denise Davis-Cotton of USF-SM, will explore the history of racism in the United States through the arts. For further information on workshops and forums, see www.SRQStrong.org.



Pre-Covid trauma healing group at McCown Towers

having uncomfortable conversations with our spouses and children.”

The pilot workshop, conducted in August, was a huge success. One participant noted: “It really opened my eyes to systemic racism and to how my privileges, beyond being white, have helped me.” Another participant commented on how the workshop changed her interaction with her children:

The Latin American Community and What to Call It

BY OMAR GUERRERO

The terms Latino, Hispanic and Latinx have become more and more prevalent in the US, especially during election time, where phrases like “the Latino vote” are very common. The usage of ‘Latino’ or ‘Hispanic’ in legal documents, census surveys and employment papers have made them almost official as terms to describe immigrants from the region. However, the extreme diversity of these immigrants is usually underrepresented in uses of the term. The immigrant Latino experience varies greatly depending on your country of origin, race and economic class. What do these words really mean to capture? And how do we make sense of the different experiences of people who are lumped together in these terms?

Sometimes “Hispanic” is used as a synonym for Latino, but these are not the same thing. The former term refers to those from Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America, which would exclude places like Haiti, Brazil and Suriname. The term “Latino” tries to account for this exclusion by instead referring to the ‘Latin’ root of the languages in the region. However, even this is faulty, since a sizeable amount of Central American immigrants, who are normally termed Latino, belong to indigenous communities with

their own non-Latin language.

Nevertheless, the Latino term has gained widespread used and has unified Latin American immigrants in a common identity. Political

to represent non-binary individuals in Latin American countries. Since Latin languages are inherently gendered, the word for Latinos (the group) is written the same way as Latinos (male individuals from Latin America). For non-binary folks, the term Latinx gets rid of the gendered component of the word Latino.

There has also been increased awareness of racial differences within the Latino community, with some groups defining as Afro-Latino/Afro-Latinx to highlight differences of skin color and culture. With the recent protests on racial violence in the US, a similar discussion occurred in the ‘Latino’ community on the pervasiveness of racism within Latin American countries and among Latinos in the US. In fact, several Black Lives Matter protests occurred in Latin American countries after the George Floyd protests.

The Latinx term has become a sort of updated term for Latino among younger demographics. It is normally attributed to second and third generation citizens in the United States. According to Pew Research, about one-in-four U.S. ‘Hispanics’ have heard of Latinx, but just 3% use it. There is an ongoing debate as to whether the push for non-gendered forms of speech is compatible with Spanish as a language. The use of ‘e’ in place of

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organizations and social movements that represent these groups adopt the term as a way of alluding to shared experiences as immigrants from a particular region. Important movements have modified the term for their own purposes, like the example of Mexican immigrants and their descendants self-identifying as Chicanos instead of Latino. One of the most recent developments of the term is that of Latinx.

For some, Latinx as a term surged as way

2020 Ballot Initiatives

There are 6 Amendments on the November ballot. Amendments 1-4 were proposed by citizen initiative and Amendments 5 and 6 were initiated by the Florida Legislature. The six amendments are listed below with the League of Women Voters' position on the Amendment stated. A link is provided for each amendment that will take you to an in-depth analysis of each amendment including the impact of a yes or no vote and other organizations that support or oppose the amendment. The League of Women Voters of Florida is non-partisan and does not endorse political candidates or parties, but does take policy positions on issues including voting rights and election reform.

AMENDMENT 1 – CITIZEN REQUIREMENT TO VOTE IN FLORIDA ELECTIONS

Oppose. Amendment 1 would make no substantive change to Florida's constitution, which already limits voting to US Citizens.

AMENDMENT 2 – RAISING FLORIDA'S MINIMUM WAGE

Support. The League supports secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all, and promotes social and economic justice for all Americans. Florida's present minimum wage yields \$17,800

a year for a full-time worker, which doesn't come close to a living wage for a family of four.

AMENDMENT 3 – ALL VOTERS VOTE IN PRIMARIES FOR STATE OFFICES



Oppose. It is our belief that Top Two Open Primaries would have a strong adverse impact on African-American representation in Florida. Our position is to support an Open Primary system

that would allow for the broadest possible voter participation.

AMENDMENT 4 – VOTER APPROVAL OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Oppose. This amendment will greatly increase the difficulty of amending the constitution by any means. In particular, this will significantly limit citizens' ability to engage in direct democracy, due to the increased cost and time required to bring citizen initiatives to the ballot.

AMENDMENT 5 – LIMIT ON HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

Oppose. The League has a position that "no tax sources or revenue should be specified, limited, exempted, or prohibited in the Constitution."

AMENDMENT 6 – AD VALOREM TAX DISCOUNT FOR SPOUSES OF DECEASED VETERANS

Oppose. The League has a position that "no tax sources or revenue should be specified, limited, exempted, or prohibited in the Constitution."

LINK FOR MORE INFO: <https://www.lwvfl.org/amendments-2020/>

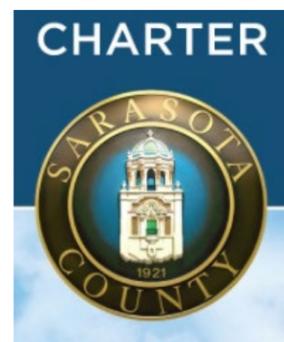
Changes Being Proposed to County Charter

Motivated by the November 2018 passage of two Charter Amendments written by Siesta Key resident Michael Cosentino, the current Charter Review Board is proposing to amend Section 7.1 of the County Charter: 'Petition, Ordinance, Legislature, Charter Review Board'. A public hearing will be held at their next meeting at **6pm on October 14th**. Meetings are held in the County Commission Chambers of the Sarasota County Administration Center, located at 1660 Ringling Blvd. Cosentino's amendments called for the County Commission to rescind its May 2016 vote to vacate a section of Beach Road or to re-acquire the property (Amendment 3.9) and prohibited the County Commission from any future right-of-way vacation or sale of any county-owned property along a waterway or with a waterfront vista

(Amendment 3.10). Both Amendments were approved by the voters, but they were challenged in court by Sarasota County. In October 2019 Circuit Judge Hunter Carroll ruled that Amendment 3.9 "is contrary to Sarasota's Charter and is therefore invalid." He then ordered that the first sentence of Amendment 3.10 be severed from the remainder of that section, writing that its opening statement conflicts with state law.

The Charter Review Board is proposing two ballot questions. The first question would state: Any proposed amendment shall not conflict with the Florida Constitution, general law, or the Charter. The second ballot question would contain recommended changes to the petition process. The new language would require that 10% of the

registered voters in each district would have to sign a citizen-initiated petition, rather than just 10% countywide. They are also proposing that the County create a standardized petition form, require a legal sufficiency review after the sponsor of the petition has collected validated signatures of 1% of the registered voters in the county, and place a fiscal impact statement below the referendum question on the ballot. See proposed changes in agenda packet here.



