

## Officers

President: Doris Cortese  
1st VP: Kerri Tonkin  
2nd VP: Amira Fox  
Treasurer: Mindy Moran  
Asst. Treas: Roz Lesser  
Recording Sec: Marj Tyrer  
Corresponding Sec: Marilyn Kostik

## Committee Chairs

Americanism: Erin Casey  
Book Chat/MELP: Cheryl Harris  
Bylaws/Parliamentarian: Kerri Tonkin  
Caring for America: Ashley Winstel  
Fundraising: Kerri Tonkin  
Legislative: Lori Fayhee  
Membership: Peg Love/  
Brooke Iwanski  
Newsletter: Mary Snyder  
Publicity: Gail Langner  
Reservations: Wren Morefield/  
Mary Ann Hansen  
Social Media: Mary Snyder

## Non-Committee Positions

Chaplain: Terri Lee  
Photographer: John Fernandez

# THE MAHOUT

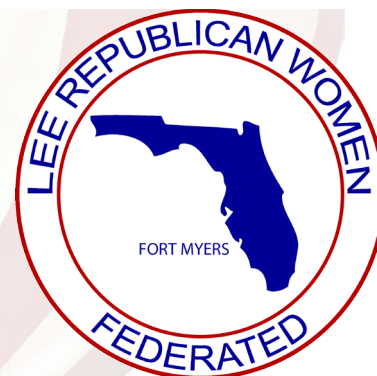
## The Keeper and Driver of the Elephant

### OCTOBER 2018

*Strong Women for a Strong America*



*Cecil Pendergrass*  
Lee County Commissioner



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools."*

- Plato

## JOIN US!

The next meeting of LRWF is October 8th at Pincher's Restaurant. at the Marina, in Fort Myers at 2360 West First Street. Social time starts at 5:15 PM with dinner following. Cecil Pendergrass, Lee County Commissioner who is also running for re-election, will be speaking to us. Come see why you should vote for Cecil.

The menu choices are:

1. Pot Roast with roasted red potatoes, slow roasted carrots, house salad and rolls
2. Meat Lasagna with carrots, house salad and rolls
3. Plain Caesar Salad with toppings on the side

Dessert: Mini Creme Brulee.

Reservation Deadline is Thursday,  
October 4th at noon

For reservations call  
Mary Ann Hansen email [rmh738@aol.com](mailto:rmh738@aol.com) or phone 239-432-9389

To make a reservation online go to  
<http://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/store>

**NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER:**  
**Sheriff Carmine Marceno**

**Commissioner Cecil Pendergrass** is a lifelong resident of Fort Myers. He and his wife, Jodi, have been married for 26 years and have two children, Brandan and Andrea.

Cecil was elected to the Lee County Board of County Commissioners' District 2 seat in November 2012. He was unanimously sworn in as chairman of the Board at his first meeting. He also served as chair of the Board of Port Commissioners during his first year on the Commission. Cecil serves as liaison to the Horizon Council, Public Safety Coordinating Council, Black Affairs Advisory Council, Hispanic Affairs Advisory Council, Value Adjustment Board, and Local Coordinating Board for the Transportation Disadvantaged. In addition, he serves as director on the Transportation and Expressway Authority Membership of Florida Board, and he is a member of the Lee Memorial Health System Trauma Advisory Committee. Cecil's career serving our community began when he was sworn in as a City of Fort Myers police officer in 1984, where he served for 25 years. He retired from the Fort Myers Police Department on Dec. 31, 2008 and subsequently became vice president for Private Asset Management Group, LLC, an independent financial asset firm that helps clients establish, pursue and maintain their short- and long-term financial objectives.

His honors include: Senator Burt Saunders Award, Mayors Gold Key Award, Employee of the Year, Employee of the Month, Courtesy Officer of the Month, City of Fort Myers Proclamation, East Fort Myers Rotary Officer of the Month, and Life Saving Award. He was highly decorated upon retiring from the Fort Myers Police Department with the following Medals of Honor: Croix De Negotiator Laurel, Distinguished Volunteer Service Cross, Exceptional Service (2), Good Conduct, Honorable Service (2), Officials Medal, The Triumphant and Unit Citation.

Cecil appreciates the importance of preserving and protecting the Florida ecosystem while promoting growth to stimulate the local economy. He is committed to protecting our community by: • Controlling spending • Creating a business-friendly environment to stimulate job growth • Developing a long-term tourism plan that will promote local/global tourism • Maintaining a safe/secure public safety program • Safeguarding our area's natural resources.

**NEWSLETTER OF LEE REPUBLICAN WOMEN FEDERATED**

Associated with the Florida Federation of Republican Women and the National Federation of Republican Women.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Doris Cortese  
LRWF President

**We need all of you to help us!** According to Real Clear Politics, **Nelson is up one point over Rick Scott** in the Senate race. Rassmussen has Nelson ahead by one point. Real Clear Politics also shows **Andrew Gillum up ahead of DeSantis by 2 to 9 points. Ashley Moody is only up 2 points over her rival, Sean Shaw.** Recent polling shows **Fried up two points over Caldwell.** This is frightening. Our Republican nominees need help!

We need you to let what you read above sink in, and **we need everyone to get serious about this election.** Everything is riding on it. If Gillum beats DeSantis, which is looking to be possible right now, we are going to have a Sanctuary State, open borders and higher taxes. Businesses will die and we are going to lose all that we have gained under Scott. Our schools will also go downhill. If Bill Nelson beats Scott, President Trump's agenda and great conservative gains will be in great peril.

