

2005 STATE CONFERENCE



On The Path to Victory



December 9-11, 2005
Disney's Contemporary Resort

FDP

FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY

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Fellow Democrats:

Welcome to the 2005 Florida Democratic Conference!


Election Day 2006 is right around the corner and there has never been a more important time to be a Florida Democrat.

Right now, our nation and our state stand at an important intersection. Are we going to allow the failed and extremist policies of President Bush, Senator Mel Martinez, Congressman Clay Shaw and the Republican Party to continue placing our nation's long term future at risk, or are we going to choose a new positive direction built on trust and the hopes and security of every American family?

The choice is up to us. By working hard every day to re-elect our fine United States Senator Bill Nelson, we have the power to create an America where every American has the opportunity to achieve greatness, and by fighting together, we can elect a Governor and cabinet who will ensure that Florida lives up to her destiny.

The fact that you are here this weekend is a testament that you are ready to join me in this cause. So, let's have a good time this weekend and leave this magical place renewed and ready to change our country's future.

Sincerely,


Congresswoman Karen Thurman
Chair, Florida Democratic Party

Schedule of Events

Friday, December 9th

2:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Delegate Registration

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. County Chairs' Meeting (Pacific)

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. FDP Chair's Welcome Reception
(Ballroom of the Americas)
The. Hon. Karen Thurman,
Florida State Party Chair
Howard Dean,
DNC Chair
Steny Hoyer,
House Democratic Whip

Saturday, December 10th

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Delegate Registration

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast (B.R. of the Americas)
Tom Vilsack, *Governor of Iowa*

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. General Session (Fantasia G,H,J)

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Lunch (B.R. of the Americas)
John Edwards, *US Senator*

2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. General Session (Fantasia G,H,J)

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Training Sessions
Earned Media Communication
Voter File Training
Small Donor Fundraising
Financial Compliance
Absentee Ballot & Early Voting

8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Dinner (Fantasia G,H,J)
Barack Obama, *U.S. Senator*

Sunday, December 11

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Brunch
(Ballroom of the Americas)
Mark Warner, *Governor of Virginia*

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Caucus Meetings
African American Caucus
Caribbean Caucus
Disability Caucus
GLBT Caucus
Hispanic Caucus
Labor Caucus
Small County Coalition
Women's Club
Florida Young Democrats

12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. State Executive Committee Mtg.
Golden Gavel Certificates
(B.R. of the Americas)

Karen L. Thurman

It was in her hometown of Dunnellon, Florida that Congresswoman Thurman became involved in public service. While working as a math teacher at Dunnellon Middle School, her students encouraged her to run for a vacant seat on the Dunnellon City Council. She won that race and went on to serve seven years on the Council, including two terms as mayor.

In 1982, at the age of 31, Thurman was elected the Florida State Senate, later serving as Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

In 1992, Karen Thurman was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In Congress, Thurman was known as a tireless advocate for improving access to quality health care for all Americans and greater tax relief for working families.

While a Member of Congress, Thurman became only the sixth woman to serve on the House Ways and Means Committee. During her tenure on Ways and Means, she led the fight to change the federal funding formulas that shortchanged Florida's seniors, veterans, and poorest residents. In addition, Thurman also served on the House Agriculture Committee and the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

In 1997, The University of Florida named her one of its 47 Most Outstanding Women graduates to recognize her advocacy on behalf of higher education, a tribute she highly values.

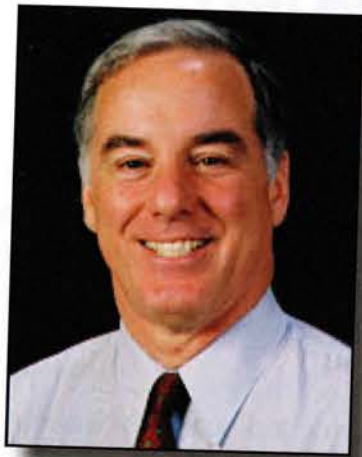
In May, 2005, Congresswoman Thurman was elected Chair of the Florida Democratic Party. There she serves with dedication and distinction in order to ensure the election of Democratic candidates throughout the great state of Florida.

Luis Navarro

Luis Navarro is both the Executive Director and Coordinated Campaign Director for the Florida Democratic Party. Before joining the party in the summer of 2005, Navarro served as National Political Director for the Service Employees International Union and the John Kerry for President Campaign through the Iowa caucuses, before directing the western regional operations for America Coming Together (ACT) in 2004.

Luis began his career managing Maryland House Speaker Michael Busch's first general election campaign for the House of Delegates and working in southern politics through unions and state parties. He was the Southeast Campaign Coordinator for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee before serving as Congressman Al Wynn's first Chief of Staff from 1993-1995. He went onto serve as a Senior Campaign and/or Congressional Aide to former House Democratic leaders Tom Foley and Vic Fazio as well as Director of the Regional Desks for the Democratic National Committee from 1997-1999.

Luis has been an instructor for 21st Century Democrats, Democracy for America and Camp Wellstone trainings and currently sits on the boards of 21st Century Democrats, the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center and Democratic GAIN. He was named a Rising Star of 2000 by Campaign and Elections Magazine.



Howard Dean

Chair's Welcome Reception

As Chairman of the Democratic National Committee, Gov. Howard Dean is making the Democratic Party competitive in every race, in every district, in every state and territory, while integrating national and state party operations and standing up for our Democratic core values.

Dean began his political career in the early 1980's as the Chittenden County (Vermont) Democratic Party Chair. In 1983, Dean was elected to the Vermont House of Representatives. He was then elected lieutenant Governor in 1986 and was re-elected in 1988 and 1990. He became Vermont's Governor upon the death of Governor Richard A. Snelling on August 14, 1991.