New Voices Coming to the Charter Review Board

Sarasota County is the only County in Florida with an elected Charter Review Board. The Charter Review Board is composed of 10 members, two members from each of the five county commission districts, who serve staggered terms of four years. The Charter Review Board reviews and proposes changes to the Sarasota County Charter which are then submitted to referendum in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Charter. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Charter Review Board members is required to submit amendments to referendum. Members are elected countywide by the voters of Sarasota County at the General Election. They serve without compensation. Meetings are held to organize, elect officers, and conduct business pursuant to the Charter Review Board bylaws. The Board meets 3x a year.

The Sarasota Charter Review Board is guaranteed to have a change in personnel following the election in November, as only one incumbent is running for re-election. That means there will be at least five new members on the Board come January 2021. But will there be a change in philosophy? That will depend on which candidates are elected. There seems to be a clear distinction between the candidates that would like to continue the status quo (mainly Republicans) and those that have suggestions to change the Charter, open up the process to more citizen input, and make the work of the Charter Review Board more visible in the community (Democratic and NPA candidates). Responses below come from the candidate's responses to the League of Women Voters questions. You can read their complete responses at the [Vote411 website](https://www.vote411.com).

District 1 – Kennedy Legler -R vs. Krista Lohr - D



Kennedy Legler

Legler is an Assistant State Attorney in Sarasota in the Violent Crimes Division. In responding to the LWV survey, Legler states, "Currently, I do not see any immediate issues or changes that need to be addressed. If elected I will be the conservative voice that represents the majority and I see no reason to rush to promote change where it is not currently needed."

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Democrats Run on Progressive Platforms

BY CAROL LERNER

Democratic Party candidates for Florida House Legislative seats in Sarasota and Manatee Counties are running on strong, progressive platforms. Already, **Michele Rayner (HD-70)**, a prominent progressive voice, won her seat when she beat out her Democratic Party rivals in the August 18th primary and faced no challengers for the November general election. Rayner's highly gerrymandered district runs from Hillsborough County through Pinellas and Manatee Counties and ends in Sarasota County.

Rayner ran on equity in housing, health care, public education and criminal justice reform. She took a strong stand on environmental justice saying we need an environment that "will sustain for future generations" and vowed to "protect our waterways, beaches and communities."

Four other Democratic candidates for the Florida House—**Andy Mele (HD 71)**, **Drake Buckman (HD 72)**, **David Fairey (HD 73)**, and **Lisa Stortstrom (HD 74)** - also have strong progressive platforms on environmental and education issues. They all voice biting criticism of the DeSantis Administration's response to the COVID pandemic. All four candidates advocate for clean waters and for policies that address and combat climate change. They have also come out squarely against school vouchers and other privatization efforts, standing strongly on the side of public education in their

support of increased funding to pay for higher teacher salaries and programs to attack the achievement gap. As Drake Buckman (HD-72) put it: "I will be a champion of our teachers and block any attempt to divert precious tax dollars to private charter schools at the expense of our amazing public schools."

The proverbial question for Democratic candidates, is their ability to win in districts that tilt toward Republicans. In 2018, Margaret Good running as a Democrat for the HD-72 seat in a special election, beat the odds and won, and months later was re-elected winning over a well-liked Republican opponent. The recent ouster of Eric Robinson, a Republican Party-backed incumbent for the Sarasota School Board seat, also speaks to this point. Here the dynamics of a well-organized grassroots campaign, painting Robinson as a dark money operator, plus the Democrats vote-by-mail advantage and energetic ground game, made the difference.

The Republican candidates have the fundraising advantage but these days that doesn't necessarily mean a sure win. Again, look at the Robinson school board race. Robinson out raised his opponent, Tom Edwards, eight-fold and his \$223K haul was the largest on record for a school board race in Florida. Robinson hired political strategists, sent out multiple large-sized postcards and even advertised on CNN but still lost by 4 per cent.

The other important factor is which way the no party affiliates (NPA) vote. NPAs make up almost

25% of the electorate in Sarasota County.

All of the Republican candidates—**Will Robinson (HD71)**, **McFarland (HD72)**, **Tommy Gregory (HD 73)**, and **James Buchanan (HD 74)**— are campaigning on Republican talking points including tax cuts, job growth, privatization and limited government. They all score near or perfect 100% ratings on their legislative voting record from conservative advocacy groups like the Koch-supported Americans for Prosperity or the Jeb-Bush-created and pro-school voucher Foundation for Florida's Future.

Florida will be a battleground in the Presidential Election this year. At the time this publication went to print, Florida had been moved from a "Lean Democrat" to a "Toss Up" state by the Cook Political Report. Millions of dollars will be spent as the presidential candidates attempt to dominate the airwaves and reach voters through social media and direct mail. What impact will the media onslaught and the highly partisan nature of the Presidential election have on our local races? What role will COVID 19 play? It's hard to know. But what we can all do is make sure that we are well-informed on the issues and candidates that will appear on our ballot...and get out and VOTE!

Profiles of House District Candidates are available on the Critical Times Website - www.criticaltimes.org/house-district-candidates

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES



Andy Mele (HD 71)



Drake Buckman (HD 72)



David Fairey (HD 73)



Lisa Stortstrom (HD 74)

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES



Will Robinson (HD71)



Fiona McFarland (HD72)



Tommy Gregory (HD 73)



James Buchanan (HD 74)

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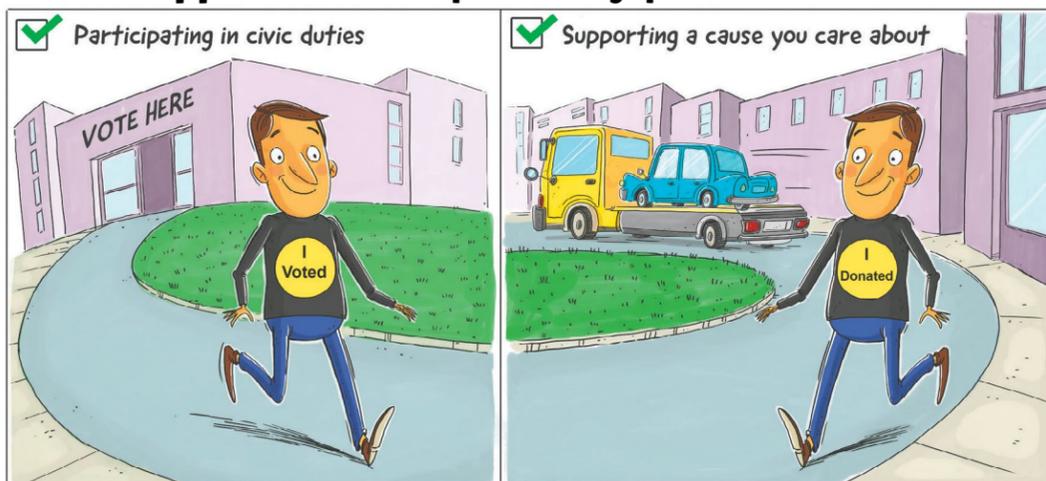
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Blues · Roots · Jazz · R&B · Soul
Electronica · Dubstep · Club · Hip-hop
Freeform · Eclectic
Rock · Punk · Jam · Indie · Pop
News · Public Affairs
World · Spiritual