Please call the Republican Headquarters (239-936-8779) or me (239-205-0646) to ask what you can do to turn things around. There is very little time left. Please give of your time and money to help get the good word out about our good conservative candidates.

Doris Cortese, President, LRWF - Vice President, LCREC

## OCTOBER WATER QUALITY UPDATE

**By Francis Rooney**

In the 21 months that I have served as your Congressman, improving our water quality has been my top priority. We have achieved more tangible results in building the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan (CERP) projects and the Herbert Hoover Dike than in all of the preceding 18 years since the CERP was enacted in 2000.

Congress and President Trump have supported our requests to fund the infrastructure necessary to clean up the Okeechobee Watershed and reduce harmful discharges into the river. In total, we have been successful in achieving nearly \$1.1 billion in funding that will directly impact completion of repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike many years ahead of schedule and allow construction of the EAA Reservoir to be significantly sped-up. This reservoir will permit more water to be sent south of Lake Okeechobee instead of being released into the Caloosahatchee and the Gulf.

In addition to our funding victory, we have been working on two other significant solutions to our water quality issues. The first is requesting that the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) adjust the Lake Okeechobee Release Schedule (LORS) to provide more water during the winter months, when our estuaries need it, and less during the summer months when releases damage our ecosystem.

The second is changing the mission of the USACE to remove protecting agriculture from its purview. This will narrow the Corps' focus to construction of key water infrastructure projects, and stop them from permitting big sugar to "back pump" polluted water into the lake. Improving the water quality in the lake benefits everyone.

However, these infrastructure projects and mission changes are only part of the solution. They deal primarily with phosphorous-laden water from Lake Okeechobee. High levels of nitrogen in the river present an entirely different threat and call for different remediation strategies. This aspect of our water quality challenges is often ignored in the public debate about what to do about the watershed. Excessive nitrogen discharges into the river lower dissolved oxygen levels and can lead to hypoxic conditions which kill fish and increase algal growth.

According to both a 2016 study prepared by the City of Sanibel, titled Caloosahatchee Watershed Regional Water Management Issues, and a 2017 study by the South Florida Water Management District, Water Flow and Nutrient Loads to Lake Okeechobee and the St. Lucie and Caloosahatchee Estuaries in Water Years 2013-2017, over 60% of the nitrogen polluting the Caloosahatchee enters the river from sources west of Lake Okeechobee. This overabundance of nitrogen occurs from wastewater plant discharges, septic tank leaks, and other agriculture along the Caloosahatchee. In fact, there are many days in which our municipalities discharge overflow volumes of partially treated wastewater into the river. Some remediation of these sources is underway, but there is a great deal of work left to do – and the sooner the better.

Without comprehensive action to address all of the factors which contribute to the environmental disasters plaguing our Southwest Florida community, the damage will continue. The health of our people and our economic livelihoods are at stake.



Francis Rooney  
US House of Representatives





Ladies,

Book Chat will resume this month. This will give you time to read our new selection, *The Russia Hoax*, by Gregg Jarrett. We made an executive decision at the last meeting to change our book choice in view of all that is happening in our world today.

Fox News legal analyst, Gregg Jarrett reveals the real story behind Hillary's deep state collaborators in government and expose their nefarious actions during and after the 2016 election. The book reveals how persons within the FBI and Barack Obama's Justice Department worked improperly to help elect Hillary Clinton and defeat Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election.

When this suspected effort failed, those same people appear to have pursued a contrived investigation of Donald Trump in an attempt to undo the election results and remove him as president. The evidence suggests that partisans within the FBI and the Department of Justice, driven by personal animus and a misplaced sense of political righteousness, acted to subvert electoral democracy in our country.

Plan to meet us at Mel's Diner on US 41, Wednesday, October 3, from 1:00-3:00. We will discuss the book and enjoy a nice lunch. Please call or email me if you plan to attend, so we may phone ahead for reservations.

Happy reading,

Cheryl Harris  
239-225-7390  
[timcherylharris@aol.com](mailto:timcherylharris@aol.com)

make  
★ America ★  
greater

## MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

New Sponsor Member:

Holly Marth  
9300 Henderson Grade  
North Ft. Myers, 33917  
239-246-0442  
[hollymarth@yahoo.com](mailto:hollymarth@yahoo.com)

Welcome Holly!! When she attended her first meeting, she helped with the 50-50 and greeted attendees at the door! Way to go, Holly!!

NAME TAGS:

Please let me know if you should need or want a new name tag. If you have ordered one and have not received it, please let me know.

Name tags were previously ordered through Hospitality, but we have a whole new committee and want to make sure we don't leave anyone out!!

***Welcome the new members to a combined Membership/Hospitality Committee:***

Brooke Iwanski, Judy Johnson, Christine Million and Holly Marth. After the November 6th Election, we will be preparing the Orientation Gathering. Watch for the date!

Thank you,  
Peg Love  
941-740-0228  
[peglove810@gmail.com](mailto:peglove810@gmail.com)



*Pray for America*



## MRS. KAVANAUGH HAS ASKED US TO PRAY PSALM 40 WITH HER

*If you are a person of faith, please pray for Judge Kavanaugh,  
his family and for our elections.*

*Pray that Judge Kavanaugh will become the next Justice of  
the Supreme Court and that his good name be cleared.*

*Pray that people who honor Godly principles  
will be exalted and raised to their positions.*

*There is power in prayer.*

### Psalm 40

1 I waited patiently for the LORD;  
he turned to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the slimy pit,  
out of the mud and mire;  
he set my feet on a rock  
and gave me a firm place to stand.

