

In Case You Missed It...
by Gary Phillips
Republican Club of Solivita
9/16/2026

Peter announced that Gary Phillips will again be coordinating the **Election Day Tent Coverage (11/3)** where we will present education material to voters, a small bottle of water and light snack (candy ??). We would like to have 4 man teams every 2 hour shift. Shifts available are: Contact Gary at phillips251@yahoo.com with your availability. Thank you in advance for stepping up.

6-9 AM Peter (set up)
9-11
11-7
1-3
3-5 Gary (tear down after)

If you can't cover a shift please make sure to stop by even to just say Hi! We want to show a lot of activity at our tent when we sweep the mid-terms.

Election Day is 11/3 and early voting Oct 19 to 31.

Featured Speaker was Supervisor of Elections Melony Bell



Melony arrived with her chief of staff Nathan. Melony told the audience that 400k registered voters in Polk Co but only 90k voted, (< 25%).

A high school student designed the tag we wear after we vote that says I voted. Its one way to get younger non-voters interested in the process before they can legally vote.

Melony informed the audience also that she has a mobile registration unit that travels to events to do registrations. She recently updated her Website to a more friendly and informative format, she encourages everyone to check it out (Polk Co Supervisor of Elections).

The use of Government issued ID:" can't vote without it. And she told of a German individual for the past 20 years, here on a visa (non-US citizen) was allowed to vote. She has tightened up those loop-holes to remove visa holding individuals from voting in American elections.

In a gentle reminder the Election for midterms is 11/3 and early voting is Oct 19-31. Bring your Florida state issued ID!

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Florida State Senator, Colleen Burton and Florida Representative Jon Albert Tag teamed a presentation to the audience. Colleen is termed out after this election and Jon is beginning his second term.



Colleen 's advice, if you request a mail in ballot, fill it out quickly and mail it back so that it is received and counted before it is not counted.

Jon gave a bit of biography, he is the former mayor of Frostproof and Marine Veteran. He is in his first term running for his second.

Colleen talked about Health Care in Polk County, to make sure the agency with your loved one is doing something with them (fraud suspect or finding their way) make sure it is standardized care. Also dollars follow these new agencies make sure they are offering education choices. The bottom line is get involved with the care plans of your loved ones to ensure the agencies are doing what they are supposed to do.

Jon told group his interest in in infra-structure and growth. The current speaker of the Florid House is Sam Garrison and the Majority leader of the Senate is Albritton.

The audience asked a few questions:

Here is Jim Guth, addressing one of our congress representatives on a point of concern.



This fall we will be faced with Amendment 3. (If it passes, some county services could be cut, sheriff and fire and rescue are essential services and are sacrosanct and untouchable. In 2027, if A-3 passes, budgets to some services will be cut and an alternative revenue source will be explored. The bottom line is essential services will not be affected.

Colleen pointed out that Budget and tax reform comes up every 20 years and the next event... is wait for it....2027. Coincidentally Florida will have a state sponsored commission review its state of Property Taxes in Florida.

Answer to Jim Guth's question regarding Amendment 3 was, what was available to offset the loss by the exemption being larger....the answer increased local government taxes, sales tax, raise property tax mill levy are just a few. These tax tinkering tactics should be capped so as to not become an immediate burden to citizens.

Colleen and Jon both affirmed that Florida is on solid financial ground, even with the future unknown, citizens are anxious but we are solid financially.

Meeting began at 5:15 PM and ended at 7:38 PM

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