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12 mid.		Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	New Radio	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan	In My Room Syndicated
1 a.m.	GoodLife Syndicated					Synthelectico Syndicated	
2 a.m.		Midnight Special Syndicated	Strange Currency Syndicated	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Music Automated playlist		
3 a.m.	Music Automated playlist						
4 a.m.		Letters to Washington Syndicated	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	A Way With Words Syndicated	Economic Update Richard Wolff Latin Waves		
5 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
6 a.m.							
7 a.m.							
8 a.m.	Blues to Bluegrass John D.	Strange Currency Syndicated	Generation X Alecia Harper	Music with a Purpose Pat Monahan	Eclectic Blender Dave Pedersen	Latin Explosion Juan Montenegro	Alternative Radio Syndicated
9 a.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS			Saturday Morning Gospel Jonah	Wings of the Heart Salima Rael & Carol Rosenbaum
10 a.m.	Shortwave Report Critical Times Week in Review	The Beat Goes On Dave Beaton & Arlene Sweeting	Peace & Justice Report Tom Walker & Bob Connors	The Detail Cathy Antunes	Surreal News Lew Lorini & Steve Norris	TownTalk TampaBay	The Detail Cathy Antunes (Rebroadcast)
11 a.m.	Music of the World Marco Ciceron	Nuestra Musica Mariano	Afro Cuban Jazz Frankie Piniero	Vibrational Journeys Perette Cannady	Metropics Carlos Pagan	Complex Waveforms Mark Zampella	Law and Disorder Syndicated
NOON		ALTERNATE WEEKS					
1 p.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)	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Folk Alley Elena See Syndicated
2 p.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Hard Knock Radio Syndicated	Dadee-O's Collector's Corner Dadee-O
3 p.m.	Positive Friction John Haupt	Second Wind Seany G	Rhythm Revival Rev. Billy C Wirtz	Basement Boxes Purple Mike	Eclectricity Susan Runyan	Friday Afternoon Jazz Break Donna B	Everything But the Kitchen Sink Art S
4 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS				
5 p.m.	Music Museum Ed Foster	Tuesday Drive Home David Young	Hawaii Bob & Company Hawaii Bob	Hot Rod Rock Sven	Ted's Head Ted	Friday Happy Hour Bartender Tommy D.	Juke In The Back Syndicated
6 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS				
7 p.m.	Economic Update Richard Wolff Capitol Update State News	Ralph Nader Radio Syndicated	Engage On Air: Asolo Sarasota Opera/Critical Times	Background Briefing Syndicated	Critical Times Week in Review Counterspin/Cannabis Connection	All Mixed Up Syndicated	Donne Del Mondo Syndicated
8 p.m.	Yesterday's Dead Today Mark Binder	The Root Cellar Roger & Peter	Acoustic Waves James Hawkins (ALTERNATE WEEKS)	Fur Peace Ranch Syndicated	Retro Cocktail Hour Syndicated	Velvet Radio Elissa Bello	Ripper's Rarities Russ Yodice
9 p.m.			Woodsongs Syndicated				Indie-licious Shelia Jane
10 p.m.	Indigenous Sounds White Horse	In Transition The 801	Jazz And More Brian Jones	Progressive Palace Phil G	Music Is The Best Mark Markus	Mind.Your. Business. Ryan & Dana	Dirty Ice Cream Truck LoFi Luke Rosebaro
11 p.m.							Sonic Cafe Syndicated
12 mid.	Down The Road Syndicated	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	New Radio	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan & Jamiel Livingston	In My Room Syndicated	Cafe Chill Syndicated

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SOME SHOWS YOU'LL WANT TO EXPLORE:

Tuesday 9-11pm

IN TRANSITION: Your host **the 801** unites you with sound sensations from across the Space-Time Continuum.

altFriday 2-4pm

Everything but the Kitchen Sink, Hosted by **Art** is truly eclectic mix;

altFriday 2-4pm

Friday Afternoon Jazz Break: Hosted by **Donna B**, bringing you a dose of afternoon jazz for your weekend.

Alt Thursdays 9-11pm

Music is the Best - Mark Markus brings knowledge & passion about real (Jazz)music. **Record is Culture** (Disco es Cultura)

Meet the WSLR News Team...

When WSLR News Producer **Cassandra Manz** left WSLR in late August, the Management Team decided to look at it as an opportunity rather than a crisis. At the time we had two other part-time contributors to our local news broadcast – New College student intern **Becca Hadwen** and our grant-funded Covid Community Reporter **Jacob Wentz**. We also were interviewing for another New College intern that would be funded through the 2020 Sarasota-Manatee Arts & Humanities Internship Program. We interviewed three students for the position - Omar Guerrero, Sergio Salinas, Danielle Campbell - and had a hard time settling on one of them because they were all so talented, bringing different experiences and perspectives to the table. We decided to take a team approach to producing the news and offer them all internship positions on the Team. (WSLR is very fortunate to be able to offer paid internships to local students thanks to a long-time supporter who has funded our Internship program for many years.) We rounded out the team with **Calvin Wren**, our first USF Student Intern. We hope you'll tune in to hear the great work they are doing to keep our community informed on the Critical Times Local News Broadcast. Critical Times airs on Fridays at 6pm (and re-airs Mondays at 9:30am) and on alternate Wednesdays at 6:30pm. We'd also like to **give a big shout out to Brian Jones** and **Phil Mikus**. Brian Jones is the host of **Jazz and More** on Wednesdays at 9pm on WSLR. A former journalist, he has been producing the **Headline News** segment that airs at the beginning of the Friday edition of the **Critical Times** for many months now. Former radio producer and copy writer **Phil Mikus** volunteered to step up and has been producing our weekend **News Briefs**.

Their Bios:

by Calvin Wren

Danielle is majoring in urban and international studies at **New College of Florida**, in her second year. Danielle just moved to Sarasota, and her current focus as an intern at WSLR is becoming more familiar with the local community by producing articles, reports, and interviews. She thinks it's great that WSLR has managed to safely continue to produce news reports and radio shows during the pandemic. She loves going into the studio and working with a purpose as she shadows and learns from her co-workers.



DANIELLE CAMPBELL

Becca is a third-year student at **New College of Florida**, where she is majoring in sociology and Spanish. She has just moved from an internship position to becoming the producer for the Critical Times radio show. She reports on one story a week, hosts the News Team meetings, and helps train new members of the team. One thing she's learned while working at the station is how important it is to present information in a way that allows listeners to make their own decisions. Breaking down complicated information and making it accessible to her audience is one of her biggest priorities.



BECCA HADWEN



OMAR GUERRERO

Omar is about to graduate from **New College of Florida** with a bachelor's degree in political science. As an intern for WSLR, he produces weekly stories for the Critical Times radio show and publication. He loves the team dynamic of

the News Team at WSLR, and the opportunity to engage with and create stories for the community. One of the main reasons Omar wanted to become a journalist was to help bring light to social issues and injustices. He's a huge music fan, especially jazz, and he loves spending time with the studio's record collection.



SERGIO SALINAS

Sergio is a second-year student at **New College of Florida**, double majoring in nonfiction writing and Spanish. His main areas of focus as an intern at WSLR are covering the 2020 elections and handling the Critical

Times website. Sergio has always been interested in the storytelling aspect of journalism. He believes that interacting with people in his community and hearing what they have to say give him a better perspective of what is happening and help him to pass that information on to others with his reporting.



