

## 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

### NOVEMBER 2018

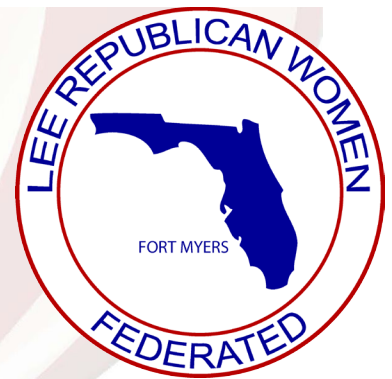
*Strong Women for a Strong America*

**CALL EVERYONE THAT YOU KNOW.**

**TELL THEM HOW YOU ARE  
VOTING AND WHY!**

**OFFER TO TAKE PEOPLE  
TO THE POLLS.**

**VOTE AS THOUGH EVERYTHING  
DEPENDS ON IT...  
BECAUSE IT DOES!**



## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"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."*

God



## JOIN US!

The next meeting of LRWF is November 12th at Pincher's Restaurant, at the Marina, in Fort Myers at 2360 West First Street. Social time starts at 11:15 AM with lunch following. Our new sheriff, Carmine Marceno will be speaking to us.

The menu choices are:

1. Smoked Salmon BLT on a croissant with chips
2. Classic Caesar Salad with grilled chicken and rolls
3. Plain Caesar Salad with toppings on the side.

Dessert Jumbo Cookie

Reservation Deadline is Thursday, November 8th at noon

For reservations call Wren Morefield 270-210-1284 or email [wrenspet@hotmail.com](mailto:wrenspet@hotmail.com)

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

**NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER:**  
**Karna Small Bodman, Author**

**Sheriff Carmine Marceno** was appointed Lee County's 13th Sheriff by Governor Rick Scott on September 25, 2018.

Sheriff Marceno brings decades of law enforcement experience, beginning his career in Suffolk County, New York before moving to Southwest Florida where he joined the Collier County Sheriff's Office.

While with CCSO, he worked as a Patrol Deputy and was a member of numerous specialty units within the agency. He transitioned to a larger public liaison role in community policing, eventually serving as Assistant to Sheriff Kevin Rambosk.

Sheriff Marceno is the recipient of numerous awards and commendations. In 2012 he was awarded the Collier County's Distinguished Public Service Award, given to the county's top public servant.

Sheriff Marceno joined the Lee County Sheriff's Office in 2013, most recently serving as Undersheriff for more than two years. During that time, Sheriff Marceno assumed supervisory responsibilities for day-to-day operations as a member of Command Staff. Prior to his role as Undersheriff, he was a Captain, serving as the Executive Officer to Sheriff Mike Scott.

In March 2017, Sheriff Carmine Marceno graduated from the prestigious FBI National Academy Session 267. The intense 10-week program is by invitation-only for law enforcement managers nominated by their agency because of demonstrated leadership. The grueling session includes course study, specialized training and physical challenges.



Carmine Marceno  
Lee County Sheriff

**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

There just a few days left before the voting is over. I want to thank all of our women who have been working at the headquarters, making phone calls and walking the neighborhoods. The only thing left to do is to talk to everyone that you know who hasn't voted yet and then pray.

The new board was voted in at our last meeting. They are:

President - Kerri Tonkin

1st Vice President - Lori Fayhee

2nd Vice President - Amira Fox

Treasurer - Chris Wappes

Assistant Treasurer - Roz Lesser

Recording Secretary - Ruth Rodrigues

Corresponding Secretary - Marilyn Kostik

My congratulations to the new officers. I offer my blessings and support to all of you.