Elected to a full term in November 1992, Governor Dean was re-elected four more times and created a record based on fiscally conservative principles that promoted equality and opportunity for all the citizens of Vermont.

Governor Dean's successes prompted *Governing* magazine to proclaim him "Public Official of the Year" in 2002. Dean's leadership roles also include turns as Chairman of the National Governors' Association, the Democratic Governors' Association, and the New England Governors' Conference.

Before entering politics, Dean received a medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City in 1978. Upon completing his residency at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, he went on to practice internal medicine in Shelburne, Vermont. He is married to Dr. Judy Steinberg and they have two children, Anne and Paul.



John Edwards

Featured Lunch Speaker

John Edwards was born in Seneca, South Carolina and raised in Robbins, North Carolina. There John learned the values of hard work and perseverance from his father, Wallace, who worked in the textile mills for 36 years, and from his mother, Bobbie, who ran a shop and worked at the post office.

John became the first person in his family to attend college. He worked his way through North Carolina State University where he graduated with high honors in 1974, and then earned a law degree with honors in 1977 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

For the next 20 years, John dedicated his career to representing families and children just like the families he grew up with in Robbins. In 1998, John was elected to the United States Senate.

In Congress, Senator Edwards emerged as a champion for quality health care, better schools, protecting civil liberties, preserving the environment, saving Social Security and Medicare, and reforming the way campaigns are financed. As a member of the Select Committee on Intelligence, Senator Edwards worked tirelessly for a strong national defense and to strengthen the security of our homeland.

Senator Edwards brought a positive message of change to the 2004 presidential primaries. After the Democratic primaries, Senator John Kerry picked Senator Edwards to serve as his running mate in the 2004 general election, where he campaigned tirelessly on Senator Kerry's behalf.

Today, he is the Director of the Center on Poverty, Work, and Opportunity at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Senator Edwards and his wife, Elizabeth, were married in 1977. They have had four children, including: their eldest daughter, Catharine, who lives in New York; seven-year-old Emma Claire, and a five-year-old son, Jack. Their first child, Wade, died in 1996.



Steny Hoyer

Chair's Welcome Reception

Congressman Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland's Fifth Congressional District is now serving his second term as the House Democratic Whip, the second-ranking position among House Democrats, where Hoyer is charged with building unity among House Democrats and delivering the Democratic Party's message.

Congressman Hoyer's service as Whip makes him the highest-ranking Member of Congress from Maryland in history. Now serving his 13th term in Congress, he also is the longest-serving Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Southern Maryland in history.

Congressman Hoyer's experience, know-how and strong work ethic have led to increasing responsibilities within the House Democratic leadership. He served as Chair of the Democratic Caucus, the fourth-ranking position among House Democrats, from 1989 to 1994. He is the former Co-Chair of the Democratic Steering Committee, served as the chief candidate recruiter for House Democrats from 1995 to 2000, and currently continues to actively recruit candidates around the country. He also served as Deputy Majority Whip from 1987 to 1989.

Congressman Hoyer currently serves on the Naval Academy Board of Visitors, and the St. Mary's College Board of Trustees. He also is a former member of the Board of Regents of the University System of Maryland. He and his wife, the late Judith Pickett Hoyer, have three daughters, Susan, Stefany and Anne; and three grandchildren, Judy, James Cleveland, and Alexa.



Barack Obama

Featured Dinner Speaker

Barack Obama has dedicated his life to public service as a community organizer, civil rights attorney, and leader in the Illinois state Senate.

Sworn into office on January 4, 2005, Senator Obama is focused on promoting economic growth and bringing good paying jobs to Illinois. In the United States Senate, Senator Obama serves on the important Environment and Public Works Committee, the Veterans' Affairs Committee and will soon join the Foreign Relations Committee.

During his seven years in the Illinois State Senate, Obama worked with both Democrats and Republicans to create programs like the state Earned Income Tax Credit, which in three years provided over \$100 million in tax cuts to families across the state. Obama also pushed through an expansion of early childhood education, and after a number of inmates on death row were found innocent, he enlisted the support of law enforcement officials to draft legislation requiring the videotaping of interrogations and confessions in all capital cases.

Barack Obama was born on August 4th, 1961, in Hawaii to Barack Obama, Sr. and Ann Dunham. Obama graduated from Columbia University in 1983, and moved to Chicago in 1985 to work for a church-based group seeking to improve living conditions in poor neighborhoods plagued with crime and high unemployment. In 1991, Obama graduated from Harvard Law School where he was the first African American editor of the Harvard Law Review.

Obama is especially proud of being a husband and father of two daughters, Malia, 7 and Sasha, 4. Obama and his wife, Michelle, married in 1992 and live on Chicago's South Side where they attend Trinity United Church of Christ.



Tom Vilsack

Featured Breakfast Speaker

Elected twice by the citizens of Iowa to serve as the state's chief executive officer, Tom Vilsack is the nation's senior Democratic governor. He was the first Democrat in more than 30 years to be elected to the post in 1998.

As Governor, his priorities reflect an agenda dedicated to the principles of opportunity, responsibility and security. He is a champion for the safety and security of children, and for creating future opportunities through economic development that enhances communities.

Vilsack created the Iowa Values Fund, the state's largest and most effective economic development initiative ever. His \$270 million Vision Iowa program has brought more than \$2 billion in investments to communities across Iowa to enhance the cultural and recreational quality of life. Vilsack's innovative energy policy has made Iowa one of the nation's leaders in renewable energy, and his groundbreaking strategy to reform Medicaid has resulted in expanded healthcare security for 30,000 additional Iowans.