JACOB WENTZ

Jacob graduated from **New College of Florida** in May of this year with a bachelor's degree in international studies and economics. A community reporter for WSLR, focusing on how COVID-19 has affected the Florida Suncoast

area. He is grateful that he's been given the opportunity to share stories about how COVID-19 has affected our community. Whether those are stories of hardship or triumph, the work he is doing with WSLR feels meaningful. In January, he will be traveling to Belgium to teach English and journalism on a Fulbright Scholarship.

Calvin is a senior at the **University of South Florida**, currently majoring in professional and technical communications. Some of his duties as an intern at WSLR include recording PSAs, writing press releases, and working



CALVIN WREN

on the internal communications of the organization. Calvin wanted to get involved with the local music scene and found that opportunity with WSLR. His favorite part about working at the station is the people he gets to work with and the variety of music he gets to listen to.

We are looking for other individuals interested in being part of the News Team. If you are interested, email arlene@wslr.org

Calendar of Events

★ MONDAY, OCTOBER 5 ★

Last Day to Register to Vote in November Elections. Visit www.registertovoteflorida.gov

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 12PM

Tiger Bay Club Forum: State Representative District 72 Panelists include **Drake Buckman** (D) and **Fiona McFarland** (R). For information, contact **Kim Noyes** at 941-925-2970 or sarasotatigerbayclub@gmail.com

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12, 12PM

LVW Hot Topics – Constitutional Amendments on the November Ballot. There are 6 on the November FL ballot. Find out how the amendment will operate and what are its pros + cons. This presentation will be held virtually via Zoom. For information, visit LVWmanatee.org

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 12PM

LVW Candidate Forum via Zoom – Manatee Co. Commission District 1- Meet candidates **Dominique Shauntel Brown** + **James Satcher, III**. They will let you know why they are running, their background. The candidates will also be answering questions submitted by members and Manatee voters. . Visit LVWmanatee.org

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 12PM

Tiger Bay Club Forum: Ballot Initiatives Panelists include **Lisa Carlton** and **Frank Alcock**. For registration, contact **Kim Noyes** at 941-925-2970 or sarasotatigerbayclub@gmail.com

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 5PM

New College New Topics Speaker Series: "Understanding the 2020 Presidential Election: What's Going to Happen? What Does it Mean?" with **Eric Schickler** and **Alexis Simendinger**. This panel discussion, moderated by **Susan Burns** ('76-80'), editor-in-chief of Sarasota Magazine, will provide an overview of what political science can tell us about the 2020 election—what to expect...to watch for on 11/03, and how to think about the results. Tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made at 941-487-4888.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

Last Day to Register to Vote-by-Mail Contact the supervisor of elections office to request ballot.

★ TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3 ★

Election Day Polls in Florida will be open from 7am-7pm **VOTE**.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 5PM

New College New Topics Speaker Series: "Challenge and Response: Facing Hard Choices in a Time of Economic Crisis" with **William Dudley** Thanks to the pandemic, the United States plunged from a record-breaking economic expansion to a severe recession. What choices do we need to make to reverse that trend and secure our economic future? Tickets are \$10. Reservations can be made at 941-487-4888.

RECURRING EVENTS

Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations (CCNA), first Saturday of the month at 9am. Check their website for details: www.sarasotaccna.org

The Nation Group hosts their general meeting the first Thursday of the month from 10am-12pm via Zoom conference. They discuss current affairs of all kinds, and all are welcome. Please email nationaltalk@gmail.com for more information or the meeting link

Florida Veterans for Common Sense hosts meetings on the second Monday of the month from 7-8:15pm. Meetings focus on various topics and aim to help shape local and national policies. Check website for current meeting information: floridaveteransforcommonsense.org

Protect our Public Schools (POPS) Manasota hosts meetings on the third Tuesday of the month from 7-8:30pm. For meeting information and a link to the Zoom meeting, contact **Carol Lerner** at popsmanasota@gmail.com or 941-342-7420.

Manatee-Sarasota Sierra Club - General Meetings are held the second Thursday of each month 7:00 pm, visitors are welcome. Contact Kristalohr1975@gmail.com for details.

LISTEN LOCAL ON WSLR by Arlene Sweeting

Community media is a place for ideas and for learning. It is an inclusive platform for otherwise unheard voices and for expanding our understanding of each other. At **WSLR+Fogartyville**, we are not afraid of difficult issues. We offer content that provides hope and challenges perspectives. As a home-grown radio station and community center, we highlight local people, local news and local music. If you are not already a member of **WSLR+Fogartyville**, we hope you'll consider joining during our **Fall Membership Drive** scheduled for **Thursday, November 12th**

important community stories - from the effects on the local economy to the work of local food pantries trying to meet a surge in demand as workers lose their jobs and incomes. We have added a headline news segment 4x daily, a 1/2 hour of local news every other week, and two additional hours of public affairs programming. We have Public Service Announcements running around the clock informing listeners of testing sites, food pantry locations, and community response to the pandemic. We are also working to get information out through our social media channels. Our programmers have been amazing - learning a variety of new skills so that they can keep their shows current, fresh and on the air. Music has



SECOND WIND
with **Seany-G**
Tuesdays 2-4p

Programming his show from home



Perette Cannady Hosts **Vibrational Journey**
Wednesdays 10a-12p

through **Wednesday, November 18th**. With the theme **LISTEN LOCAL on WSLR**, we'll offer special programming that week to help you connect to your community.

Due to the new reality of the coronavirus pandemic, life at **WSLR+Fogartyville** over the past six months, like everywhere else, has been far from normal and we still face a great deal of uncertainty as we look ahead to the coming months. The safety of our staff and volunteers has been our priority. While we made the decision to close **Fogartyville**, we have focused our energies on continuing to bring you great radio programming and have expanded our efforts to bring you the information you need. The coronavirus public health crisis has revealed the critical role of local news outlets in covering the impact of COVID-19 on their communities. At **WSLR**, we have increased our news and public affairs programming to help to disseminate essential information from state and local government, to prevent the spread of misinformation, and to report

LISTEN LOCAL!
96.5 LPFM
WSLR
+FOGARTYVILLE
MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
THURS., NOV. 12
THRU WED., NOV. 18
GOAL: \$40,000
SUPPORT JUSTICE!
SUPPORT RESISTANCE!
SUPPORT HOPE!
SUPPORT MUSIC!

helped us all get through difficult times before and it is definitely helping us now - helping to inspire us and bring us closer together despite the physical distance. Your phone calls, emails, and texts messages of support are greatly appreciated. We've created a Song Request form to let programmers know what you'd like to hear. We miss seeing all of you face-to-face, and are so looking forward to being able to offer live music again at **Fogartyville**.

Community radio is steeped in social equity efforts and **WSLR**, informed by our core values, is redoubling our efforts related to diversity and inclusion. **WSLR+Fogartyville** is a founding member of the **Manasota Anti-Racism Coalition** and issued a joint statement following the death of George Floyd, we sponsored an African American takeover day at the radio station on June 6, participated in a nationwide commemoration of the death of Breonna Taylor on August 13, and we continue to examine our organization and challenge the status quo in order to combat racism in our structures, policies, and practices. It is our responsibility to do so, both as an organization which serves as a space for local students to become engaged in media, and as a media outlet which serves the greater Sarasota community.

