



South Brevard Democratic Women's Club

August 2012

President's
Message

ERA Update

Politics 2012

Super Mule

SBDWC
Boosters

The Democratic Women's Clubs of Brevard County will be hosting a **Candidate's Forum** to give our National, State and County level Democratic and nonpartisan school board candidates an opportunity to meet the public. There are 19-20 individuals who fall in these categories.

This event will take place **Saturday July 28th from 12:30-3:00 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza** Melbourne Oceanfront (2605 N Highway A1A, Indialantic, FL 32903) in their Ballroom and will be free and open to the public. The event will be followed by a closed reception to show our appreciation for our candidates. Candidates attending the reception will be our guests. Other individuals will be charged a \$20 fee for admittance to the reception. Finger foods, cake and a cash bar will be provided

Each candidate will be given time to speak followed by a question and answer session where the public can submit questions on 3 X 5 index cards.

Please attend this event and encourage your friends and family to attend with you. Call 321-773-2949 for information or to purchase your reception tickets.

Our **next meeting will be August 11 at 11:30 at Memaw's Restaurant in Indian Harbour Beach**. This is a week later than usual due to our State Convention in Tallahassee August 2nd-- 5th, and we will be discussing the events that will occur at the DWC Convention. August the 11 is also the night of our **Brevard DEC Banquet** and, if any of you want to attend that event, time is running out to get your tickets! Call 321-773-2949 asap!

I hope you managed to attend some of our recent events, because we have been very busy with the Region meeting in Sebastian, the Honor America July 4th Parade and Picnic, and the event for Shannon Roberts. I have recently represented the organization in Indian River at a kick off for Shannon, at the State DWC Executive Board meeting in Ocala and at the DWC meeting and JJ Dinner in Miami during the Jefferson Jackson Weekend meetings there. At these events I have attended meetings concerning our DWC by-laws, the Parent Trigger bill; the Amendments on the fall ballot; and the role of ALEC and the Koch Brothers in our current election. I have heard our Chair Rod Smith, Senator Bill Nelson, and Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz express their concerns over the huge amount of money Citizens United has allowed to be used in our election process, but there is a common thread in all of these events, and that thread is the fact that Democrats are determined to get out the vote and turn Florida Blue. It will take us all working to accomplish the task of sending Democrats to Washington and to Tallahassee, but our goal is to make this election a referendum on Rick Scott in Florida and a referendum on the attack against women across this nation.

At our State Executive Board meeting I suggested that the DWC should do something at our convention to support the Mayor's Resolution on Women and President Goen asked



Patricia Farley Crutcher
President

me to write such a resolution to present at the convention. The Resolution, which I prepared, is included in this newsletter.

Most of the people I know, if asked a few months before the last election, would have said Rick Scott was a crook and could not possibly get elected, but his money bought Florida last election cycle. Other Republicans and their deep pockets will try again this election to buy Florida. Senator Nelson is being pummeled with false TV ads with Republicans hoping his defeat will occur. We cannot let that happen.

Be vocal! Ask your co-workers, your neighbors and friends if they are registered. Every election we tell people and we hear comments about “this is the most important vote of your life”, but this election carries the fate of the middle class with it and the difference in philosophy in governing that will make a difference in how you and your family live, in your healthcare, and how the future of our democracy evolves. Let’s get to work.

Please read and share the information contained in this newsletter.

AFFIRMING FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT OF REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE

WHEREAS, Americans believe that women should be able to consult with their doctor, family, and faith about personal, private medical decisions; and

WHEREAS, states enacted twice as many anti-choice laws in 2011 as they did in the previous year, including laws that force women who choose abortion care to undergo a forced ultrasound procedure against their will and even if their doctors do not recommend one; and

WHEREAS, eight states since 2010 have enacted laws that ban abortion at 20 weeks, regardless of the women’s situation, without exceptions to protect her health, and in violation of the right to privacy guaranteed under Roe v. Wade; and

WHEREAS, women’s access to basic health care services, such as contraception, cancer screenings and breast exams provided by Planned Parenthood which are essential in reducing the rate of unintended pregnancies and for early cancer diagnosing, has become an issue for debate in our Congress and state legislatures;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc. affirms the importance of women’s reproductive rights; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Democratic Women’s Club of Florida, Inc. urges Congress and the Florida Legislature to pursue a positive agenda that reaffirms and improves women’s fundamental rights and access to safe and comprehensive reproductive-health care.