Vilsack's career in public service began in 1987 when he was elected Mayor of Mt. Pleasant. He was elected to the Iowa Senate in 1992.

In 2004, Vilsack served as Chair of the Democratic Governors Association, during which the DGA broke fundraising records and elected six Democratic Governors.

A native of Pittsburgh, Governor Vilsack was born into an orphanage and adopted in 1951. He received a bachelor's degree from Hamilton College in Clinton, New York, in 1972 and earned his law degree from Albany Law School in 1975. He then moved to Mt. Pleasant, his wife Christie's hometown where he practiced law. The Vilsack's two sons, Jess and Doug, grew up in Mt. Pleasant.



Mark Warner

Featured Brunch Speaker

Since his inauguration in January 2002, Governor Mark R. Warner has taken a business-like approach to reforming government services and spending, navigating Virginia through a \$6 billion revenue shortfall and streamlining state government while continuing to invest in public schools. From day one, Governor

Warner has led the most diverse administration in history with an energetic commitment to accountability and "straight talk."

In 2004, Governor Warner worked with bipartisan majorities in the General Assembly to win passage of what has been called the most comprehensive tax reform proposal considered by any state in the past decade. The plan makes the tax system more fair, keeps commitments in education, health, transportation and tax relief.

In 2004, *Governing* magazine named him one of its "Public Officials of the Year," and in 2005, Virginia was the only state in the nation to earn straight A's in fiscal management from the Pew Charitable Trust and *Governing* magazine.

The Governor serves as Chairman of the National Governors Association, where he has begun a nationwide discussion about redesigning the American high school. He recently concluded terms as Chairman of the Southern Governors' Association, Co-Chairman of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and Chairman of the Education Commission of the States, a national nonpartisan policy organization.

Governor Warner is committed to giving everyone in the Commonwealth the tools and opportunity to compete and thrive in the new economy. His leadership will help ensure Virginia succeeds in an Information Age economy. Governor Warner is married to Lisa Collis and is the father of three daughters -- Madison, Gillian, and Eliza.



Bill Nelson

U.S. Senator

The two most defining events in Bill Nelson's life occurred in 1972 – he got married to Grace Cavert and was elected for the first time to public office. Today, over three decades later, he's earned a reputation as a principled family

man, a staunch advocate for all Floridians, and a moderate voice in the increasingly partisan world of national politics.

Elected to the U.S. Senate in November 2000, after serving six years as a member of the Florida Cabinet, Nelson currently serves on the Senate Commerce, Armed Services, Budget, Foreign Relations and Aging committees and is recognized as the leading Congressional expert on NASA.

Nelson's public service career began in 1972, with his election to the Florida Legislature, where he worked to enact the nation's first state law to protect consumers from computer fraud and advocated for responsible growth management laws. In 1978, he was elected to the U.S. Congress and became an early advocate for a balanced federal budget.

In January 1986, Nelson spent six days orbiting Earth as a Mission Specialist aboard the space shuttle *Columbia*.

In 1994, Nelson was elected to the Florida Cabinet as state Treasurer, Insurance Commissioner and Fire Marshal, where he earned his reputation as a common-sense problem solver and consumer advocate by fighting to keep insurance rates affordable for homeowners, cracking down on life and burial insurance sales abuses that targeted the elderly and minorities, and forcing European insurers to honor unpaid Holocaust-era claims.

A fifth-generation Floridian, Nelson was born in Miami on Sept. 29, 1942, and educated in Melbourne's public schools. He has been married to his wife, Grace, since 1972 and has two grown children, Nan Ellen and Bill Jr.

**The Florida Education Association
and our more than 100 local affiliates
across the state are proud to sponsor
the Florida Democratic Party's
2005 State Conference**

**Andy Ford,
President**

**Joanne McCall,
Vice President**

**Clara Cook,
Secretary/Treasurer**

**Aaron Wallace,
Chief of Staff**





Jim Davis

Gubernatorial Candidate

Jim Davis, elected to Congress in 1996, is fighting for balanced budgets to keep interest rates low for all Americans, a quality education for our children and a stronger economy that creates better jobs.

As an active member and former Co-Chair of the New Democrat Coalition, a group of moderate House Democrats promoting bipartisan solutions to our nation's problems, Davis has been a leader in Congress on the issues that matter most to Floridians.

In 2003, Davis was appointed to the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee. Davis also serves on the Subcommittees on Health, Energy and Air Quality, Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection.

In Congress, Jim is working to ensure that schools, teachers and parents have the resources and flexibility they need to help our students meet high standards. Jim has pushed for smaller class sizes, new and improved schools and additional qualified teachers. He also passed the Transition to Teaching Act, legislation to help school districts recruit and train mid-career professionals who are interested in becoming teachers.

Congressman Davis' public service career goes back to his 1988 election to the Florida House of Representatives. As a member of the House Appropriations Committee, Davis helped write eight balanced budgets. Davis also served as Majority Leader, where he guided through legislation to put more money into our children's classrooms.

Jim Davis is a native of Tampa. He has a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Washington & Lee University and a law degree from the University of Florida Law School. He returned to Tampa to practice law in 1982. He became a partner in the law firm of Bush, Ross, Gardner, Warren and Rudy in 1988. Jim is married to Peggy Bessent Davis and they have two sons, Peter and William.



Rod Smith

Gubernatorial Candidate

Rod Smith was born in Southwest City, Missouri in 1949, just across the state line from his family's home in Oklahoma. Before he reached the age of five, his family moved to Florida where Smith grew up laboring along side his father, a truck farmer, working fields of eggplant and green peppers.