This is a time for listening and learning. This is also a time for acting with **purpose**. **WSLR+Fogartyville** will continue to bring important content to you to foster discussion and change. Our news team will be focused on issues that help you make informed personal and political choices. Our *60 volunteer programmers* will help you connect with your community and discover a diversity of music. During the week of **November 12-18**, we will shine a light on our *community* - highlighting the people, organizations, and places that make our community special. If you haven't tuned in before, we hope you'll tune in now, **LISTEN LOCAL**, and make a place for **WSLR-LP 96.5 FM** on your radio dial and your smart speakers.



Sarasota's Own Community Radio

Our radio programming, live concerts, art and educational events inspire creativity, fellowship and engagement - all made possible through your membership support.

All Members Receive:

- Member Pricing on WSLR+Fogartyville events
- E-newsletter notification of upcoming events
- Eligibility to become a WSLR programmer

Contribution Amount	Member Pricing on WSLR+Fogartyville Event Tickets (per event)	Free Admission to WSLR+Fogartyville Events (valued up to \$25/ticket, 2 tickets/show max.)	WSLR+Fogartyville Support Sticker	Personalized Brick in the WSLR People's Patio	Private Party at Fogartyville up to 100 people with live music and coffee, tea and soft drinks
Student \$15	1		👉		
Listener \$40	1		👉		
Friend \$60	2		👉		
Supporter \$120	4	2	👉		
Fan Club \$240	6	4	👉		
Advocate \$500	8	12	👉		
Partner \$1,000	All	24	👉		
Concert Lover \$2,500	All	All	👉	4"x8"	
Steward \$5,000	All	All	👉	8"x8"	

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Level _____



You can mail your membership donation to **WSLR, P.O. Box 2540, Sarasota, FL 34230** or visit our website at **WSLR.org** to make your donation online.

Conservation Referendum on the Ballot in Manatee

On July 28, 2020, the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners voted to place the “Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Preservation and Parks” funding measure on the ballot. The measure would provide dedicated county funding for water quality protection, natural areas preservation and parks in Manatee County. Manatee County is one of the fastest growing counties in Florida and due to a lack of dedicated county funding for land conservation, many important natural areas have already been lost to development. Pinellas and Sarasota, Manatee’s neighboring counties to the north and south respectively, already have implemented taxes targeted for conservation.

The “Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat Preservation and Parks” funding measure would allow the county to issue general obligation bonds in a total principal amount of up to \$50,000,000. If voters approve the bonds, a dedicated fund would be established for land preservation. Bonds would

provide the County with funds upfront to take advantage of lands that are on the market now. The measure would also provide funding to manage existing environmentally sensitive lands. Manatee County and the Trust For Public Land conducted



Existing County preserves like Robinson Preserve and Johnson Preserve on Braden River are excellent examples of the kind of properties Manatee County would conserve in the future.

a survey earlier this year to gauge public opinion about the referendum. 67% of respondents said they would support the measure.

The average homeowner in Manatee County would pay \$29 per year. This is based on an average residential taxable value in Manatee County of \$193,378 and assumes all of the bonds are issued at once in 2020. A 0.15 mil property tax increase is 0.00015 of a homeowner’s net annual property value.

A citizens’ oversight committee, the Environmental Lands Management and Acquisition Committee (ELMAC), or a citizens’ oversight committee of similar makeup and purpose that is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, will review projects, make recommendations to the County Commission, monitor expenditures, and provide added transparency for the public.

Learn more at www.voteforwaterandland.org.

Amendment 3 Creates a Top Two Primary

BY OMAR GUERRERO

In the upcoming election, Floridians will vote on a proposal to significantly change the way primaries for state offices are conducted. The proposal would establish a top-two open primary system for primary elections for state legislators, the governor, and cabinet (attorney general, chief financial officer, and commissioner of agriculture) in Florida.

Currently, in Florida, primaries are closed, meaning a voter must be registered with a political party in order to participate in that party’s primary election. Winners of a partisan primary election advance to the general election. Partisan primaries would no longer occur under a top-two open primary. Instead all candidates would be listed on the same ballot regardless of party affiliation. Therefore, it would be possible for two candidates belonging to the same political party to win in a top-two primary and face off in the general election.

All Voters Vote, Inc. is leading the campaign in support of Amendment 3. Miguel B. Fernandez, founder of the Immigration Partnership and Coalition (IMPAC) Fund, is the largest donor to All Voters Vote, having given \$5.9 million in support of Amendment 3. “Florida is among only a handful of states that do not allow all qualified voters to participate in primaries. How backwards is this? Almost a third of voters are registered as neither Democrats nor Republicans,” said Fernandez in a Tampa Bay Times interview.

Fernandez said this would help end gridlock on issues like immigration, in which “three-quarters of all Americans support immigration reform, this wish is not represented by the majority of those currently in public office”.

Open Primaries, a political organization, argues that top-two Open primaries would even the playing field by allowing more third parties to enter the same ballot. Furthermore, candidates would have to compete for all voters instead of those registered to their party base. Candidates

Opponents

AFL-CIO
Democratic Party of Florida
Florida State Conference NAACP
Florida Conservation Voters
Florida Chamber of Commerce
Green Party of Florida
League of Women Voters of Florida
Organize Florida
Republican Party of Florida
People Over Profits
Florida People's Advocacy Center

Supporters

All Voters Vote (Sponsor)
Florida Fair and Open Primaries

would be incentivized to diversify their platform to persuade a broader voter base. Organized non-partisan interest groups like Latino voters would have more leverage to win significant policy concessions.

After studying the issue, the Florida League of Women Voters (LWVFL) recently stated their opposition to the amendment. Their data showed that “the consequence of this plan is not that

NPA voters will have a say, it is that a flood of white GOP voters in safe Democratic districts will “bleach” seats and seriously erode the voting power of African-Americans and Hispanics.” You can access the data that shows the potential impacts here: <https://mcimaps.com/top-two-will-bleach-minority-districts-in-florida/>. The League does support election reforms that would open the primaries to NPAs and third parties, just not in the way proposed by this current amendment.

Research on the effects of this policy are currently ambiguous. A 2015 study focusing on the effects of top-two primary elections in California showed that the policy did not significantly accomplish its objectives: “Our results points to the conclusion that these reforms did not fulfill their promise of fundamentally reshaping California politics by electing legislators who were better ideological fit with their districts.”

Conversely, the University of South Carolina published an article providing evidence of the positive effects of this policy on political division at the state level and in Congress: “The magnitude of the effect sizes between top-two and open primaries were particularly interesting,” said the authors, “Top-two primaries reduce legislator extremity by almost double the amount of the reduction of open primaries.”

Public Policy Polling conducted a survey on support for primary election reform in Florida and reported that 70% of Floridians support the two parties opening their presidential primaries to independents in 2020. Currently, a 60 percent supermajority vote is required for the approval of this amendment.

Dark Money Defeat

continued from pg. 1

Tom Edwards is a well-spoken businessman who emphasized his executive skills and commitment to public education in his campaign communications. Robinson pointed to a record of advocacy for students and a hands-on approach. However, Robinsons political committee (PAC) management includes accepting and managing more than \$460,000 in contributions from corporate charter school advocates Gary and Nancy Chartrand. Robinson was also the focus of negative news reports regarding his school board service, which included leaking salary data to the teacher’s union

and insulting school board colleagues in texts to Sheriff Tom Knight.