Doris Cortese, President

LRWF - Vice President, LCREC

**make**  
**America**  
**greater**

**YOU ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE!**

***By Francis Rooney***

Every call made, every door knocked, and every voter engaged can be the difference between victory and defeat. Who can forget the weeks of recounts and drama surrounding the Presidential election of Bush vs. Gore, or Governor Scott's first election when the race was so close that the results were not final until the morning after election day? Imagine how different things would be had either election gone to the opposition. A lesser known election for State House of Representatives just a few years ago saw Jay Fant defeat his opponent by 2 votes, proving the adage that every vote counts.

As we turn down the home stretch of the 2018 election campaign season, it is critical that we stay energized and finish strong. The work done here in Southwest Florida is vital to offsetting the democrat voters in liberal strongholds of Miami and Fort Lauderdale. As recently as a week ago Lee County led the State in Republican ballots returned – a statistic that would never be possible without your efforts. Our opposition is more motivated than ever before, and we must overcome their enthusiasm. While it has been a long journey and each and every one of you has worked tirelessly, we must continue at full speed through November 6th.

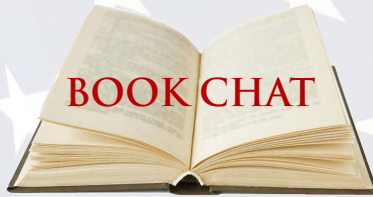
Make no mistake about the importance of this election cycle. Since November 2016, the liberals have protested, resisted, harassed administration and elected officials as they tried to eat dinner with their families, and accosted them in elevators. Rewarding this behavior will only encourage more of it – and in Washington the President's agenda of lower taxes and less regulation will come to a standstill. In Florida, we cannot allow the governorship to be taken over by a liberal democrat seeking to abolish ICE and impose 40% higher taxes on our state. Defeating the mob behavior and socialist leaning agenda of the left may lead to less of it in the future.

Myself, Kathleen, and our entire team are humbled by your hard work and support for our campaign. With your support we will continue to build on the progress we've already made; in the fight to fix our water and eliminate harmful discharges into the Caloosahatchee, to reduce the burden of government that effects each of our lives and stifles economic growth, to secure our borders, and to enact term limits for career politicians. Thank you for all that you do, keep up the great work, and God bless you all.



*Francis Rooney*  
US House of Representatives





Ladies,

Just to inform you that there is no Book Chat for the month of November due to the election. We will meet again on December 5, at Mel's Diner on US 41, from 1:00-3:00. We will discuss the movie, The Death of a Nation, by Dinesh D'souza. If you have not seen the movie, you may choose to read the book.

The movie is a compelling case that the Democrats are killing America by turning it into a massive nanny state modeled on the Southern plantation system.

This is a sweeping alternative history of the Democratic party goes back to its foundations in the South. The slave holding elite devised the plantation as a means of organizing labor and political support. It was a mini welfare state, a cradle to grave system that bred dependency and punished any urge to independence. This model impressed northern Democrats, inspiring the political machines that traded government handouts for votes from ethnic immigrant blocs.

Today's Democrats have expanded to a multiracial plantation of ghettos for blacks, barrios for Latinos and reservations for Native Americans. Whites are the only holdouts resisting full dependency, and so they are blamed for the bigotry and racial exploitation that is actually perpetrated by the left.

We look forward to seeing you on December 5, At Mel's Diner. We will discuss the movie/book and enjoy a great lunch. Please call or email me if you plan to attend so we may plan ahead for reservations.

Enjoy,

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

---

## MEMBERSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

New member for the month is:

Melloe Nash  
16984 Timber Lakes Dr. SW  
Ft. Myers 33908  
239-481-1270  
[melloe@nashfl.com](mailto:melloe@nashfl.com)

Melloe has jumped in and is already volunteering at Headquarters with walking, etcetera.

We are grateful for all members, new and "old."