A graduate of the Palm Beach County public schools, Smith earned a B.A. from the University of Tulsa in 1971 and a law degree in 1975 from the University of Florida. Following law school, he practiced law for seventeen years representing the rights of police officers, firefighters and public employees throughout the state.

In 1992, and again in 1996, Smith was elected State Attorney for the Gainesville area, where he created the state's first special prosecutions unit to crack down on crimes against women and children. In 1994, Smith successfully prosecuted the Gainesville Student Murderer on charges of first-degree murder for the slayings of five college students.

In 2000 and again in 2002, Smith was elected to represent Florida's 14th Senate District covering nine North Florida counties. While in the Senate, Smith has received numerous legislative awards. Among them, in 2002, he received the Florida Police Chiefs Association's Legislative Achievement Award. And in 2004, he earned the Voices of Children Foundation's MVP Leadership Award in recognition of his efforts on behalf of abused, abandoned and neglected children. In 2003, the Miami Herald named Smith the most effective Democrat in the Florida Senate.

Smith is with the law firm of Avera and Avera and also serves as an adjunct professor at the University of Florida College of Law. Smith and his wife, Dee Dee, an attorney and advocate for child abuse victims, live on their farm in Alachua County. They have three children, and their first grandchild was born in early May 2005.



Alex Sink

*Chief Financial
Officer Candidate*

Alex Sink is a dynamic businesswoman and civic leader whose professional financial experience and community service have molded her into a champion for fiscal responsibility and accountability and prepared her for statewide public leadership.

For nearly 25 years, Alex has been a trailblazer in the financial profession. Her distinguished career began with service as a teacher in West Africa and culminated in her rise to Florida's highest-ranking female bank president. Sink served as Florida President of NationsBank, which later became Bank of America. In managing more than \$40 billion in assets while supervising more than 9,000 employees in 800 branches, Sink earned a reputation for credibility, integrity and fair dealing.

Governor Lawton Chiles appointed Alex to the Commission on Government Accountability, where she helped lead efforts to make state government more responsive. Alex also worked to spearhead economic development, encourage business investment, and promote international trade as a member of the Enterprise Florida board. As Vice Chair of Florida TaxWatch, she advocated fiscal responsibility in state government. She has worked diligently for Florida's children through her service on Governor Chiles' Commission on Education and the Hillsborough Education Foundation Board of Directors, and as Chair of Take Stock in Children.

Alex is a dedicated community leader. Her civic involvements have included service with the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Beth El Farm Workers Ministry, and as Chairman of the Board of the United Way of Hillsborough County.

Alex currently resides in Thonotosassa with her husband, Bill McBride, and their two children, Bert and Lexie,



Skip Campbell

Attorney General Candidate

Skip Campbell was born in Rockaway Beach, New York, an Irish neighborhood in the Rockaways of Queens County. When Skip was twelve, his family moved to Florida.

A graduate of Broward County schools, Smith earned his A.A. from St. John Vianney Seminary in 1968 and his

Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from the University of Florida in 1970 and 1973 respectively. Following law school, Campbell began his career with a defense firm in Miami. He then joined with fellow attorney Jon Krupnick in Broward County. In 1975, they began the law firm of Krupnick & Campbell.

In 1996, Campbell was elected to the Florida Senate, where he proudly serves the communities of the western portions of central and northern Broward County. Campbell was reelected to the Senate in 2000 and 2004.

He has served as local Chairman of the Broward Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, as a board member for Kids in Distress, and on the Legal Advocates Committee of the Miami Project to Cure Paralysis. He has been actively involved with the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, the Arthritis Foundation and the Emerald Society. Campbell has received numerous awards for his civic, professional, and legislative efforts including the Hope Award of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Distinguished Community Service Award of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League of Coral Springs/Parkland, the VALOR award from the American Diabetes Association, and the Outstanding Senator Award from the Academy of Florida Trial Lawyers.

Campbell and his wife, the former Lynn Satin of Miami Beach, Florida, live in Broward County. They have two children. In August 2005, Senator Skip Campbell announced his candidacy for Attorney General of Florida. Campbell currently has no opposition in the Democratic primary election.



Eric Copeland

Agriculture Commissioner Candidate

Eric Copeland is not afraid to fight: he has made a professional and political career of fighting for small businesses, progressive issues and Democratic values.

A 22-year resident of Florida, Copeland grew up in Illinois and came to South

Florida when he received a Henry King Stanford academic scholarship to attend the University of Miami. He enjoyed the sunshine so much he stayed for law school and settled to raise his family.

Copeland is an attorney and tax professional who has fought for thousands of home owners and small businesses. Copeland is ready to be our Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services because he understands the relationship between consumers, producers, taxes, investments and our economy.

Copeland is married to an Argentine-American, Claudia, and they are raising two bilingual daughters, Lara and Stefania, both in public schools. In addition to running his business, Copeland also has extensive experience in the political arena.

He just finished a term as chair of the Campaign Committee for the Miami-Dade County Democratic Party, where in 2004 John Kerry carried Miami-Dade by nearly 10,000 more votes than Al Gore did in 2000. Now Copeland has entered the race to be Florida's Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services.



Corrine Brown

U.S. Congresswoman

Corrine Brown was elected to Congress from the Third District of Florida in 1992. She is a public servant who prides herself on delivering the goods and services of the federal government to her constituents. Brown was reelected to the U.S. House of Representatives for a seventh term in November 2004.