In the end, Robinson’s dark money ties and other negatives could not be overcome by the hundreds of thousands of dollars spend to support him. Concerns that Robinson’s assurances that he was a public education advocate who would be a bulwark against corporate privatization via corporate charter schools may not have been effective. It’s hard to believe that someone who makes a healthy living working to advance corporate charter school interests via political committees is the best person to trust with

public education.

This time, big money lost. Let’s hope Sarasota’s voters keep looking at who is behind political mailers and ads, and evaluate each candidate carefully.

To learn more about the impact of dark money in local elections, read the recently updated **Local Dark Money: Citizens United meets Main Street**, by Cathy Antunes

Link: <https://www.paperturn-view.com/cathy1122/local-dark-money?pid=MTA102591&v=4.2>

the X (Latines) has become more popular among younger individuals as a way of making the term easier to pronounce.

A big part of the reason why there is no consensus on a catch-all term is that for many, there is no need for one. Some parts of the community prefer Hispanic, while others prefer Latino. Some reject the term altogether and embrace the identity

that comes with their country of origin instead of belonging to a wider social group. From this point of view, the term Latino is a way to refer to a diverse community in the simplest way possible. News headlines about the upcoming elections use the word Latino when referring to an increasingly important part of the American voter base. What is important to remember, however, is that with diverse experiences come diverse

political opinions and perspectives. Some Cuban Americans and Venezuelans tend to be more conservative on immigration issues, while people from the Caribbean tend to be more progressive. It is therefore highly unlikely that as this diverse community grows in the US, it's political leanings and opinions will converge harmoniously. Hidden within the Latino term is an immensely varied world view.

New Voices Coming to CRB

continued from pg. 4



Krista Lohr

Lohr has lived in Sarasota since 1989 and manages a local business. She has a JD from New England School of Law. Lohr's priority would be to "create a more effective CRB that represents the people/voters of Sarasota County. The CRB in recent years has arguably not been

doing its job... A couple meetings I attended were 30 minutes or less and one meeting I attended was 6 minutes start to finish. A board cannot arguably be effective when it meets 3 times a year for an average of 30 minutes or less per meeting."

DISTRICT 1 (2 year term) – Walter L. Gilbert III – NPA vs. Alexandra Coe - R

This race will fill a 2 year vacancy on the Board created when Neil Rainford resigned to serve on the Planning Commission.

Gilbert is the past president of the Sarasota County NAACP, a member of the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation - SWFL Regional Council, and an Advisor to Newtown Alive and Selby Botanical Gardens. Gilbert's priority is to make sure redistricting is done fairly. He also states, "I think some of the county's



Walter L. Gilbert III

elected offices should be nonpartisan. We need to encourage and have diverse voices on some boards that really do not need have to have any type of party affiliation. Some do nothing more than prop up and do the bidding of other elected positions to get what they want done."

Alexandra Coe



Alexandra Coe

A self-described constitutional conservative, Coe is an anthropologist that currently serves on two other county advisory boards - the Historic Preservation Advisory Board and the Historic Commission. In regards to making changes

to the Charter, Coe states, "I would not change anything personally but I would be very open to any changes proposed that would limit government and increase freedom."

DISTRICT 2 – Ray Collins – R vs. Doreen Dupont - D



Ray Collins

Collins is a well-known figure in Sarasota, having spent 35 years as a reporter in the area.

When asked about the most important issues confronting the CRB, Collins responded, "I don't

believe there are any issues confronting the Charter Review Board--and I certainly don't have any agenda...". One of his stated goals is to "Protect the Charter of Sarasota County. Success leaves clues: The county seems to have struck a healthy balance on key issues."



Doreen Dupont

Dupont is a retired physician and a local activist. She is a lifetime member of the Sierra Club, a Climate Reality Leader and a Sarasota County Water Steward. She would strengthen the environmental provisions of our Charter and minimize gerrymandering by making redistricting dependent on the census.

DISTRICT 3 – Mary Ellen Palermo - D vs. David Samuel- R



Mary Ellen Palermo

Palermo has a Master's Degree from Boston University specializing in business and career education. She currently works in Charlotte County surveying tourists to our area for research for the State of Florida. Her priorities would be to make the Charter

Review Board accessible to all Sarasota County residents, to reduce special interest influence, and to protect our waters and natural resources. She states, "recent changes [to the Charter] hinder citizen participation and need to revert back".



David Samuel

Samuel currently serves on the Charter Review Board and is running for re-election. He is a former high school government teacher. Samuel's priority issues revolve around the public's lack of understanding of the role of the Charter Review Board and the lack of public

participation at Board meetings. To resolve these issues he proposes, "a comprehensive education program that provides information as to how County Government works...[and to] support efforts to provide specific guidelines to the petitioning process."

DISTRICT 4 – Wilson Pava – D vs. Scott Williams - R



Wilson Pava

Pava returned to Sarasota in 2019 after graduating from college and has served as a substitute teacher in Sarasota County. His priorities include protecting single member districts and ensuring citizen input. Pava says, "We have to check

their (the County Commission's) power to roll back citizen-driven initiatives like single member districts and protect citizens' power from their initiatives like driving up the number of signatures needed for ballot initiatives while limiting the time allowed for getting them."

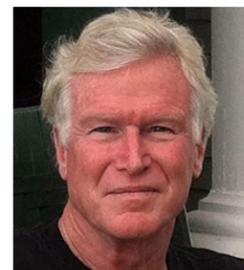


Scott Williams

Williams has 31 years experience as Director of Planning, Building and Zoning for the City of North Port. He is a US Navy Veteran and has served on the City of Venice Planning Commission for the past year and a half.

He states, "I do not believe there are any major issues confronting the office at this time. It is important to recognize the importance of the document and keep an eye on how changes are submitted and approved."

DISTRICT 5 – Anthony "Tony" Dunbar – D vs Elaine Miller - R



Anthony Dunbar

Dunbar is a retired New Orleans business lawyer. After visiting Sarasota County on a regular basis for many years, he made Englewood his permanent home 2 ½ years ago. He volunteers with the Cedar Point Environmental Park,

the Charlotte Harbor Estuaries and the Audubon Society. Priority issues for Dunbar would include environmental protection, fair redistricting and increased citizen participation. He states, "I would like to work with other members of the Board to encourage, not discourage, citizen involvement in the charter review process."



Elaine Miller

Miller is a local architect. She has served on the Englewood CRA Advisory Board and the Architectural Review Board and volunteered with the Englewood Village Association and the Suncoast Humane Society.

She does not recommend any changes to the role of the Charter Review Board, saying, "While I would listen, research, carefully consider and fully vet any proposed alterations with my fellow Board Members, I value the continuity of today's Charter policies and procedures".

Building Sustainable Communities

BY SOPHIA MONDOUS, SARASOTA COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Under the “Transforming to New Ways Forward” theme, Sarasota County’s 15th Annual [Sustainable Communities Workshop](#), is set for Oct. 29. The online event, which runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., will feature speakers and panelists discussing the latest sustainability strategies, resources, and best practices to showcase strategies for healthy, resilient, thriving communities and local ways to get involved.