A special thanks to all of you who have responded to the website sending in your 2019 Renewal forms. Making this committee's job very pleasant indeed! If you haven't renewed yet, click on the link below and do so:

<https://www.leerepublicanwomen.com/>

Questions? Call me at 941-740-0228 or email by clicking link below.  
[peglove810@gmail.com](mailto:peglove810@gmail.com)

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



---

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AT**

**[HTTPS://WWW.LEEREPUBLICAN-  
WOMEN.COM/](https://www.leerepublican-women.com/)**

---

*Pray for America*

# VOTING GUIDE...SHARE WITH FRIENDS...TAKE TO THE POLLS

U.S. SENATOR - **RICK SCOTT**

[HTTPS://RICKSCOTTFORFLORIDA.COM/](https://rickscottforflorida.com/)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 17 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - **GREG STEUBE**

[HTTPS://ELECTGREGSTEUBE.COM](https://electgregsteube.com)

U.S. REPRESENTATIVE, 19TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT - **FRANCIS ROONEY**

[HTTP://FRANCISROONEY.COM/](http://francisrooney.com/)

FLORIDA GOVERNOR/LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - **RON DESANTIS/JEANETTE NUNEZ**

[HTTPS://RONDESANTIS.COM/](https://rondesantis.com/)

ASHLEY MOODY - **ATTORNEY GENERAL**

[HTTPS://WWW.ELECTASHLEymoody.COM/](https://www.electashleymoody.com/)

FLORIDA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER - **JIMMY PETRONIS**

[HTTPS://JOINJIMMY.COM/](https://joinjimmy.com/)

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE - **MATT CALDWELL**

[HTTPS://VOTECALDWELL.ORG/](https://votecaldwell.org/)

STATE ATTORNEY, 20TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT - **AMIRA FOX**

[HTTP://FOXFORSTATEATTORNEY.COM/](http://foxforstateattorney.com/)

FLORIDA STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 26 - **BEN ALBRITTON**

[HTTP://BENALBRITTON.COM/](http://benalbritton.com/)

FLORIDA STATE SENATE, DISTRICT 28 - **KATHLEEN PASSIDOMO**

[HTTP://KATHLEENPASSIDOMO.COM/](http://kathleenpassidomo.com/)

FLORIDA STATE HOUSE, DISTRICT 76 - **RAY RODRIGUES**

[HTTP://WWW.ISAYRAY.COM/](http://www.isayray.com/)

FLORIDA STATE HOUSE, DISTRICT 77 - **DANE EAGLE**

[HTTP://DANEEAGLE.COM/](http://daneagle.com/)

FLORIDA STATE HOUSE DISTRICT 78 - **HEATHER FITZENHAGEN**

[HTTP://WWW.HEATHERFITZENHAGEN.COM/](http://www.heatherfitzenhagen.com/)

FLORIDA STATE HOUSE. DISTRICT 79 - **SPENCER ROACH**

[HTTP://SPENCERFORSTATEHOUSE.COM/](http://spencerforstatehouse.com/)

LEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER - **CECIL PENDERGRASS**

[HTTP://VOTEPENDERGRASS.COM/](http://votependergrass.com/)

LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 4 - **DON ARMSTRONG**

[HTTPS://ARMSTRONG4LEEKIDS.NET/](https://armstrong4leekids.net/)

LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 5 - **PAMELA LA RIVIERE**

[HTTPS://PAM4SCHOOLBOARD.WEEBLY.COM/](https://pam4schoolboard.weebly.com/)

LEE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD, DISTRICT 6 - **NICHOLAS ALEXANDER**

[HTTPS://WWW.ELECTALEXANDER.NET/](https://www.electalexander.net/)

HOSPITAL BOARD, DISTRICT 2 - **NANCY MCGOVERN**

[HTTP://WWW.LEEHEALTH.ORG/BOARDOFDIRECTORS/BOD/NANCYMCGOVERN.ASP](http://www.leehealth.org/boardofdirectors/bod/nancymcgobern.asp)

HOSPITAL BOARD, DISTRICT 2 - **DONNA CLARKE**

[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/VOTEDONNACLARKE/](https://www.facebook.com/votedonnaclarke/)