3 He put a new song in my mouth,  
a hymn of praise to our God.  
Many will see and fear  
and put their trust in the LORD.

4 Blessed is the man  
who makes the LORD his trust,  
who does not look to the proud,  
to those who turn aside to false gods.  
5 Many, O LORD my God,  
are the wonders you have done.  
The things you planned for us  
no one can recount to you;  
were I to speak and tell of them,  
they would be too many to declare.

6 Sacrifice and offering you did not desire,  
but my ears you have pierced;  
burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you did not require.

7 Then I said, "Here I am, I have come —  
it is written about me in the scroll.

8 I desire to do your will, O my God;  
your law is within my heart."

9 I proclaim righteousness in the great assembly;  
I do not seal my lips, as you know, O LORD.

10 I do not hide your righteousness in my heart;  
I speak of your faithfulness and salvation.  
I do not conceal your love and your truth  
from the great assembly.

11 Do not withhold your mercy from me, O LORD;  
may your love and your truth always protect me.  
12 For troubles without number surround me;  
my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see.  
They are more than the hairs of my head,  
and my heart fails within me.

13 Be pleased, O LORD, to save me;  
O LORD, come quickly to help me.

14 May all who seek to take my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
may all who desire my ruin  
be turned back in disgrace.

15 May those who say to me, "Aha! Aha!"  
be appalled at their own shame.

16 But may all who seek you  
rejoice and be glad in you;  
may those who love your salvation always say,  
"The LORD be exalted!"

17 Yet I am poor and needy;  
may the Lord think of me.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
O my God, do not delay. NIV

## *Pray for America*

2 Chron 7:14

*If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and  
seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and  
will forgive their sin and will heal their land. NIV*





## *My Opinion* *By Mary Snyder*

I have never been as disturbed with our country as I am now. It appears to me that people have such an agenda that they can...without conscience, destroy a man's life and his family's life...including his two innocent little girls. This country is full of people with sociopathic characteristics. A sociopath is a term used to describe someone who has antisocial personality disorder (ASPD). People with ASPD cannot understand others' feelings. They will often break rules or make impulsive decisions **without feeling guilty for the harm they cause**. Sound familiar? The Democrats have caused great harm to a man who has undergone six extensive FBI investigations and has led a spotless life. They break all rules that they can, to bring divisiveness and deceit to get what they want. They do not consider how they might be destroying lives. **They have no conscience.**

Florida Attorney General, Pam Bondi said that, in her experience, a criminal that has committed murder would be treated more fairly than the Senate Judiciary Committee has treated Judge Brett Kavanaugh. She said she has never seen anything like it in her entire career. Senator Lindsey Graham said the same. He said that he has seen nothing like this in his entire political career.

Let me tell you something that might shock you. Women lie. Now, I am not saying that Dr. Christine Blasey Ford is a liar, but I am saying that there are big holes in her story. I know...she cried and had a nervous squeaky voice when she testified against Judge Kavanaugh. That certainly must mean she was telling the truth...right?

I personally know a young girl who pressed charges against a gentleman. She said he touched her inappropriately, and he did not have a lot of money, so he asked for a public defender. He was not guilty and there was evidence of that fact. The public defender told him that a jury would never believe him, because this girl was young and the jury would believe her in spite of the evidence. He was told that he would never see the light of day if he took it to trial, but if he pled guilty, the lawyer told him that he would have him out of jail in three months. So...the gentleman pled guilty, a plea bargain was made, and he got out in three months. Once he was out, he faced all kinds of problems, which included wearing an ankle bracelet so he could be tracked wherever he went. One day the young girl accused him again of coming around her. She was emotional and upset...very believable...except...the probation officer told the gentleman (the accused) not to worry. Since he had the ankle bracelet, they could prove that this "traumatized" young girl was lying. He was never near where she said he had been. He did not get in trouble the second time because of the ankle bracelet, but my point is that not every woman who accuses a man of something, is emotional and cries is always telling the truth.

Is Christine Blasey Ford lying? I don't know, but I do know that women lie. In addition, I do know that she told at least one lie. She stated that she couldn't fly. She was afraid to fly. That is the excuse that she gave for not coming to the Senate Judiciary Committee to be interviewed. The truth is...she flies all the time. She also stated that she did not know that the Senate Judiciary Committee would go to California to interview her if she didn't feel comfortable flying. How could she not know? Even if her Democratic friends didn't tell her, it was reported all over the national news media. Does she not watch the news? Even if it is about her? Did she not have friends that would tell her what they saw on the news? Maybe not.

The Washington Times says the following, "Look at what's going on with Judge Brett Kavanaugh's confirmation proceedings for the Supreme Court, and the fingerprints of George Soros are all over it. First, there was a report from June in the Daily Caller that found "a new political advocacy group that vowed to put **\$5 million behind an effort to stop ... Kavanaugh's confirmation has significant ties to the liberal financier**" Soros.

**At the writing of this article, \$583,123 has been donated to Dr. Christine Blasey Ford through a total number of nine GoFundMe campaigns set up on her behalf.** We were also told that her lawyers that were set up by Senator Feinstein are working pro bono. Pro bono means FREE! Yet she has earned, at this point in time, \$583,124. How much more is she going to earn? How much did she get from George Soros? How is she spending the \$583,124? Her airplane tickets? In addition, how much has that amount grown by the time that you read this article?

Kavanaugh was also accused of gang raping women over and over again back in his college days. Since when does someone gang rape women multiple times, then suddenly stop, lead an exemplary life and have literally hundreds of women come to his defense. Since when does a woman attend nine gang rape parties and then complain when she went back the tenth time and got raped herself? Why didn't she report any of them when they happened? Why did she go back ten times?