Currently, Congresswoman Brown serves as the Vice Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus. As a result of Brown's commitment to bringing the services of Washington back to Florida, communities throughout the third District have been able to access resources previously unavailable to them.

Brown was picked by the Democratic leadership to be the Ranking Democrat on the Transportation Subcommittee on Railroad. Brown was a leader in the fight to change transportation funding through an initiative called "Tea-21," which returns more transportation money to populous states like Florida and Texas. Brown is also a member of the Subcommittee on Aviation and was responsible for securing more than \$75 million for a new runway at the Orlando International Airport.

In 2002, Brown received the endorsement of the Veterans of Foreign Wars PAC, and a "Legislative Leadership Award" from the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.

A native of Jacksonville, Florida, Congresswoman Brown served in the Florida House of Representatives for ten years before coming to Washington. Congresswoman Brown attended the Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree. She also received a Master's Degree and an Education Specialist Degree from the University of Florida. She received an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree from Edward Waters College. She has been a faculty member at Florida Community College of Jacksonville, the University of Florida, and Edward Waters College. Her daughter, Shantrel Brown, is a lawyer in Washington.



Debbie Wasserman Schultz

U.S. Congresswoman

For over twelve years, Debbie Wasserman Schultz has dedicated her public life to working on behalf of the people of Southern Florida. On January 4, 2005, she was

sworn in as a member of the United States House of Representatives to continue this fight as the Congresswoman from Florida's 20th Congressional District.

Upon her arrival in Congress, Wasserman Schultz was appointed to the Financial Services Committee, and was recently appointed to the Committee on the Judiciary. Wasserman-Schultz was also selected to serve in the position of Senior Whip, and is the only freshman serving on the Whip team.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz's concern for children and working families first motivated her to run for office in 1992, where she made history as the youngest woman ever elected to the Florida State Legislature at the age of only 26. Since then she hasn't looked back, serving in the Florida House of Representatives from 1992-2000 and in the State Senate from 2000-2004.

Wasserman Schultz's service in the House included a term as House Democratic Leader Pro Tempore, House Democratic Floor Leader and Chair of the Broward Legislative Delegation. She chaired the House Committee on Higher Education from 1994-1996.

Debbie Wasserman Schultz was born in 1966 on Long Island, NY. She attended the University of Florida and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science in 1988 and with a Master's Degree in 1990. She has been married to Steve Schultz for 14 years and together they have three children: Jake and Rebecca (twins) who are six years old, and the latest addition to the family, daughter Shelby, born in 2003. She is proud to call South Florida home.



Barney Frank

U.S. Congressman

Barney Frank has been in Congress since 1981. He is the Senior Democrat on the Financial Services Committee. Previously he was a Massachusetts State Representative and an assistant to the Mayor of Boston. He has also taught at several Boston area universities.

More information can be obtained from "Politics in America" published by *Congressional Quarterly* and "The Almanac of American Politics" published by *National Journal*.



John Lewis

U.S. Congressman

John Lewis has dedicated his life to protecting human rights, securing civil liberties, and building what he calls “The Beloved Community” in America. His dedication to the highest ethical standards and moral principles has won him the admiration of many of his colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the United States Congress.

Born the son of sharecroppers on February 21, 1940, outside of Troy, Alabama, he grew up on his family’s farm and attended segregated public schools in Pike County, Alabama. As a student at Fisk University, John Lewis organized sit-in demonstrations at segregated lunch counters in Nashville, Tennessee.

During the height of the Civil Rights Movement Lewis was named Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he helped form. While still a young man, John Lewis became a nationally recognized leader. By 1963, he was dubbed one of the Big Six leaders of the Civil Rights Movement. At the age of 23, he was an architect of and a keynote speaker at the historic March on Washington in August 1963.

In 1977, John Lewis was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to direct the more than 250,000 volunteers of ACTION, the federal volunteer agency. In 1981, he was elected to the Atlanta City Council. While serving on the Council, he was an advocate for ethics in government and neighborhood preservation. He was elected to Congress in November 1986 and has served as U.S. Representative of Georgia’s Fifth Congressional District since then.

John Lewis holds a B.A. in Religion and Philosophy from Fisk University, and he is a graduate of the American Baptist Theological Seminary, both in Nashville, Tennessee. John Lewis lives in Atlanta, Georgia and is married to Lillian Miles. They have one son, John Miles.



Luis Gutierrez

U.S. Congressman

As the first Latino to be elected to Congress from the Midwest, Gutierrez sought opportunities to address long-standing needs of the immigrant community in his diverse Congressional district, which is home to Chicago’s large and established communities of immigrants.

As chairman of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus’ Task Force on Naturalization and Citizenship, Gutierrez gained national recognition for his efforts to prevent the break-up of immigrants’ families and led efforts to compel the INS to eliminate its massive backlog of citizenship applications.

Gutierrez has consistently pushed for effective legislation to stop crime and gun-related violence. He was an original sponsor of legislation to ban nineteen types of semi-automatic assault weapons and introduced a bill to ban the cheap, easily-concealed guns known as “Saturday Night Specials.”

As a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, he helped pass landmark legislation to provide priority health care to veterans of the Persian Gulf War during his first term and was awarded by the Vietnam Veterans of America as “Legislator of the Year.” During 1999, he passed legislation to ensure that women veterans receive treatment and care for incidents of sexual abuse that occurred while they were in the military.

Gutierrez was born in Chicago on December 10, 1953. He graduated from Northeastern Illinois University in 1975 and worked as a teacher, social worker, community activist and city official until his 1986 election as Alderman from the city’s 26th ward. In the Chicago City Council, he led the fight for affordable housing, tougher ethics rules, and a law to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. He and his wife Soraida have two daughters, Omaira and Jessica.



