









James Washington- President- jmwashin@gmail.com
Margaret St. James- Vice President- svcalcutta@hotmail.com
Kristine Hires- Treasurer- kmmmhires@yahoo.com
Jeffra Flaitz- Secretary- jeffra.flaitz@gmail.com
Michael Ledbetter- Board Member- mal0649@aol.com
Brian Staver- Board Member- brianstaver123@gmail.com
Glen Thompson- Board Member- bookbollard@icloud.com

July 4, 2024

Greetings, Members:






I hope this letter finds you well. Because we are in the midst of our summer break, and we will not potentially meet as a group until next month, I wanted to reach out to you about several updates. I hope you will take a moment to review the information below. As a reminder, members are invited to attend our Board of Directors meeting on Zoom 7/23 at 3:00 PM; our next hybrid monthly meeting will be on 8/19 at 6:30 PM.

Reminders:

-  If you have not already done so, please sign up for Vote-By-Mail at your earliest convenience. The link to submit your application is provided [here](#). You can submit your application in person as well. While on the Supervisor of Elections' website, it might be a good idea to check your [voting status](#) and [update your signature](#) prior to the primaries next month.
-  We still have vacant Board member positions. For those interested in this position, here is a list of responsibilities and expectations: attend monthly Board of Directors meetings (on Zoom), attend monthly general membership meetings (in person or on Zoom on the 3rd Monday of each month beginning the day you are elected), and vote in these meetings, when applicable. If you are interested, please reach out to any of the Board members listed above.
-  Does your community send out a local newsletter or newspaper (printed or emailed) that we can use to advertise our events? We currently contact the following: *Tampa Bay Times*, *Wesley Chapel Neighborhood News*, *Wesley Chapel Community*, *The Laker*, *BayNews9*, and the *RKR Riley Newsletter*. We would love to reach more potential members. This goes for community social media accounts, too. We have a growing [Facebook](#) page, as well as an active [website](#) that is being completely updated and will go live within days. Please let us know if there are any other resources we should contact.
-  The following committees within the Club need more members: Political Action (Washington), Community Outreach (Staver), Speakers (St. James), Social/Fundraising (Hires), and Voter Registration Outreach (Blount). Most committees meet less than once a month, and many meet via Zoom. Please contact the Chair (in parentheses) for more details. Some upcoming events (see below) need help with planning and coordinating.
-  As the election season gets into full swing, our monthly meetings will focus on helping local and statewide candidates win important seats. At the August general membership meeting, we will be training for phone banking as well as reviewing our focus on postcard writing and voter registration. Between now and November, we will bring in local candidates to speak with you. If there are any specific candidates you wish to hear from, please let me know; you can email those suggestions.
-  Speaking of local races, I have streamlined the candidate recommendations that were passed out at the last Club meeting. Once again, these are recommendations only. As always, we encourage our members to vote for Democratic candidates when possible. Please note, some of these races will be determined in the August primaries because no Democrat is in the race. The updated list can be found as an attachment to this letter.

Now, to address the literal elephant in the room... The recent decisions by the Supreme Court have pushed our Democracy to the edge of a cliff. The overturning of *Roe v. Wade* two years ago was only the beginning. The striking

down of Chevron Deference and the most recent decision to insulate a sitting President from criminal liability push us away from the Democratic ideals on which our country was founded. It is more important than ever that we do not lose focus, and most importantly HOPE, and protect our Democracy by electing officials who will fight for Equality, Justice, Living Wages, the Environment, and Education. We must fight to elect officials who work for the betterment of society by protecting Social Security, increasing access to healthcare and insurance, and who allow women to make their own decisions about their bodies and allow citizens to love who they love. I encourage all of you to read up on Project 2025. Many of the items outlined in the blueprint are already in motion. Failure to hold the White House and control of Congress will lead to even more decisions and laws that strip away our fundamental rights and freedoms. Here are a few links that provide insight on Project 2025. If you have found others, please share them using the emails listed in the letterhead.

-  <https://www.democracydocket.com/analysis/what-is-project-2025-and-why-is-it-alarming/>
-  <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jeffraikes/2024/07/01/project-2025-is-a-blueprint-for-business-disaster/>
-  <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=351816844151480>
-  <https://www.tiktok.com/@briantylercohen/video/7379725966966394155?q=project%202025%20explained&t=1720015710706>
-  https://www.tiktok.com/@heathersmoistnewlungs/video/7386926453683801374? r=1& t=8nh4iByuwAs&fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTEAAROCdnadSkQWtLNKHqeD6Q1GTNSXcHtXISBem9QxEMi2HwFidLoM2qGaBV8_aem_cXfZjgYl_JIMM_Owf0mGQ

Calendar of Upcoming Events: (to be updated as events are scheduled)

July

23rd EPDC Board of Directors meeting via Zoom- 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM

August

4th Meet local candidates at Uptown Creamery in Zhills- 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM (this is not an EPDC event)

12th Pasco County Schools students return, staff return 8/5

13th EPDC Board of Directors meeting- ZOOM 3:00 PM – 5:30 PM

19th EPDC General Membership meeting- ZOOM/in person at Genesis Center- 6:30 PM - 8:30PM

20th Primary Election Day

Various committee meetings TBD

September

10th EPDC Board of Directors meeting- ZOOM 3:00 PM -5:30 PM

16th EPDC General Membership meeting- ZOOM/in person at Genesis Center- 6:30- 8:30PM

Various committee meetings TBD

October

7th EPDC “MISSION POSSIBLE” Speaker event- Genesis Center TBD (FUNDRAISER, FEES INVOLVED)

15th EPDC Board of Directors meeting- ZOOM 3:00 PM -5:30 PM

21st EPDC General Membership meeting- ZOOM/in person at Genesis Center- 6:30 PM - 8:30PM

Various committee meetings TBD

Trunk or Treat TBD

November

10th Election Day

12th EPDC Board of Directors meeting- ZOOM 3:00 PM -5:30 PM

18th EPDC General Membership meeting- ZOOM/in person at Genesis Center- 6:30 PM- 8:30 PM

Zephyrhills Harvest Festival TBD

Various committee meetings TBD

Thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve as your president.



James Washington, President of EPDC