HOSPITAL BOARD DISTRICT 4 - **CHRIS HANSEN**

[HTTPS://HANSEN4HOSPITALBOARD.COM/](https://hansen4hospitalboard.com/)

HOSPITAL BOARD DISTRICT 4 - **DIANE CHAMPION**

[HTTP://WWW.LEEHEALTH.ORG/BOARDOFDIRECTORS/BOD/DIANECHAMPION.ASP](http://www.leehealth.org/boardofdirectors/bod/dianechampion.asp)

HOSPITAL BOARD DISTRICT 4 - **RANDY SCOTT**

[HTTP://LEEHEALTH.RANDYSCOTT.US](http://leehealth.randyscott.us)

VOTING GUIDE...CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



## VOTING GUIDE...CONTINUED

JUSTICE ALAN LAWSON (APPOINTED BY RICK SCOTT) - **VOTE YES**

JUDGE ANTHONY BLACK (APPOINTED BY JEB BUSH) - **VOTE YES**

JUDGE EDWARD LAROSE (APPOINTED BY JEB BUSH) - **VOTE YES**

JUDGE SUSAN ROTHSTEIN-YOUAKIM (APPOINTED BY RICK SCOTT) - **VOTE YES**

ALL OTHER JUDGES ARE LIBERAL - VOTE NO

VOTE NO ON THE HALF PENNY SALES TAX

**THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS WERE RECOMMENDED BY THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF FLORIDA.  
THEY RECOMMEND A NO VOTE ON ALL OTHERS.**

**AMENDMENT 1** - INCREASED HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

**AMENDMENT 2** - LIMITATION ON PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENTS

**AMENDMENT 5** - SUPER MAJORITY VOTE REQUIRED TO IMPOSE, AUTHORIZE OR RAISE STATE TAXES OR FEES

**AMENDMENT 6** - RIGHTS OF CRIME VICTIMS; JUDGES

**AMENDMENT 7** - FIRST RESPONDER AND MILITARY MEMBER SURVIVOR BENEFITS; PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

**AMENDMENT 11** - PROPERTY RIGHTS; REMOVAL OF OBSOLETE PROVISION; CRIMINAL STATUTES

**AMENDMENT 12** - LOBBYING AND ABUSE OF OFFICE BY PUBLIC OFFICERS

### ELECTION DATES AND DEADLINES

GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 6, 2018

DEADLINE TO RETURN VOTE-BY-MAIL BALLOT - NOVEMBER 6, 2018 BEFORE 7:00 PM

EARLY VOTING - OCTOBER 22, 2018 THRU NOVEMBER 3, 2018, 10:00 AM TO 6:00 PM

### CLICK ON THE LOCATIONS BELOW FOR MAPS

[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](#)

Last month I wrote on Kavanaugh. This month it's Caravan! I have some real problems with this caravan business. It is no accident that all of this is happening just before our elections. It is also no accident that people have been seen receiving money for walking to our border.

In addition, people have been brain washed into thinking that it is their right to come here illegally. The illegals say that they are coming across our borders no matter what President Trump threatens. They carry flags from their own countries and want to invade ours. This is an invasion. We are being forced into a war and there is no way for us to avoid it or come out looking like the good guys.

The liberals state that the conservatives have no heart. The left says the caravan consists of men, women and children coming in search of a better life. They say that conservatives do not care that immigrants are starving and persecuted in their home countries. Let's get something straight. Our laws state that if you are seeking asylum from persecution, then you have to stop at the first country that you come to and ask for asylum there. With that in mind, only Canadians or Mexicans can legally enter seeking asylum from persecution. The Mexicans offered asylum and the immigrants (invaders) turned them down. That makes them illegible for asylum here.