Submitted by the South Brevard Democratic Women’s Club



ERA Committee – Each month the Legislative Liaisons from each DWCF Club have been participating in a teleconference with each other led by DWCF Chair Maureen McKenna. I asked to have ERA placed on the agenda and suggested we come up with a plan to flood Tallahassee during this year’s legislative session. The responses were more enthusiastic than I anticipated. Several clubs said they lived too far to send representatives to Tallahassee but wanted to work towards ERA in their area. We discussed working on such roadblocks.



Milly Krause
Vice President

The following are some of the ideas I received during and following the meeting.

---Use Social Media with Good Messaging – DWCF approval would be required.

---Train Members on how to Advocate Locally & Statewide

---Provide Handouts & Speakers for the 2013 Tally Days

---Create a List of Key Committee Members & Flood Them with Communications

The first meeting of our SBDWC ERA Committee will be the week following our August 11th Meeting. I’d like to meet briefly after that meeting with those who would like to be on the committee so we can agree on a meeting time and day of the week.

Cheers to Moving Forward with ERA.

Our SBDWC on the Fourth of July!



Scheduled Events



July 28th
Candidate Forum
 12:30-3:00p.m.
 (Reception)
Crowne Plaza
MelbourneOcean-
front

2605 N Highway
 A1A, Indialantic,



August 2-5
 DWC of FL, Inc
State Convention
 Four Points Sheraton
 Tallahassee, FL



Next Meeting
 August 11
 MeMaw's Barbecue
 11:30
 Indian Harbour Beach



2012 Ballot Amendment Positions – Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida

Amendment	How should I vote?	What will the Amendment do?
#1 Florida "repeal" of the Affordable Health Care Act	NO	ALEC MODEL - May be moot after summer Supreme Court ruling, probably in June. Republicans are fighting the mandate.
#2 Property tax break for disabled veterans	NEUTRAL (with statement) Constitution is not the place to make tax policy	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) Reduces revenue for needed public services, which will possibly hurt veterans more than this tax break will help. This amendment aids veterans with disabilities who were not Florida residents at the time they joined the military.
#3 TABOR – Imposes stricter formula for determining revenue caps	NO	ALEC MODEL - Would impose severe cuts to public services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TABOR has been a failed experiment in Colorado where it was passed in 1992, forcing drastic cuts in K-12 and higher education funding. This formula is insufficient to fund the ongoing cost of government. By creating a permanent revenue shortage, TABOR pits state programs and services against each other for survival each year and virtually rules out any new initiatives to address unmet or emerging needs. Ties hands of legislators and makes it difficult to respond to emergency and unexpected situations, such as hurricanes, floods, recessions, etc. Will devastate local governments, "strangles local government" Will force lay-offs (more unemployment) Remember, "Bad Wolf Colorado (BAD) makes tough times tougher, WOLF: Wolf in sheep's clothing. COLORADO: failed experiment) "PICO
#4 Property Tax Limitation	NO	NO ALEC MODEL FOUND Opposed by county and municipal governments because it would reduce revenue for needed services. Being pushed by developers and builders. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would change taxable rate on non-home-steaded property (commercial and 2nd homes) Would prevent increases in assessments of homesteaded properties Would hurt public school funding by limiting property tax revenue Would transfer tax burden from commercial owners to residential owners Would put limits on local government revenues into the Constitution DON'T FALL FOR "TAX YOUR ASSETS" CAMPAIGN
#5 State Courts	NO	ALEC MODEL - This legislation serves to intimidate judges and to dangerously politicize the court system. The courts are there to protect people, and their independence must be protected. Takes away checks and balances. Would alter the balance of power by giving the legislature confirmation authority over judges. Would open confidential information on judges to legislature. Would allow legislature to repeal procedural rules of the courts with only 50%+1 instead of 2/3.