So what is this about? It is all about Roe vs. Wade. Kavanaugh becomes the justice that will change the balance of the court so that Roe vs. Wade could possibly be in jeopardy. Again, what is this about? This is all because there are people who want to murder babies because they are inconvenient. God help us. Go to the polls and vote...and then pray people...pray!

# Fundraising Fun

## BASKET OF SPIRITS & WINE

Beautiful Ladies and Gents can you believe its already October? Where does time go? An update on fundraising events:

At our October meeting the ticket for the gift basket of Chocolates donated by Lizbeth Benequisto will be drawn. Board members have tickets so be sure to pick up yours. Any tickets you buy will allow you to be eligible for the huge basket of spirits and wine to be drawn in December. Tickets are \$5 each and 5 for \$20. The December meeting will also have a few baskets for auction just in time for the holidays.



## ANNIE BRING YOUR GUN...OR NOT

Annie Get Your Gun....Or Not, is on for November 17, 2018, 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM with lunch provided. Please see Kerri Tonkin for tickets. \$25 each. This class allows you to qualify for a concealed carry permit and must be taken before you can apply. You do not need to be a member to attend so grab your family and friends and bring them along. If you already have your concealed carry permit come anyway and have a refresher course the more the merrier.



## SPRING FASHION SHOW

Dump the Designer Bag Time: Yes its that time again when we will be asking members for those Designer handbags they have filling up their closets for our upcoming Fashion Show. We are going to try something new this next year. The fashion show will be held in April instead of November. The show will be held on our normal meeting day, Monday April 8, 2019. We have confirmed with Razzle Dazzle to sponsor the show. Thanks once again to Judy O Donnell as we will be in the newly refurbished Forest Golf and Country Club. If you have any gently used pieces of jewelry or scarves you would like to recycle, bring them to the meeting and turn them in.

I hope you will join us in these events.

Blessings,

Kerri Tonkin  
LRWF Fundraising chair





# HUGE SPIKES IN DEMOCRAT VOTER TURNOUT ACROSS THE COUNTRY SHOULD ALARM THE GOP

By Warren Henry, September 20, 2018

In state after state, Democrats have been swarming the polls and swamping GOP turnout increases.

“It all comes down to turnout” is the hoariest truism in election coverage. We don’t yet know what it will be for the mid-term election, but based on turnout for the primaries concluded in 2018, Republicans should be worried. The much talked of “blue wave” could very well be bearing down on the party.

In recent cycles, primary turnout has translated decently to the national vote for the House. The exceptions, 2004 and 2012, involved an incumbent president running for reelection. Midterms do not suffer from that problem (though individual state and district races may). Competitiveness will depend on how winnable politicians think elections may be.

The 2018 primary turnout numbers should alarm the GOP when compared with recent midterm “wave” elections. Before the 2006 blue wave, Democrats received 54 percent of 24.4 million primary votes. Before the 2010 red wave, Republicans won 56 percent of 28.5 million primary votes. In 2014, the GOP got 55 percent of a lower 23.9 million primary votes.

In 2018, even before the New York primary, Democrats won approximately 53 percent percent of an astounding 35.7 million primary votes. The Democrats have swung to a near 2006-level primary edge amid a 47 percent increase in overall turnout.

The leap from 2014 reflects an increase in competitive races. As of July, the number of contested House seats had risen from 251 to 340, overwhelmingly on the Democratic side (conversely, there were a record number of retirements on the GOP side). The number of open gubernatorial seats jumped from four to 20. And the Senate map enticed Republicans looking to unseat red state Dems. The result? Republican turnout was up 25 percent from 2014, but Democratic turnout increased 75 percent. Accordingly, the Republican vote share fell almost everywhere.

There are only eight states where GOP primary turnout increases outpaced Democratic increases, three of which are of particular interest.

First, in North Dakota, where Republicans seek to oust Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, GOP turnout rose 40 percent and the party’s vote share rose a few points to 65 percent, as overall turnout rose 34 percent. Heitkamp ran unopposed, but the gap signals her likely weakness.

Second, in West Virginia Republican primary turnout shot up 61 percent (versus the Dems’ 20 percent rise) as several candidates (including Don Blankenship, who gave us “Cocaine Mitch” McConnell) competed to face Sen. Joe Manchin. But the Dems’ overall 54 percent primary vote share suggests an uphill fight in a still-evolving state.

Third, the Wisconsin primary was a barn-burner, with the GOP pumping up its vote by 90 percent. But dairyland Dems’ turnout increased 73 percent and secured 54 percent of the primary vote. No wonder Gov. Scott Walker, a veteran of tough elections, has been worried all year.

Ironically, Wisconsin may be the best news for Republicans in the Midwest. In Illinois, with a troubled governor and at least two toss-up House races, GOP turnout dropped 12 percent, while Democratic turnout spiked 170 percent with a 65 percent overall vote share. The stakes are similar in Iowa, where Republican turnout sagged 36 percent, as Dems surged 154 percent to a 64 percent vote share.

There are another two toss-up House races in Michigan. The GOP boosted turnout there by 60 percent, but the Democratic turnout leapt by 120 percent to a 53 percent vote share. In Minnesota, where there are four House toss-ups, Republican turnout jumped 74 percent ... but the Dem turnout rocketed 206 percent to a 65 percent vote share.