“This year’s online format allows us to gather a larger audience and connect them to featured speakers from anywhere in the world,” said Sophia Moundous, sustainability outreach coordinator with Sarasota County UF/IAS Extension and Sustainability. “The variety of speakers will bring different perspectives to the table that will inspire communities to transform to a new way forward.”

The \$10 workshop cost (students pay just \$5) provides online access to the day-long event featuring expert speakers, breakout sessions, and networking opportunities. There also is an option to donate a ticket for those needing financial help to attend, with any remaining funds used toward a carbon-offset project.

Register at <https://ufsarasotaext.eventbrite.com>

for the workshop for information on personal and community resiliency, climate change as it relates to social equity and health, circular economy, biophilia and other sustainable building practices,



Dr. Cheryl Holder

environmental justice, innovative waste solutions, youth involvement, and more. Featured speakers include: **Dr. Cheryl Holder**, interim associate dean of Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity, and Community Initiatives for the Herbert Wertheim College of

Medicine at Florida International University and co-chair of Florida Clinicians for Climate Action; **Dr. Leyla Acaroglu**, sustainability expert, award-winning designer, [UNEP Champion of the Earth](#), and founder of [Disrupt Design](#), [the UnSchool](#),



and [the CO Project Farm in Portugal](#); **Leonardo Martinez-Diaz**, [Global Director of the Sustainable Finance Center](#) at the World Resources Institute (WRI) in Washington, D.C.; and **Alice Hill**, [David M. Rubenstein Senior Fellow for Energy and the Environment](#) at the Council on Foreign Relations.

For more information and to register, visit www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities or call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.

Going Solar in Sarasota Just Got Easier



BY LISA RIMMETT, SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS

- Lower electric bills.
- More control over our energy production.
- Cleaner air and water.

This is all achievable by investing in solar energy. And with the Sarasota County Solar Co-op, that’s easier than ever.

The solar co-op is a group of homeowners and business owners interested in going solar in Sarasota County. Co-op members learn about solar power from the experts at [Solar United Neighbors \(SUN\)](#), a nonprofit organization that represents the needs and interests of solar owners and supporters.

The solar co-op is completely free to join, and members are not committed to purchase panels. The members join together and leverage their numbers to get a group rate on solar from a single installer. If the installer, or the rate, doesn’t work for someone, there’s no obligation to go any further.

“SUN provides unbiased expertise to homeowners, non-profits, and small businesses that helps them make the right decision when it comes to

installing rooftop solar,” said Carol Cooke, Natural Resources Chair for the League of Women Voters of Sarasota County, a co-op partner.

When homeowners and business owners go solar, they not only see individual benefits but benefits to their community too. That’s why several community organizations, as well as the City and County of Sarasota, have teamed up with SUN on the co-op.

This is SUN’s third solar co-op in Sarasota County, made possible by funding from Gulf Coast Community Foundation. The first two are already making an impact, according to Cooke. “Solar panels installed in Sarasota County’s first two solar co-ops will offset over 3 million pounds of carbon pollution over a 25-year period,” said Cooke.

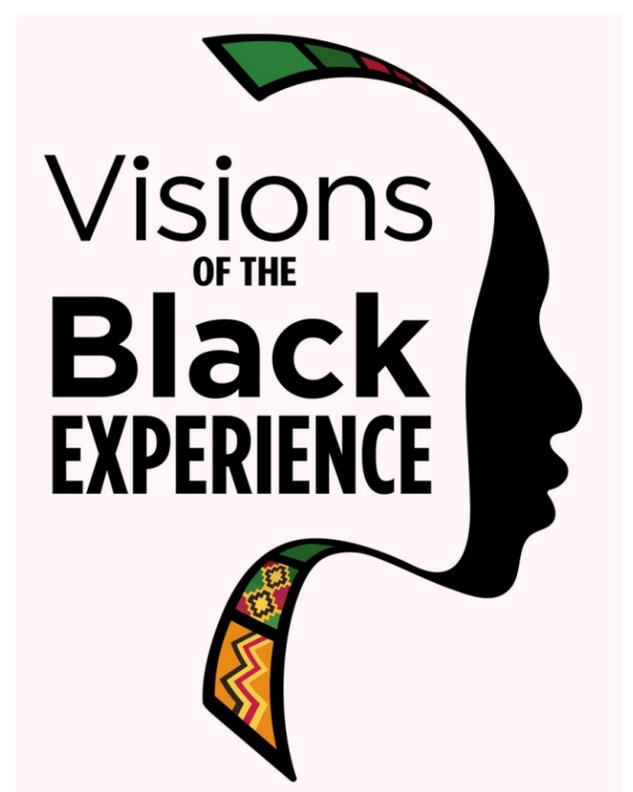
SUN will host several free informational webinars to educate community members about solar power and the co-op. They’ll share information about how solar energy works and ways to finance your installation. They’ll also explain the federal incentives for installing solar, and how the co-op process works.

Interested in going solar in Sarasota County? Sign up for the solar co-op or register for one of the upcoming webinars (Sept. 17, Oct. 6, and Nov. 19) at the co-op web page: www.solarunitedneighbors.org/sarasota

Continuing the Conversation: Visions of the Black Experience

BY: DANIELLE CAMPBELL

The ‘Visions of the Black Experience’ Film Festival will take place virtually this year as the organizers want to continue creating a safe space for telling black stories. Last year the 3-day festival was presented for the first time at the New College of Florida, having been introduced by the Sarasota Film Festival and the Boxer Diversity Initiative in partnership with the Multicultural Health Institute and Manasota ASALH (the Association for the Study of African American Life and History). The dates for this year’s festival are **October 22nd, 23rd and 24th**. The Visions of the Black Experience Film Festival will seek to involve the patrons with panel discussions, audience talkbacks and other related events to enhance the film viewing experience. More details will be posted on the website as they become available - <http://visionsoftheblackexperience.com>.



Effective and Just Pandemic Recovery

BY WILLIAM COTY KELLER

Before the pandemic hit, in spite of growing GDP, stock market highs and low unemployment, almost half American families were in bad shape financially. Plus, we were doing nothing to avert the climate crisis. Let's not return to that scenario. Instead, we need a recovery that solves both of these problems.

United Way reports that when COVID-19 hit, nearly 2.6 million Florida households were considered ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), one emergency away from financial ruin, and unable to afford the basics for survival - despite the fact that they were working. When we add in one million families that were in poverty, 46% of Florida's 7.8 million households were in a dire financial situation before the pandemic.

Meanwhile we were experiencing the impacts of global warming in the form of increasing/more extreme weather events, wild fires, droughts and floods. What lies ahead is even more frightening. The Union of Concerned Scientists predict that our region of Florida will become miserable, if not unlivable, with killer heat. As the UN panel on climate reported, "Absent radical changes in energy policy and human behavior, we should expect severe economic and humanitarian crises by as early as 2030."

The pandemic will seem like a cake walk compared to what we face without immediate action. What can we do to recover?