2012 Ballot Amendment Positions – Democratic Progressive Caucus of Florida

#6 Prohibition on Public Funding of Abortions; Construction of Abortion Rights	NO	From ALEC's "sister" organization, Americans United for Life. Like ALEC, AUIL is a legislative bill factory, but it is focused solely on women's issues. Should Roe v. Wade be overturned, this amendment would prevent Florida from continuing to permit abortions, based on current privacy protections. Would allow Rick Scott and Tallahassee politicians to interfere in personal healthcare decision-making between a woman and her doctor. Allows less privacy for women than men. Would take parents out of the decision-making process with their daughter's healthcare access. Unfairly targets public employees (teachers, first responders).
#7 (Now Amendment #8)		
#8 Repeal of Public Funding for Religious Institutions	NO	ALEC MODEL – Repeals a 126-year-old separation of church and state law, which prevents taxpayer dollars from funding religious organizations in promoting their religion. This is religious funding, not religious freedom. Religious Welfare. The door only swings one way with money going to religious groups who don't pay into the system. This would repeal the provision that previously prevented school vouchers from going to religious schools. Perfect opportunity for fraud because any group could claim religious status to claim funding.
#9 Surviving Military Spouses Tax Break	NEUTRAL (with statement) Constitution is not the place to make tax policy	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) Reduces revenue for needed public services, which will harm spouses more than proposed benefits. Would put limits on local government revenues into the Constitution.
#10 Tax Exemption for Tangible Personal Property	NO	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) This is a tax break for the wealthier and large corporations, not small business owners. It further devastates budgets and decreases public services during already bad times. These budget cuts overwhelmingly harm our most vulnerable citizens (elderly, children, poor, veterans).
#11 Tax Exemption for Certain Low-Income Seniors	NEUTRAL (with statement) Constitution is not the place to make tax policy	ALEC-RELATED (supports their goal of permanent tax policies) An attempt to authorize cities and counties to grant full homestead property tax relief to certain low-income seniors who have lived in their home for at least 25 years. Programs benefitting seniors would be hurt by revenue cuts. For the first time, we are close to having more seniors on wait-lists than receiving services.
#12 Student Body Reps	YES	NOT RELATED TO ALEC – This bill will create a more democratic process than previous way of selecting the student representative to Board of Governors. It creates a new association of student government presidents from all public universities, which will then elect a representative to the BOG. The current association from which the student rep is chosen charges dues, therefore creating a financial barrier to membership.

Retention of Judges Lewis, Pariente, Quince	YES	The Republicans are leading an effort to defeat the retention of these judges as retaliation for judicial decisions against GOP leadership.
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MCCAIN'S EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF MITT ROMNEY IS CURRENTLY CIRCULATING ON INTERNET AND NEEDS TO BE MADE WIDELY KNOWN.

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/78582788/McCain-2008-Oppo-File>

I STRONGLY SUGGEST YOU READ THE ENTIRE REPORT ON ROMNEY BUSINESS ISSUES EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Romney spent most of his business career as CEO of private equity firm Bain Capital – as of June 2007 he maintained an investor's stake in the company.

Bain Capital has been criticized for relentless focus on bottom line at expense of workers and jobs.

Romney describes himself as a "business legend" in his campaign ads and once said of himself: "I'm basically in the investor's Hall of Fame."

Bain Capital and Bain & Co. employees donated at least \$171,000 to Romney's presidential campaign in Q12007 and gave tens of thousands more in support of his previous political activities.

Bain Capital financed 1988 buyout with junk bonds issued by Drexel Burnham – when SEC filed charges against the firm and CEO Michael Milken, Bain Capital maintained their business relationship; Romney later reminisced about "the glorious days of Drexel Burnham."

In 2004, Bain & Co. received a multi-million dollar contract from the National Iranian Oil Company.

Romney sat on board of directors of Bain portfolio company Damon Clinical Laboratories, which in 1996 was fined over \$100 million for Medicare fraud committed during Romney's tenure.

Bain Capital owned company named Ampad that purchased an Indiana paper plant, fired its workers and offered to bring them back at drastically reduced salary and benefits – the firings became an issue in the 1994 Senate race when workers blamed Romney for their situation and appeared in Kennedy campaign ads.

After Romney became governor, Bain Capital teamed up with Chinese appliance maker Haier Group in 2005 in effort to purchase Newton, IA-based Maytag Corp. and send jobs overseas.

At least two Bain Capital companies – Stream International and Modus Media – focused on outsourced technical support services, expanding facilities abroad while contracting operations in the United States.

Bain Capital operated steel company called GS Industries which went bankrupt in 2001 after years of labor strife, closing a plant in Kansas City and laying off over 700 workers.