The Rust Belt is a mixed bag. In bellwether Ohio, GOP turnout rose 31 percent to the Dems’ 41 percent, but the Dems’ 45 percent total share suggests good Republican candidates may survive. In Pennsylvania, GOP turnout upticked slightly from 2014 (an uncompetitive year), but fell 12 percent from 2010. Competitive races for Congress boosted Democratic turnout in 2018 enough that Sen. Bob Casey and Gov. Tom Wolf won more votes in uncontested primaries than were cast in the GOP contests to face them.

In the North Atlantic, Maine Republicans have a governorship and a House seat at stake; their 65 percent increase in turnout was beaten by the Democrats’ 103 percent spike and 56 percent vote share. In New Jersey, three House seats may be winnable but the GOP’s 43 percent rise in turnout was beaten by the Dems’ 89 percent increase and 64 percent vote share.

In the South Atlantic, Virginia is tough to assess, because it does not hold primaries for uncontested races. But the GOP took losses in the high-turnout 2017 elections.

Huge Spikes continued on next page...

### Huge Spikes continued...

In short, the pattern in primary turnout is clear. In state after state, Democrats have been swarming the polls and swamping GOP turnout increases. Conservative-leaning voters may be dismissing the potential blue wave as “fake news” in focus groups, but they would be better off warning their family, friends and neighbors to avoid a worst-case scenario, especially for the House.

Florida remains competitive. The GOP’s 71 percent turnout increase fell short of the Dems’ 81 percent, but the Democratic vote share was 45 percent overall. Georgia’s hyped Democratic primaries produced a nice 69 percent turnout surge, while the GOP was flat — but the Dems’ vote share was held to 48 percent and the total increase in turnout was only 24 percent.

The challenge to Sen. Ted Cruz has Republicans in Texas (and beyond) concerned, with a 16 percent uptick in GOP turnout versus an 88 percent increase for Democrats. But with Dems only taking a 40 percent vote share amid a 37 percent overall increase, Beto O’Rourke’s turnout might be more threatening to the state’s two vulnerable congressmen.

Similarly, in Arizona, the wild senate primary only boosted GOP turnout 22 percent to the Democrats’ 65 percent. But the GOP’s majority vote share suggests the state’s Republican lean could yet carry the day for Martha McSally.

In Colorado, which has an open governorship and a toss-up House seat, overall turnout spiked 90 percent, led by a 198 percent Democratic increase to a 56 percent vote share. In Nevada, however, the 88 percent Democratic increase produced a bare 51 percent vote share, leaving hope for Republican Sen. Dean Heller.

On the West Coast, California’s “top two” primary system confuses matters, but an 82 percent rise in Democratic turnout and 65 percent vote share helps explain why the GOP remains nervous about six House seats, despite a 46 percent increase in Republican turnout. In Washington state, the 76 percent spike in Democratic turnout (versus a 12 percent GOP uptick) has raised concerns regarding three potentially vulnerable House seats.

\*\*Taken from the Federalist at [http://thefederalist.com/2018/09/20/huge-spikes-democrat-voter-turnout-across-country-alarm-gop/?utm\\_source=The+Federalist+List&utm\\_campaign=def0b19e9c-RSS\\_The\\_Federalist\\_Daily\\_Updates\\_w\\_Transom&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_cfc868ceb-def0b19e9c-83941565](http://thefederalist.com/2018/09/20/huge-spikes-democrat-voter-turnout-across-country-alarm-gop/?utm_source=The+Federalist+List&utm_campaign=def0b19e9c-RSS_The_Federalist_Daily_Updates_w_Transom&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_cfc868ceb-def0b19e9c-83941565)

---

*Visit the Republican Headquarters*



7050 Winkler Road. Suite 103

Ft. Myers 33919

**239-936-8779**

---



# Legislative UPDATE

By Lori Fayhee

**Get the Facts Before You Vote.** The Lee County School District has a \$1.509 billion budget and is asking voters to approve an additional ½ penny sales tax on the 2018 General Election Ballot. If approved, this sales tax will be in effect for the next 10-years and will provide the District with an additional estimated \$1.1 Billion in Capital spending. In order for this referendum to pass, voters will need to determine if the Board has operated with transparency, according to Sunshine Law, and been fiscally responsible with our tax dollars.

Following is the summary of findings from the State of Florida Auditor General's 2017 operational audit of the Lee County School District. The District sent their response to the Auditor General on September 15, 2018 and released these findings to the public this week.

## SUMMARY

This operational audit of the Lee County School District (District) focused on selected District processes and administrative activities and included a follow-up on findings noted in our report No. 2015-069. Our operational audit disclosed the following:

**Finding 1:** District records did not always evidence that impact fee proceeds were used only for authorized purposes, resulting in questioned costs of \$13.6 million.

**Finding 2:** Contrary to State law, the District expended ad valorem tax levy proceeds for cleaning and groundskeeping services that did not appear to be allowable uses for the proceeds, resulting in questioned costs totaling \$3.9 million.

**Finding 3:** District controls over indoor air quality (IAQ) services and related payments did not ensure that District records documented:

- Evaluations of the need for the various IAQ services before the District contacted service providers and contracted for the services with related payments totaling \$5.9 million.
- Cost-benefit considerations to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of contracting with an IAQ provider for both emergency services and services that did not require immediate attention.
- Verifications that the personnel who performed the services possessed the contract-required license and certificate qualifications or that the services were performed by the most qualified service provider.
- The reasonableness and propriety of negotiated contract rates.
- Prior to payment for the contracted services, the satisfactory receipt of the services performed consistent with the Board-approved contracts.