Then the left tells us that the caravan people are starving. I do not mean to sound calloused, but I do not see anyone of the immigrants who look like they are starving. Look at the photos below this article. Those people are strong and healthy. I am sure they are poor, but they are not starving. Maybe that is due to the 500 million US dollars that we have poured into those countries in the past couple of years. On the other hand, maybe it is because they people have fed them along the way. By the way, if they were starving, they would be too weak to walk 1700 miles.

Listening to a person from the border control in an interview, I learned that 18 to 20 per cent of the people that came across the border in the past couple of years were criminals. He stated that while the border control is busy processing the women and children, the criminals slip across the border another way. Six hundred fifty nine Bangladeshi's along with Syrians and many people from other countries have come over in the past couple of years. The Mexican border has been a major smuggling corridor for people from Africa as well.

When Nancy Pelosi and other politically motivated leaders tell people that ICE should be abolished, they are enticing people to come across the border illegally, and thus, they are inciting violence. The left will do anything to entice people to come across the border. They want to force Trump to have to deal harshly so they can say, "See! Trump is heartless and cruel!" However, when the Democrats were in power, they talked quite differently. Obama, Harry Reid and many other liberals stated that we could not just open the borders to everyone. The reason that they are talking differently now is because they are simply trying to make the Republicans look as though they are cruel and calloused toward these so-called poor people. It's a stunt. A bad stunt, but a stunt nonetheless.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen has warned us that the cartels might be exploiting the illegal immigrant caravan heading toward the United States. The cartels control most of the illegal flow of people through Latin America. Warnings of President Trump and Vice President Pence have done little to deter the immigrants, who have seen their relatives and neighbors easily come across our border with no consequences for many years. The ease of entering the United States makes life easy for the cartels, who control the drug and human smuggling routes into the U.S. These cartels require payment of a "mafia fee" just to cross the U.S.-Mexico boundary line. That fee typically runs approximately \$1,000 to \$2,000. That does not include thousands of dollars in other fees that cover foot guides, drivers, stash houses and the rest of the illegal journey.

The left has mocked President Trump for saying that there is a criminal element in the caravan. I watched our President as he spoke in Estero, Fl. While I was watching him, all I could think of, was that he did not have to do this for us? He did not have to fight constant battles and ridicule. He could have stayed safely in Trump Tower enjoying the "good life." He could have and most anyone else would have, but he did not stay in Trump Tower. Instead, he gave up all of that to save us from the swamp. He did not do it for the money because he donates his salary to the veterans. President Trump is not perfect, but his actions of sacrificing his life for us are Christ-like.

My dear conservatives, I don't know what is going to happen when these people get to our border, but remember one thing. President Trump did not ask for nor did he encourage the people of the caravan to come, but...he will have to deal with it when they get to the border, and I can guarantee you that no matter what he does, it will be wrong. It will be wrong according to the left, who I believe, are the ones ultimately behind this "big parade charade."









# Fundraising Fun

## NOVEMBER

### ANNIE GET YOUR GUN...OR NOT

Annie get your gun...or not. has room for six or more seats so if you haven't gotten your ticket the lunch meeting on November 12 will be the last chance. The actual event is scheduled for November 17, 2018. We will meet at the Lee County Gun range at 6570 Felix Romano Ave. Fort Myers, FL (out in Buckingham) at 9:00 a.m. Class is a few hours and then a boxed lunch and shooting after. If you want an concealed carry permit this class is the first step that must be taken. You do not need to shoot or apply for the permit but this promises to be a real fun outing so please join us.



## DECEMBER

### BASKET OF SPIRITS & WINE

The ticket sales are still ongoing for the huge basket of spirits and wine. Tickets are available from either myself or Board members. They are only five dollars for one or five for twenty, quite the bargain. The last chance to buy tickets will be at the dinner meeting on December 10 when the drawing will be held. There will be a few Christmas baskets to bid on also.