SBDWC members Patty, Madeline and Kelly and Brevard DEC members Beth, Bill, Marshall and Ray at the JJ Dinner in Hollywood



Super Mule

"The Obamacare ruling makes Roberts the first Republican to favor an insurance law with an individual mandate since, well, Mitt Romney." –Jay Leno

"People will now have to have health insurance. The same way every driver in California has car insurance." –Jay Leno

In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court ruled President Obama's healthcare mandate is constitutional. This is a major victory for President Obama, who spent three years promoting it, and a major setback for Mitt Romney, who spent three years creating it." –Jay Leno

Now, right now, the smart money for VP is on Florida Senator Marco Rubio, who you may recognize as the brother of the bride of every wedding you've ever been to. But Senator Rubio has intelligence, experience, and honesty issues. Or what pundits call 'the full Palin.'" –Bill Maher

"Now, many Republicans of course want Naugahyde beanbag chair and New Jersey Governor Chris Christie as Mitt's second in command. And it's hard to look at him and not think, number two." –Bill Maher

"And then there's Congressman Paul Ryan. On the plus side, he has piercing blue bedroom eyes. On the minus side, he's a heartless smirking bastard, and the only people who can stand him are heartless smirking bastards. And Mitt, you already have that vote locked up." –Bill Maher

"Of course, there's always Tim Pawlenty. He almost makes Mitt Romney look interesting, in the way that a blank sheet of paper makes a sheet of paper with a smudge on it look interesting." –Bill Maher

"So Mitt, if you are serious about winning, you have to think outside the box. what about, hear me out, Romney-Zimmerman 2012? It's unorthodox, but who better than George Zimmerman to personify your campaign theme of, 'I think the black guy's up to no good.'" –Bill Maher

The Tea Party is furious. They say this is a slippery slope to dental care." –Bill Maher

"Mitt Romney came out and said, 'It is bad policy, it is bad law, I must have been drunk when I came up with it.'" –Bill Maher

They shouldn't be so sad, the Supreme Court also had a ruling this week that was somewhat in their favor. In the Arizona immigration case they did rule that the police can consider you suspicious down there if you have significant difficulty communicating in English. Who knew George Bush was an alien." –Bill Maher

Mitt Romney's campaign raised \$35 million more than President Obama for the month of June. Out of force of habit, Mitt stashed it all in the Cayman Islands." –Jay Leno

"Tomorrow the House of Representatives will vote for the 30th time on healthcare. For the 30th time they'll vote it down again. Who says these guys aren't doing stuff, huh?" –David Letterman

"In a new interview, Mitt Romney said he doesn't know where his financial records are because he doesn't manage them. Yeah, he would have said more, but he had to give a speech on why he's the perfect guy to fix the economy." –Jimmy Fallon

There's now a big controversy after a liberal group made a video saying Mitt Romney is too white for black people. Too white for black people? Mitt is too white for white people." –Jay Leno

"An awkward moment for Mitt Romney today in Colorado. A homeless guy asked him for a dollar, but all he had was Swiss Francs" –Jay Leno

Mitt Romney gave a speech at the annual NAACP conference in Houston. Why, I don't know. Maybe he confused NAACP with NASCAR." –Jimmy Kimmel



SBDWC Boosters

- Janie Holman
- Geraldine Kapushy
- Cathy Stanton
- Madeline Farley
- Alan Jotkoff
- Pat Jotkoff
- Laura Fausone
- Joe Pishgar
- Eileen Manning
- Bea Gillespie
- Maggie Gula
- Leonia Francis
- Artney Turner
- Jackolyn Lombardo
- Vicki Impoco
- Jane Feldman
- www.hodadpix.com
- Bessie Barnes
- Terry Sanders
- Milly Krause

1918	77%
1921	73%
1923	56%
1924	46%
1925	28%
1929	24%
GREAT DEPRESSION	
1945	94%
1955	91%
1965	70%
1975	70%
1980	70%
1982	50%
1987	38%
1993	38%
2003	35%
2008	GREAT RECESSION
2011	"Effective" Tax Rate . . . 17% and still declining!
2012	GREAT RECESSION II?

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Our sincere Thoughts and Prayers are extended to all the US troops stationed in Afghanistan, around the world and also to their families everywhere.

We pray for the safe return of the troops, a speedy end to the war and the wisdom of our leaders to guide us in this conflict.