Additionally, District IAQ contracts did not contain maximum contract amounts to help the District monitor and limit the services provided and related costs. Also, the District made payments for cleaning services that appeared to be charged at rates for mold remediation rather than room cleaning services, resulting in questioned costs of \$291,126.

**Finding 4:** District procedures did not provide, before payments for construction management entity (CME) services, for comparisons of CME pay requests to the subcontractor bids and contracts for the Dunbar High School Remodel (DHSR) and the Bonita Springs High School (BSHS) Projects totaling \$64.4 million.

**Finding 5:** District construction administration procedures for the DHSR and BSHS Projects did not include comparisons of subcontractor bid awards to the CME subcontractor contracts to verify that the CME used a competitive selection process to select subcontractors and that the bid award and contract amounts agreed.

**Finding 6:** The District did not verify subcontractor licenses before the subcontractors commenced work on the DHSR and BSHS Projects.

**Finding 7:** The District needs to enhance controls over negotiating, monitoring, and documenting the reasonableness of CME general conditions costs.

**Finding 8:** District records did not always demonstrate that the District performed searches of prospective school volunteer names and information against the applicable registration information regarding sexual predators and sexual offenders.

**Finding 9:** The District needs to establish a mechanism for noninstructional employees to report time worked and procedures requiring supervisors to document the review and approval of such time.

*Legislative Update Continued on next page...*

*Legislative Update Continued on...*

**Finding 10:** The District did not always base the eligibility of teachers for Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Scholarship awards on reliable and authentic records.

**Finding 11:** The District controls for monitoring school resource officer service contracts and related payments could be enhanced.

**Finding 12:** District controls over the purchasing card program continue to need improvement.

**Finding 13:** The District had not developed a comprehensive, written information technology (IT) risk assessment.

**Finding 14:** The existence of some unnecessary IT user access privileges and the lack of documented periodic reviews of access privileges increased the risk that unauthorized disclosure of student social security numbers may occur.

**Finding 15:** Certain District IT security controls related to user authentication, data loss prevention, and logging and monitoring of system activity need improvement.

*This report and other reports prepared by the Auditor General are available at: [FLAuditor.gov](http://FLAuditor.gov)*

*Printed copies of their reports may be requested by contacting:*

*State of Florida Auditor General  
Claude Pepper Building, Suite G74  
111 West Madison Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1450  
(850) 412-2722*

---

## **10 REASONS ANDREW GILLUM IS TOO RADICAL, TOO CORRUPT FOR FLORIDA**

1. **Saw Tallahassee's Average Murder Rate Increase by 52%** on his watch from 2010-2017. Gillum says he has provided exemplary leadership as a mayor, but in reality more people have been murdered under Gillum's watch as Tallahassee's average murder rate has increased 52 percent from 2010 to 2017. Gillum served as a city commissioner from 2003 to 2014 and was elected mayor in 2014. Learn more: [TallahasseeReports.com](http://TallahasseeReports.com)
2. **Said NO to More Police in Tallahassee but Yes to \$2 Million in Tax Dollars for His Friend's Restaurant.** Gillum says he will protect the state's most vulnerable, but when it came to protecting his own residents he repeatedly denied law enforcement requests for additional police officers in Tallahassee but approved \$2 million in taxpayer funding for a restaurant now at the center of an ongoing FBI investigation. Learn more: [TallahasseeReports.com](http://TallahasseeReports.com)
3. **Closely Linked to an Ongoing FBI Investigation AND Vacationed With Undercover FBI Agents and Lobbyists in NYC and Costa Rica.** Gillum says he is transparent and open, but in reality he refuses to come clean about a suspicious \$15,000 deposit in his bank account and who paid for the luxury trip to Costa Rica he took with undercover FBI agents in 2016. Learn more: [ReleaseTheReceipts.com](http://ReleaseTheReceipts.com)
4. **Wants to Raise Taxes by Over \$1 Billion.** Gillum says he wants to provide hope for those who are left out, but in reality he wants to raise taxes by \$1 Billion on hardworking Florida families so that he can pay for his radical agenda. Learn more: [PolitiFact](http://PolitiFact)
5. **After Hurricane Hermine, Refused Help From Non-Union Electric Workers, Leaving Thousands Without Power For Even Longer.** Gillum says he wants to lead our state, but he failed the people of Tallahassee when Hurricane Hermine devastated the community, refusing additional help and admitting mistakes were made. Learn more: [Politico](http://Politico)
6. **Wants to Abolish ICE and Protect Criminal Illegal Immigrants.** Gillum says he wants to protect Floridians, but he wants to abolish ICE, leaving our state vulnerable and less safe. Learn more: [CNN](http://CNN)
7. **Supported by Ultra-Liberal Billionaires George Soros and Tom Steyer AND Socialists Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.** Gillum says he is not a far-left socialist, but in reality his agenda is taken directly from ultra-left billionaires George Soros and Tom Steyers and socialists like Bernie Sanders and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Learn more: [Politico](http://Politico) / [CBS News](http://CBSNews)
8. **Wants a \$33 Trillion Single-Payer Health Plan That Would Take Away Current Coverage for Floridians.** Gillum says that healthcare should be a right, but in reality he wants to impose a single-payer healthcare system which would cost \$33 TRILLION and take away everyone's current health insurance. Learn more: [CNN](http://CNN)
9. **Opposes School Choice but Stands With Union Bureaucrats.** Gillum says he wants our children to succeed, but in reality he wants to take away school choice opportunities from over 140,000 minority, poor and uniquely-abled students because he cares more about union bureaucrats than students and teachers. Learn more: [rondesantis.com/education](http://rondesantis.com/education)
10. **Stands With Disgraced "Coward of Broward" Sheriff Scott Israel Over School Safety.** Gillum says he wants to keep our kids safe, but in reality he stands with the disgraced "Coward of Broward" Sheriff Scott Israel over school safety. Learn more: [Sun Sentinel](http://SunSentinel)