Chris Smith

House Democratic Leader

Representative Smith was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 1998 and serves District 93. He currently serves as the Minority Leader. His committee memberships include Crime & Punishment, Reapportionment, Utilities & Communications,

Council for Ready Infrastructure, Education Appropriations, Rules, Ethics and Elections, and Procedural and Redistricting Council. Representative Smith has served on the Boards of Friends of Children, Youth & Families, Inc., Broward County United Way, Ft. Lauderdale Community Development Corp. Inc. and Museum of Discovery & Science.

He received a BS degree, Political Science from Johnson C. Smith University, 1992.



Dan Gelber

Democratic Leader Designate

Representative Dan Gelber is the incoming Democratic Leader of the Florida House.

Representative Gelber graduated Tufts University magna cum laude and the University of Florida College of Law where he was a Truman Scholar.

At the age of 25 he became one of the youngest federal prosecutors in the nation, and spent nearly a decade prosecuting public corruption and civil rights cases.

Soon thereafter, Dan Gelber was appointed by former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn to be Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the U.S. Senate's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations where he directed U.S. Senate investigations into global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction.

Representative Gelber is regarded as one of the most effective members of the House of Representatives. He is widely quoted about Florida issues and has authored dozens of articles for nearly every newspaper in Florida, regularly appears on local and national television and radio shows.

Representative Gelber has been a Big Brother volunteer since 1985, and is a former President of the Board of Directors of Big Brothers Organization. In 1986 he co-founded a summer camp for children with cancer where he volunteered as a bunk counselor and provided support services for patients and their families.

Representative Gelber is an AV rated practicing attorney with the Zuckerman Spaeder law firm in Florida and is listed as one of the Best Lawyers in America by that publication.

Representative Gelber lives in Miami Beach with his wife Joan Silverstein, a federal prosecutor, and has two daughters and a son.



Les Miller

Senate Democratic Leader

Les Miller went to school in Hillsborough County and is a proud graduate of Middleton Senior High School. After graduating from high school, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Air Force.

Upon being discharged from the United States Air Force, Les Miller enrolled at the University of South Florida. While at USF, he had the distinction as being President of the USF Student Body and to be the first student to serve on the State University System Board of Regents.

In 1982 he ran unsuccessfully for the Florida House of Representatives, and in 1988 he lost a bid for a citywide City Council seat in Tampa. However, this did not discourage our Senator Miller. Through perseverance and a strong passion for serving his community, he ran for the District 5 City Council seat in 1991 and won.

In 1992, Miller was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, where he served for eight years, including a term as the House Democratic Leader. In 2000, he was elected to the Florida Senate and re-elected in 2002 without opposition, where he currently serves as the Senate Democratic Leader.

Senator Miller is married to the Chairperson of the Tampa City Council, Gwendolyn "Gwen" Miller and has 4 children, Le'Jean, Lesley III, James and Arthur.



Steve Geller

Democratic Leader Designate

Senator Steven A. Geller was elected to the Florida Senate on March 17, 1998. There he serves as the Vice Chair for the Banking and Insurance Committee as well as a member on

the Community Affairs, Government Efficiency Appropriations, Judiciary, Regulated Industries and Rules and Calendar committees. He is also the elected Senate Minority Leader for 2006.

Senator Geller has a distinguished history of public service ranging from being the State President for the Florida Young Democrats to his current position on the Executive Committee of the National Conference of Insurance Legislators. Prior to serving in the Senate, Geller served in the Florida House of Representatives from 1988 to 1998, during which time he served as the Deputy Majority Leader in 1992.

Senator Geller was born November 4, 1958 in Bronx, NY. At the age of 7, he moved to Florida where, after graduating from high school, he received his degree from Florida State University. He now lives with his wife Laurel Leffler and their two sons Marc Isaac and Benjamin Jacob in south Florida.



Ron Klein

U.S. Congress Candidate

Since 1992, Senator Ron Klein has been a committed public servant working to lower health care costs, improve the quality of education, keep our neighborhoods and communities safe from drugs and crime, strengthen Florida's economy, protect our environment and ensure a better quality of life for the people of South Florida.

Ron was born in Cleveland, Ohio on July 10, 1957. After graduating from Cleveland Heights High School in 1975, Ron attended The Ohio State University, where he served as an intern at the Ohio General Assembly. In 1979, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, was admitted to Case Western Reserve University Law School and received his Juris Doctor in 1982.

Ron married the former Dori Dragin in 1982, and together they moved to Boca Raton, Florida in 1985. In 1992, Ron defeated a 10 year incumbent and was elected to the Florida House of Representatives, representing District 90. He successfully sponsored the Holocaust Education Act, sought a ban on assault weapons, streamlined the capital punishment appeals process and created the Task Force on Geriatric Medicine.

Handily winning his bid for Senate District 30 in 1996, his hard work and dedication earned him the position of Minority Whip and garnered him an appointment by the Senate President to the Special Committee on Litigation Reform and to the Panel for the Study of End-of-Life-Care. Ron is currently Vice-Chair of the Transportation Committee. Ron was elected by the Democratic Senate Caucus as the Senate Democratic Leader for 2002-2004. In addition to his public service, Ron is an active partner with the law firm of Sachs, Sax & Klein, P.A. in Boca Raton, where he specializes in the practice of health care, real estate and business law. Ron and Dori reside in Boca Raton with their two children, Brian, 19 and Lauren, 16.