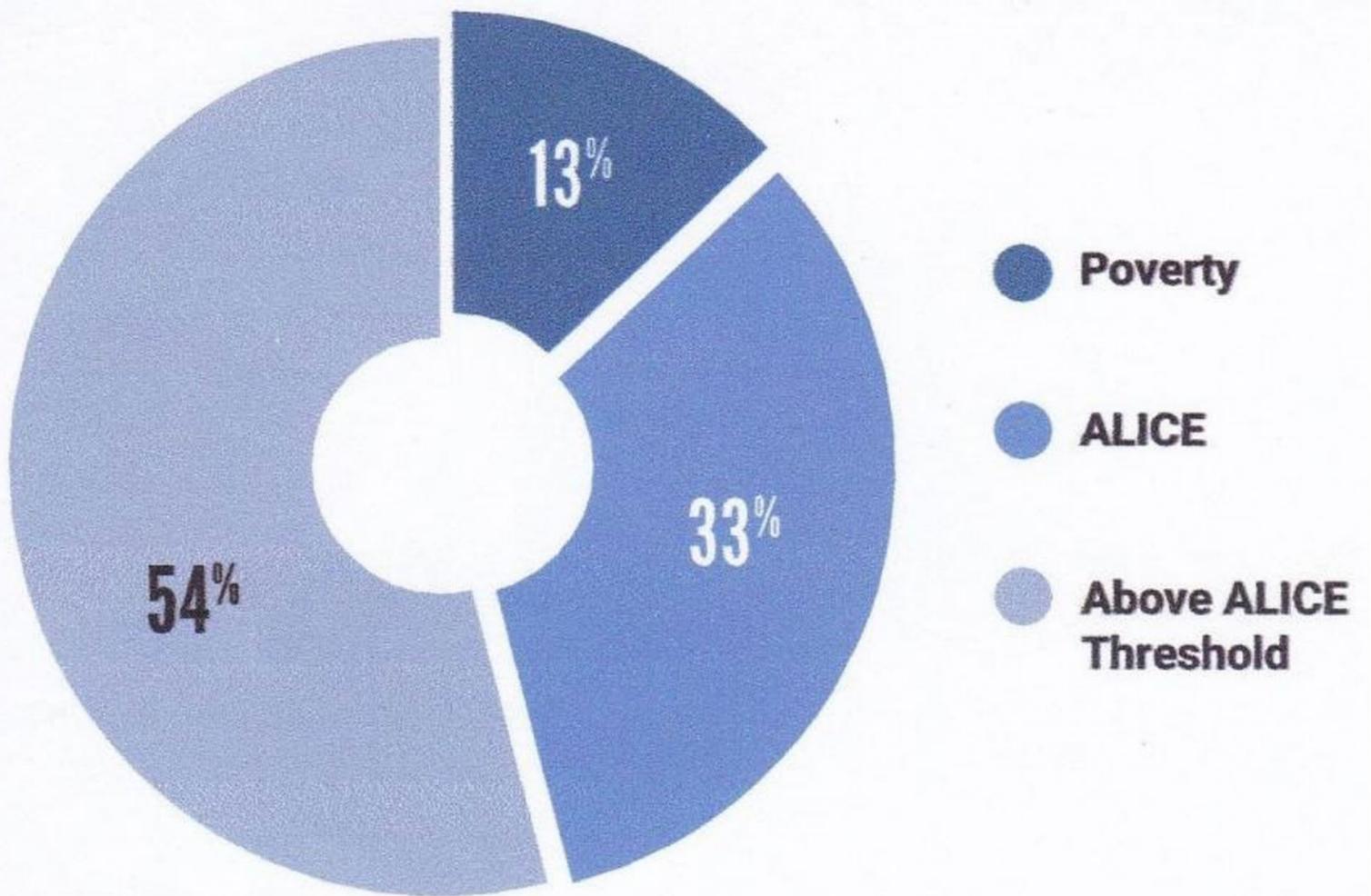
1. Change Economic Measures of Success. The Positive Money people remind us that GDP does not enhance life satisfaction, alleviate poverty, or protect the environment. We should focus on more relevant indicators such as a life expectancy, a living wage for all people, the amount of carbon in the atmosphere, and education. By measuring and aiming for the right things we will have a better chance of achieving an effective and just recovery.

2. Abolish corporate personhood. There will be no economic and climate justice while corporations and the rich have disproportionate influence in government. We must amend the constitution by declaring that corporations are not people and money is not free speech. The We The People Amendment does two things: Only human persons will have constitutional rights. And it requires regulation, limitation, or prohibition of campaign spending.

3. Convert from fossil fuels to zero emission energy. Recent work by Rewiring America and Energy Innovation makes clear that achieving the transition is technically achievable and economically beneficial. Zero emission infrastructure investments, and the millions of good paying jobs created in the conversion, are what make the recovery such an economic success. Plus, this results in billions of health dollars saved - think no more smokestacks and tail pipes polluting our air and lungs. Because of

the daunting scope and timing required to keep global average temperatures below the thresholds cited by the UN IPCC there is no time to waste. We must make about 8% per year reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, replacing 70-100% of fossil fuel energy with zero emission sources

Let's abandon any ambitions to return to the pre-COVID 19 status quo which had almost half American households in dire financial situations and all of us facing a climate crisis. Let's instead set our sights on a recovery that is effective (in



Credit: United Way Florida

by 2030. The Union of Concerned Scientists have told us what needs to be done in terms of the policies to be enacted by the various levels of government: At the federal level, a price on carbon with all revenues returned to households (so that lower income families benefit) and global cooperation which, at a minimum, will carry out the Paris Agreement; at the state level, mandating portfolio standards that achieve 100% zero emission electrical energy by 2030, and regulation of utilities so that they practice real energy conservation; at the local level, rules for net zero energy buildings, transportation and landscapes.

4. Reforestation and soil management. Cutting emissions from fossil fuels is half of the solution. Removing carbon already in the atmosphere is the other half. Planting lots of trees, as explained in National Geographic, can erase 100 years of emissions. A modern-day version of the depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) could put millions of unemployed young people to work, raising them from poverty. Meanwhile managing our soils to better store carbon thru regenerative agriculture would replenish the soil's nutrients without relying on synthetic and mined fertilizers. As described by Mother Jones in Paying Farmers to Store Carbon, these practices not only mitigate climate change but make for good paying jobs. Farmers earn more profit on every acre because they spend less on equipment, water, herbicides, and synthetic fertilizer - enough to keep their farms viable and the household above the ALICE threshold. Other benefits of carbon farming are increasing the soil's ability to hold water and protect against erosion. Let's support policies that sequester carbon such as the House Democrats' Climate Crisis Action Plan, which dedicates a chapter to investing in agriculture as a climate solution.

that it will provide good paying jobs and eliminate the cause of global warming) and that is just (it will benefit all Americans).

American Veterans Fought For Your Right To Vote! Don't Lose It!



"The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which other rights are protected."

To take away this right is to reduce a man to slavery, for slavery consists in being subject to the will of another"

-- Thomas Paine, Principles of Government (1795)



Regular Meetings Are Suspended During Covid-19. Stay Safe! Sign Up for FLVCS e-mails at FLVeterans@aol.com

Florida Veterans for Common Sense, Inc. is a non-partisan /non-profit 501(c)(4) corporation. Dues are \$45 annually. www.floridaveteransforcommonsense.org