## MEET YOUR CANDIDATES

*(Then go to work...walk the neighborhoods, make phone calls and talk to everyone you know.)*

**U.S. Senate - Governor Rick Scott:** [Campaign Website](#)

**U.S. Congress, District 17 - Greg Steube:** [Campaign Website](#)

**U.S. Congress, District 19 - Francis Rooney:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Florida Governor - Senator Ron DeSantis:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Lieutenant Governor w/Ron DeSantis - Jeannette Nunez:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Attorney General - Ashley Moody:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Commissioner of Agriculture - Matt Caldwell:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Florida Chief Financial Officer - Jimmy Patronis:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Florida State House, District 76 - Ray Rodrigues:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Florida State House, District 77 - Dane Eagle:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Florida State House, District 78 - Heather Fitzhagen:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Florida State House, District 79 - Spencer Roach:** [Campaign Website](#)

**State Attorney, 20th Judicial Circuit - Amira Fox:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Lee County Commissioner - Cecil Pendergrass:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Lee County School Board, District 6 At Large - Dr. Nicholas Alexander:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Lee County School Board, District 4 - Don Armstrong:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Hospital Board 2 - Nancy McGovern RN, MSM:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Hospital Board 2 - Donna Clarke:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Hospital Board 4 - Chris Hansen:** [Campaign Website](#)

**Hospital Board 4 - Diane Champion** [Campaign Website](#)

**EARLY VOTING: 10-22-18 until 11-03-18**

**GENERAL ELECTION: November 6th**

**CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW  
FOR A MAP TO THE EARLY VOTING LOCATIONS**

[LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS - CAPE CORAL BRANCH OFFICE](#)  
[1039 SE 9TH AVE, CAPE CORAL FL 33990](#)

[CAPE CORAL - LEE COUNTY LIBRARY](#)  
[921 SW 39TH TER, CAPE CORAL FL 33914](#)

[LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS CENTER](#)  
[13180 S CLEVELAND AVE, FORT MYERS FL 33907](#)

[NORTH FORT MYERS RECREATION CENTER](#)  
[2000 N RECREATION PARK WAY, NORTH FORT MYERS FL 33903](#)

[NORTHWEST REGIONAL LIBRARY](#)  
[519 CHIQUITA BLVD N CAPE CORAL FL 33993](#)

[FORT MYERS REGIONAL LIBRARY](#)  
[2450 FIRST ST, FORT MYERS FL 33901](#)

[LEE COUNTY ELECTIONS BONITA SPRINGS BRANCH OFFICE](#)  
[25987 S TAMiami TRAIL #105, BONITA SPRINGS FL 34134](#)

[VETERANS PARK RECREATION CENTER](#)  
[55 S HOMESTEAD RD, LEHIGH ACRES FL 33936](#)

[ESTERO RECREATION CENTER](#)  
[9200 CORKSCREW PALMS BLVD, ESTERO FL 33928](#)

[EAST COUNTY REGIONAL LIBRARY](#)  
[881 GUNNERY RD N, LEHIGH ACRES FL 33971](#)

**STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE VOTED ON IN NOVEMBER**  
**[\(CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL TEXT OF THE AMENDMENTS\)](#)**

**NO. 1 - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ARTICLE VII, SECTION 6 - ARTICLE XII, SECTION 37**

**BALLOT TITLE: Increased Homestead Property Tax Exemption**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to increase the homestead exemption by exempting the assessed valuation of homestead property greater than \$100,000 and up to \$125,000 for all levies other than school district.

**NO. 2 = CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ARTICLE XII, SECTION 27**

**BALLOT TITLE: Limitations on Property Tax Assessments**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Proposing an amendment to the State Constitution to permanently retain provisions currently in effect, which limit property tax assessment increases on specified nonhomestead real property, except for school district taxes, to 10 percent each year. If approved, the amendment removes the scheduled repeal of such provisions in 2019 and shall take effect January 1, 2019.

**NO. 3 - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ARTICLE X, SECTION 29**

**BALLOT TITLE: Voter Control of Gambling in Florida**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** This amendment ensures that Florida voters shall have the exclusive right to decide whether to authorize casino gambling by requiring that in order for casino gambling to be authorized under Florida law, it must be approved by Florida voters pursuant to Article XI, Section 3 of the Florida Constitution. Affects articles X and XI. Defines casino gambling and clarifies that this amendment does not conflict with federal law regarding state/tribal compacts.

**NO. 4 - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ARTICLE VI, SECTION 4**

**BALLOT TITLE: Voting Restoration Amendment**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** This amendment restores the voting rights of Floridians with felony convictions after they complete all terms of their sentence including parole or probation. The amendment would not apply to those convicted of murder or sexual offenses, who would continue to be permanently barred from voting unless the Governor and Cabinet vote to restore their voting rights on a case by case basis.

**NO. 5 - CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - ARTICLE VII, SECTION 19**

**BALLOT TITLE: Supermajority Vote Required to Impose, Authorize, or Raise State Taxes or Fees**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Prohibits the legislature from imposing, authorizing, or raising a state tax or fee except through legislation approved by a two thirds vote of each house of the legislature in a bill containing no other subject. This proposal does not authorize a state tax or fee otherwise prohibited by the Constitution and does not apply to fees or taxes imposed or authorized to be imposed by a county, municipality, school board, or special district.