Tony Hill

Florida State Senator

Tony Hill was elected to the Florida Senate in November 2002, and re-elected without opposition for a four year term in 2004. Before being elected as a Florida State Senator, Hill was elected in 1992 to the Florida House of Representatives and was subsequently re-elected, unopposed, for three consecutive terms.

Hill is currently serving as a Community Organizer for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU). He is the Chair of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators' Labor Round Table, Vice Chair of the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators and the Florida Senate Democratic Lead Whip. During the 2004 election he served as Florida's Statewide Co-Chair for the Minimum Wage Initiative (Amendment 5).

In September of 2001, because of his extraordinary commitment and service to the labor movement, he was inducted into the AFL-CIO's Florida Labor Hall of Fame and presented with the A. Philip Randolph Award. Tony Hill is the youngest inductee, and the first African-American, to receive this prestigious honor. He is the former Secretary-Treasurer of the Florida AFL-CIO, having been first elected in 1995, and subsequently re-elected and served until 2001. He began his labor career as a Longshoreman with ILA Local 1408, Jacksonville, many years prior to 1995.

Tony is a graduate of Jean Ribault Senior High School, Jacksonville, FL. He attended Lincoln University, Lincoln, Pennsylvania, graduated from the National Labor College, in Silver Spring, Maryland, with a B.A. Degree in Labor Studies, and received an honorary doctorate from Edward Waters College, in Jacksonville, FL.

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Corrine Brown District 3

Jim Davis District 11

Alcee Hastings District 23

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Al LawsonSenate District 6
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Ron Greenstein	House District 95
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Wilbert "Tee" Holloway	House District 103
Ed Jennings Jr.	House District 23
Arthenia Joyner	House District 59
Charlie Justice	House District 53
Will Kendrick	House District 10
Richard Macheck	House District 78
Sheri McInvale	House District 36
Matt Meadows	House District 94
Frank Peterman Jr.	House District 55
Ari Abraham Parth	House District 96
Curtis Richardson	House District 8
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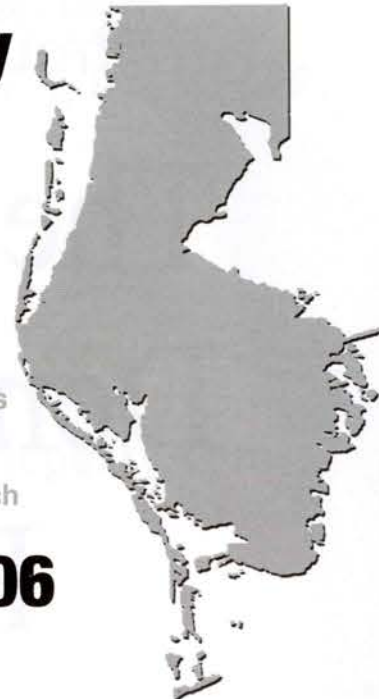
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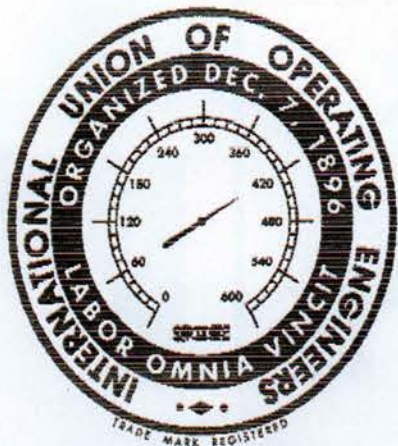
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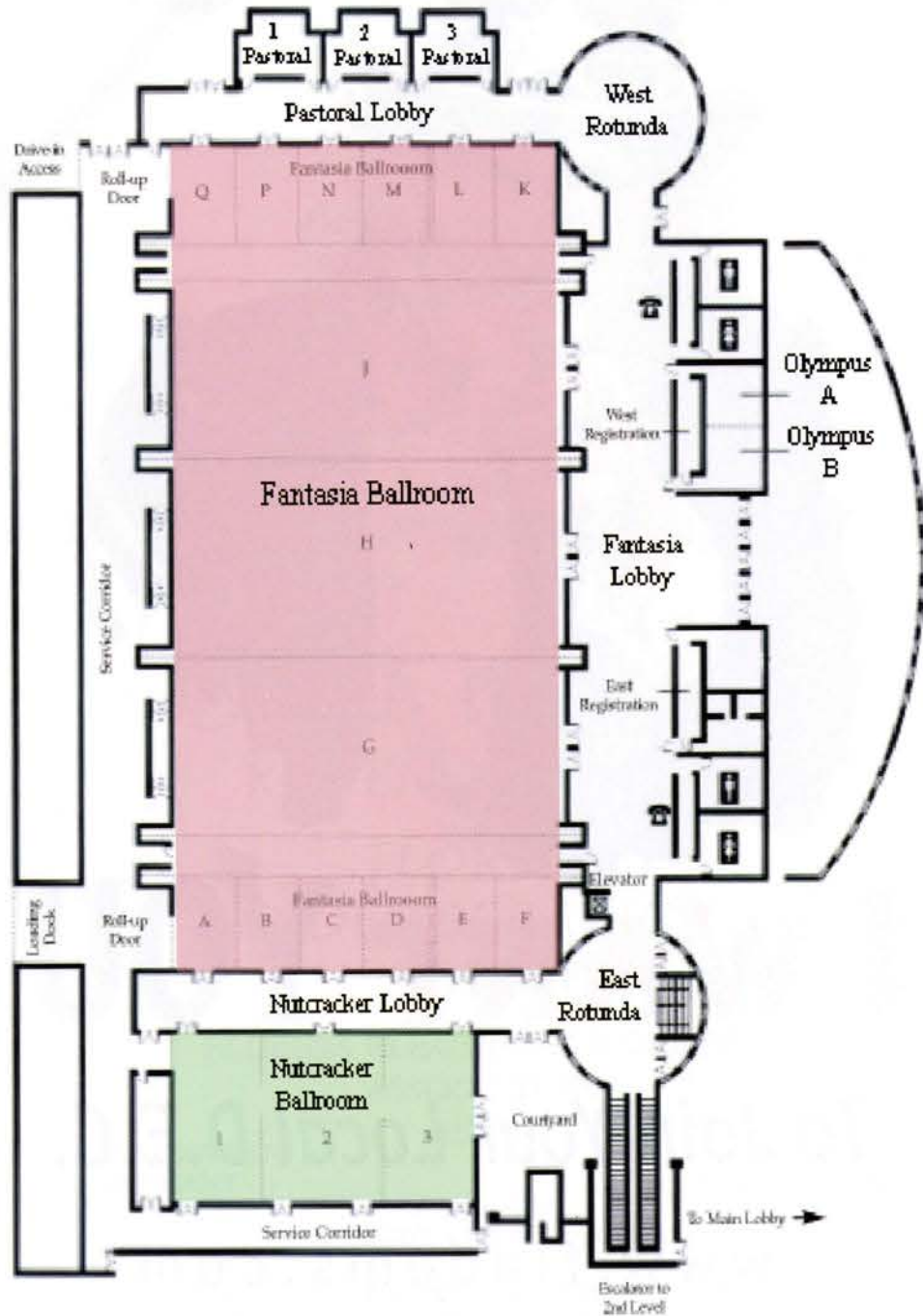