## APRIL 2019

### SPRING FASHION SHOW

We have confirmed that Razzle Dazzle will host the fashion show for us at the Forrest Golf and Country Club. The show is Monday, April 8 our normal meeting day. I do need models so if you are interested in wearing some fun clothes and helping us out just let me know. We will once again be asking for scarves, gently used jewelry and designer handbags for auction. Please just bring your items to one of the meetings.

I hope to see all of you at one or more of these fun events.

Blessings,

Kerri Tonkin  
1st Vice President  
LRWF Fundraising chair







*Americanism*  
By Erin Casey

**Ronna Romney McDaniel** is the current Chair of the Republican National Committee (RNC) and former Chair of the Michigan Republican Party. McDaniel is the granddaughter of two-term Michigan Governor and Nixon administration cabinet member George W. Romney and niece of former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney. McDaniel worked for SRCP Media as a production manager. She also worked for the production company Mills James as a business manager and as a manager at the staffing firm Ajilon, McDaniel worked in Michigan for her uncle Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign for President of the United States. She was elected Michigan's representative to the Republican National Committee (RNC) in 2014. In 2015, McDaniel ran for chairwoman of the Michigan Republican Party, receiving support from both the party establishment and Tea Party activists. During the 2016 U.S. presidential election, McDaniel served as a delegate to the 2016 Republican National Convention for Donald Trump. On December 14, 2016, McDaniel was chosen by then president-elect Trump as his recommendation to replace Priebus. She served as deputy chair before her formal election. She was officially elected as RNC chair on January 19, 2017, becoming the second woman to hold the post in RNC history, after Mary Louise Smith.



*Ronna Romney McDaniel*  
Chair of the RNC

*Visit the Republican Headquarters*



7050 Winkler Road. Suite 103

Ft. Myers 33919

**239-936-8779**

# Legislative UPDATE

By Lori Fayhee

If you have been watching the local news, you have seen that there is a war being waged on Lee County public schools and your vote can win them back and end the chaos for our children and our community. Some of the headlines have included School District audits uncovering mismanaged tax dollars; Overcrowded schools, while other schools are underpopulated; Mismanaged building and HVAC maintenance that have put our children and teachers in danger - leaving students and staff in overheated rooms, many with no windows, with no notice to parents.

Please be informed and inform your friends. Be sure to go to the bottom of your November ballot to vote for fiscally conservative School Board candidates.

Below is the published editorial of Representative Ray Rodrigues on the half-cent sales tax.

Good luck to all of our Republican Candidates in this election! We are looking forward to a continued strong Red Wave on election day!

## **Why I don't Support the School District's Half-cent Sales Tax**

*Ray Rodrigues, R-Estero, Florida State Representative for District 76*

On the bottom of the November 6 election ballot, you will find the referendum on whether to raise the sales tax in Lee County with the additional tax going to the Lee County School District (LCSD). I will vote against this referendum.

First, the LCSD is using incorrect population projections to justify the need for higher taxes. This is occurring in two ways: The LCSD has inflated its data by including charter school students, Gardiner Scholarship students, and Virtual School students. The LCSD does not spend anything from its capital budget to provide facilities for any of these students; therefore, they should not be asking for additional capital funds on their behalf.

The LCSD is using outdated student population projections. In her September 14, Op-Ed, school board member Jane Kuckel wrote, "The School District of Lee County is projected to grow between 1,500-2,000 students per year over the next 10 years. On July 24, the Florida Department of Education revised their projections of school growth and lowered the projected rate of growth. (<http://floridapolitics.com/archives/269744-school-enrollment-to-see-slow-down-in-2019-2020>). If you click on the official Department of Education report linked in the story, you will find that the Florida Department of Education's projections for Lee County are as much as 40% lower than the numbers the LCSD is claiming.

Second, the LCSD has a record of spending your tax dollars unwisely. For example, let's examine its last construction project, the Bonita High School. In her September 14, Op-Ed, Kuckel wrote, "The average statewide costs of a new high school is more than \$65 million." Yet, Lee County taxpayers paid over 30% more (\$85 million) for the just completed Bonita High School (OPPAGA Performance Audit of Lee County Schools, 8/28/18, p. 55).

