



DEFEND FLORIDA NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 10, 2024

Guest Speaker: Michael Alarcon

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There will be two special elections in Florida this year to replace Congressmen Matt Gaetz (Florida House District 1) and Mike Waltz (Florida House District 6) who were chosen by President Trump to be part of his administration. Early voting begins December 18-24, 2024. Special Primary Election Day is January 28th, 2025. The General election will be April 1, 2025.

The advantage to a shortened campaign period is that candidates don't need to raise as much money to fund their campaigns. The disadvantage is that voter turnout is generally low. In situations like this, the Democrats go into over-drive to get out their voters. This could put these two red districts in jeopardy. For instance, in Sarasota County's 2024 Florida Primary, Democrats out voted Republicans 42% to 35%. This affected our school board elections causing the loss of a good conservative school board member to a liberal Democrat.

Currently, 10 people plus a Democrat, an Independent and some write in candidates are running for Matt Gaetz's District 1 seat. Susie Wiles, President Trump's Chief of Staff, announced a Trump endorsement for Jimmy Petronis after Petronis made a large donation to the President. Susie vets candidates that request Trump endorsements. She has had a few stinkers recently and Defend Florida thinks this is one. Petronis is a Tallahassee establishment candidate. He does not live in District 1 which

consists of Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties as well as the western portion of Walton County. This is legal according to the Florida Constitution. If you live in any of these counties help us get out the vote for the special election.

Petronis was a no show at a recent republican forum stating that he didn't need to be there because he already had Trump's endorsement. Diane Warner, a Defend Florida volunteer, is endorsing former Florida State Representative Dr. Joel Rudman. He is a constitutionalist who asked for Diane's help in writing HB 359, an election integrity bill in 2024. Rudman co-sponsored the bill with Representative Berny Jacques. Dr. Rudman wants to do away with VR systems and fought hard for medical freedom. He was awarded the Representative of the Year from the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida.

There are 9 candidates running for Representative Mike Waltz's FL District 6 Congressional seat. District 6 consists of southern St. Johns, Flagler, Putnam, a portion of Volusia, a portion of Lake and a portion of Marion counties.

President Trump endorsed Randy Fine whose confrontational style and personal attacks against political rivals are viewed by some in the party to be detrimental to his effectiveness as a

lawmaker. He's another Susie Wiles establishment pick.

A candidate to consider is America First candidate Aaron Baker. Aaron's issues include ending funding all foreign wars. Aaron supports deregulation and reducing energy costs to alleviate financial burdens on families. He wants to abolish the Department of Education and expand vocational training. His website is www.aaron4florida.com.

GUEST SPEAKER: MICHAEL ALARCON

Michael recently spoke at the Rally 4 Our Lives event in Venice, Florida. New to Florida, Michael is a grass roots guy and networker/lobbyist. He's new to politics and a recruiter and business developer. He said Democrats march in step like a band. Republicans don't. We need to convince Republicans to get on board to have success.

He has a Christian recruiting firm that finds and vets conservative Christian candidates. His passion is life. He worked hard to defeat Florida Amendment 4. Several states had similar amendments, but Florida was the only state to defeat it. However, the Democrats will not give up. Our work is cut out for us as 57% of Floridians approve of the amendment. Three percent more support and it would have passed. We need to educate the public to increase support against Amendment 4.

Michael voiced his support for Defend Florida. He has a national connector website at <https://www.solrcc.com>. He works with groups like www.myfloridavotes.com, The Sound of Freedom, The Passion, and www.myfaithvotes.org. He created faithful citizen groups in Colorado and stated the need to mobilize our church communities of which 40% don't vote. Michael helps get Christians elected to school boards and library boards. Churches can advocate for different causes. Planned Parenthood spent \$110 million to support Amendment 4. We need the support of our churches to continue to keep amendment 4 from passing in the future.

FLORIDA LEGISLATIVE SESSION 2025:

Defend Florida volunteer lobbyists are planning on visiting Tallahassee in January. No matter where you live, legislators are deciding what bills they'll support in the 2025 legislative session. Even if you don't have a bill to present, let your legislators know your desires. It's not your job to write the bills. It's theirs. Ask them to advocate for you on your topic. We need sponsors for our 5 election integrity bills. The process for submitting a bill goes as follows:

- A bill is written.
- The bill gets a sponsor who submits it to the appropriate committee.
- The bill is read in the committee.
- If there aren't enough votes to pass the bill out of committee, it dies.
- If the bill makes it out of committee, it goes to the floor and it's voted up or down.
- The bill becomes law with a majority vote.

Florida legislators have a limited number of bills they can sponsor. Therefore, it is imperative to get our bills sponsored early. We learned this valuable lesson last year when we were too late and the number of legislators with open slots was minimal. Defend Florida lobbyists have already made one trip to Tallahassee in December. Our next excursion will be in early January. In the meantime, we will be setting up appointments at their local offices.

Another fact we learned last year is that our bills will go nowhere unless the House and Senate leadership are on board. If you have a relationship with Senator Albritton or Representative Perez please contact Raj Dorisamy at DefendFlorida.com. If you live in their district, call them to set up an appointment. Defend will help train you for a successful meeting. Senator Albritton's District 27 encompasses southern Polk, Hardee, DeSoto, Charlotte and the northern tip of Lee County. Representative Perez's District 116 includes Miami Dade County.

All the information you need for a successful meeting can be found at www.DefendFlorida.org/preparation. Sample scripts are also available there to use when talking with your legislators. Use them as a guide and add your own language.

Don't get discouraged if you can't get through to your representatives. KEEP CALLING. Leave messages. Don't be bashful. Remember, the squeaky wheel gets the grease. Legislators and their aides work for you. Be polite and professional even though you may be super frustrated. When you get a meeting, go with a group. Have no more than two presenters plus one person taking notes on body language. If they agree with you, ask them "What's your plan?" If they don't have an answer, you know they are just giving you lip service.

FLORIDA MYTH – WE'RE THE GOLD STANDARD FOR ELECTION INTEGRITY

Florida counted more votes than people who voted as per the Florida Department of Elections state data.

Again, go to www.DefendFlorida.org/preparation. Scroll down to "Bonus Training" at the bottom of the page. Click on "Is Florida Really the Gold Standard". Emails and phone scripts are posted there. A scorecard, provided by United Sovereign Americans, is available that shows the establishment electors and the nay sayers. Their website is www.unite4freedom.com.

THIS WILL BLOW YOUR MIND!

On the Defend Preparation page, click on the two links using perplexity.AI following "Is Florida Really the Gold Standard". You will learn about the glaring conflicts of interest companies that print ballots have and how one of them is run by donors of a particular political party. One of our lobbyists showed that to a legislator and they were blown away.

A LITTLE HOUSEKEEPING:

There will be no Tuesday night call on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

During that time, enjoy connecting with family and friends. For those of you that are Christians, remember to celebrate the most precious gift...our Lord and Savior. May God bless you, your family and may God bless America.

STAY CONNECTED

Register for the Tuesday calls at www.DefendFlorida.org. Miss a Tuesday call? Connect at www.DefendFlorida.org.p2.

Get ready to join the Tallahassee train. More information to follow in the next newsletter.

Merry Christmas!