**NO. 6 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE I, SECTION 16 - ARTICLE V, SECTIONS 8 AND 21 - ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION**

**BALLOT TITLE: Rights of Crime Victims; Judges**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Creates constitutional rights for victims of crime; requires courts to facilitate victims' rights; authorizes victims to enforce their rights throughout criminal and juvenile justice processes. Requires judges and hearing officers to independently interpret statutes and rules rather than deferring to government agency's interpretation. Raises mandatory retirement age of state justices and judges from seventy to seventy-five years; deletes authorization to complete judicial term if one-half of term has been served by retirement age.

**NO. 7 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE IX, SECTIONS 7 AND 8 - ARTICLE X, NEW SECTION**

**BALLOT TITLE: First Responder and Military Member Survivor Benefits; Public Colleges and Universities**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Grants mandatory payment of death benefits and waiver of certain educational expenses to qualifying survivors of certain first responders and military members who die performing official duties. Requires supermajority votes by university trustees and state university system board of governors to raise or impose all legislatively authorized fees if law requires approval by those bodies. Establishes existing state college system as constitutional entity; provides governance structure.

*Constitutional Amendments continued on next page...*



*Constitutional Amendments continued...*

**NO. 8 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE IX, SECTION 4, NEW SECTION - ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION**

**BALLOT TITLE: School Board Term Limits and Duties; Public Schools**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Creates a term limit of eight consecutive years for school board members and requires the legislature to provide for the promotion of civic literacy in public schools. Currently, district school boards have a constitutional duty to operate, control, and supervise all public schools. The amendment maintains a school board's duties to public schools it establishes, but permits the state to operate, control, and supervise public schools not established by the school board.

**NO. 9 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE II, SECTION 7 - ARTICLE X, SECTION 20**

**BALLOT TITLE: Prohibits Offshore Oil and Gas Drilling; Prohibits Vaping in Enclosed Indoor Workplaces**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Prohibits drilling for the exploration or extraction of oil and natural gas beneath all state-owned waters between the mean high water line and the state's outermost territorial boundaries. Adds use of vapor-generating electronic devices to current prohibition of tobacco smoking in enclosed indoor workplaces with exceptions; permits more restrictive local vapor ordinances

**NO. 10 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE III, SECTION 3 - ARTICLE IV, SECTIONS 4 AND 11 - ARTICLE VIII, SECTIONS 1 AND 6**

**BALLOT TITLE: State and Local Government Structure and Operation** **BALLOT SUMMARY:** Requires legislature to retain department of veterans' affairs. Ensures election of sheriffs, property appraisers, supervisors of elections, tax collectors, and clerks of court in all counties; removes county charters' ability to abolish, change term, transfer duties, or eliminate election of these offices. Changes annual legislative session commencement date in even-numbered years from March to January; removes legislature's authorization to fix another date. Creates office of domestic security and counterterrorism within department of law enforcement.

**NO. 11 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE I, SECTION 2 - ARTICLE X, SECTIONS 9 AND 19**

**BALLOT TITLE: Property Rights; Removal of Obsolete Provision; Criminal Statutes**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Removes discriminatory language related to real property rights. Removes obsolete language repealed by voters. Deletes provision that amendment of a criminal statute will not affect prosecution or penalties for a crime committed before the amendment; retains current provision allowing prosecution of a crime committed before the repeal of a criminal statute.

**NO. 12 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE II, SECTION 8 - ARTICLE V, SECTION 13 - ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION**

**BALLOT TITLE: Lobbying and Abuse of Office by Public Officers**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Expands current restrictions on lobbying for compensation by former public officers; creates restrictions on lobbying for compensation by serving public officers and former justices and judges; provides exceptions; prohibits abuse of a public position by public officers and employees to obtain a personal benefit.

**NO. 13 - CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION - ARTICLE X, NEW SECTION - ARTICLE XII, NEW SECTION**

**BALLOT TITLE: -Ends Dog Racing**

**BALLOT SUMMARY:** Phases out commercial dog racing in connection with wagering by 2020. Other gaming activities are not affected.

**VOTE...**

**LIKE EVERYTHING IN LIFE**

**DEPENDS ON IT!**

## ***Call the President of the United States***

Comments: 202-456-1111  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

## **CONTACT YOUR HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS**

### **PAUL RYAN**

1233 Longworth HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-3031  
Fax: (202) 225-3393  
or email at

<https://paulryan.house.gov/contact/>

### **MITCH MCCONNELL**

317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: (202) 224-2541  
Fax: (202) 224-2499  
or email at

<https://www.mcconnell.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contactform>

## **CALL OR WRITE YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATORS**

Tell our congressmen what you are concerned about. Encourage them to get behind our president!

### **BILL NELSON**

716 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-5274  
or email at

<https://www.billnelson.senate.gov/contact-bill>

### **MARCO RUBIO**

284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
Phone: 202-224-3041  
or email at

<https://marcorubio.com/contact/>

### **FRANCIS ROONEY**

120 Cannon HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-2536  
or email at

<https://francisrooney.com/>

## **OUR SPONSORS**

*Click on Pictures to View Websites*



*Amira Fox  
Candidate  
FL State Attorney*



*Francis Rooney  
U.S. Congressman  
Dist. 19*



*Cecil Pendergrass  
Lee County Commissioner*



*Spencer Roach  
Candidate  
FL House of Representatives*



*Brian Hammon  
Lee County Commissioner*



*Linda Doggett  
Lee County Clerk of Courts*



*Larry Hart  
Lee Co. Tax Collector*