And who can forget the Lee County School Board voting in June to give our superintendent a \$72,000 increase over the next 3 years? If we are in a fiscal crisis, why is the school board giving out substantial raises to administrators?

Finally, I oppose the tax increase because of the alarming results from the recent OPPAGA and Florida Auditor General audits.

The OPPAGA audit revealed that the LCSD has 882 acres of property, and only 143 acres are reserved for future schools. Kuckel wrote, "Last year, the district spent \$52 million in "mortgage" payments." The debt for these properties are included in that debt service. OPPAGA recommends that the LCSD sell the excess property (OPPAGA Performance Audit of Lee County Schools, 8/28/18, p.6).

Had the LSCD taken this step before asking for a tax increase, sales of the excess property could have reduced the amount of debt being serviced and provided a cash infusion from the sales. These funds and the money saved on debt service could have been used for maintenance and construction without reaching in your pocket for more tax dollars.

The most recent audit by the Florida Auditor General revealed the LCSD expended \$13 million of impact fee revenue for unauthorized purposes and recommended they repay those funds to the Capital budget (Florida Auditor General Report #2019-26, p. 3).

The Florida Auditor General also discovered the LCDS was expending ad valorem tax proceeds for unauthorized purposes and recommended they repay those expenditures to the LCI fund. (Florida Auditor General Report #2019-26, p.4).

With the district's record of mishandling and misappropriating our tax dollars and the misleading student population projections, I can't support this referendum. Until the Lee County School Board earns back our trust, we should not approve their tax increase.





### Republican volunteer saves woman from drowning at Early Voting location

Alan Lane was outside the Mid-County Library in Port Charlotte when a married couple got into their car. Having put the car into the wrong gear, the wife drove straight into the canal behind the library. Alan Lane was outside the library, holding signs for Ron Desantis and Rick Scott. He and 2 others immediately jumped into the water and Alan managed to pull the woman from the rapidly sinking car and swam to shore with the woman on his shoulder. Others rescued the husband.

**Kudos to Alan!**

# make America greater

## 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*



# TRUMP RALLY AT HERTZ ARENA





THE MONTH IN  
PICTURES



*Above from left to right is Kerri Tonkin, 1st VP with Anita Diamond, a long time member and Joan Clark, a new member and part of our Hospitality Committee.*

*To the left in the top row is Doris Cortese, LRWF President and Chris Berardi, Communications Director for Francis Rooney and Kathy McMichaels.*





*Amira Fox - Top Left*



*Cecil Pendergrass - Top Right*



*Donna Clarke - Center*

*Chris Berardi - Bottom Left*



*Spencer Roach - Bottom Left*





To the right is Lynn Carpenter and  
Mary Ann Hansen both great members  
really great people!



Guess who won the basket full of chocolates  
from Lizbeth!  
Our very own Marilyn Kostik!

CLICK ON THE CARD BELOW TO  
GO TO OUR PHOTO GALLERY!

**JOHN FERNANDEZ**  
P • H • O • T • O • G • R • A • P • H • Y



239.571.6293

john@johnfernandezphotography.net  
www.JohnFernandezPhotography.net





*Our public servants above from left to right...Spencer Roach, Lori Fayhee, Amira Fox and Cecil Pendergrass!*



*Doris Cortese, President of LRWF stands by as Mary Snyder introduces our newly elected board. Left to right are Kerri Tonkin, President elect, Lori Fayhee, 2nd VP elect, Amira Fox, 1st VP elect, Chris Wappes, Treasurer elect and Marilyn Kostik, Corresponding Secretary elect. Not pictured are Ruth Rodrigues, Recording Secretary elect and Roz Lesser, Assistant Treasurer elect. Congratulations Ladies!*