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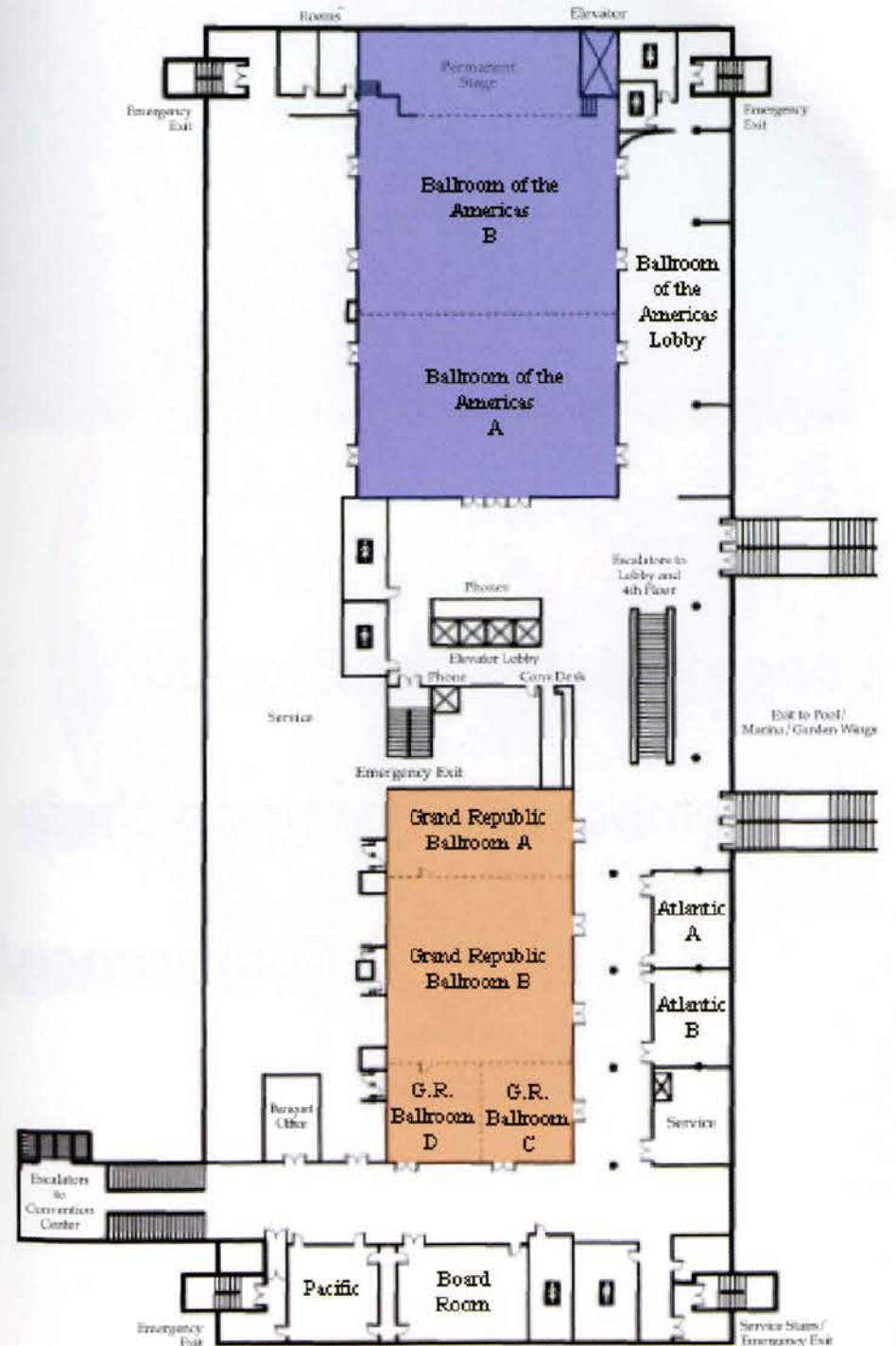
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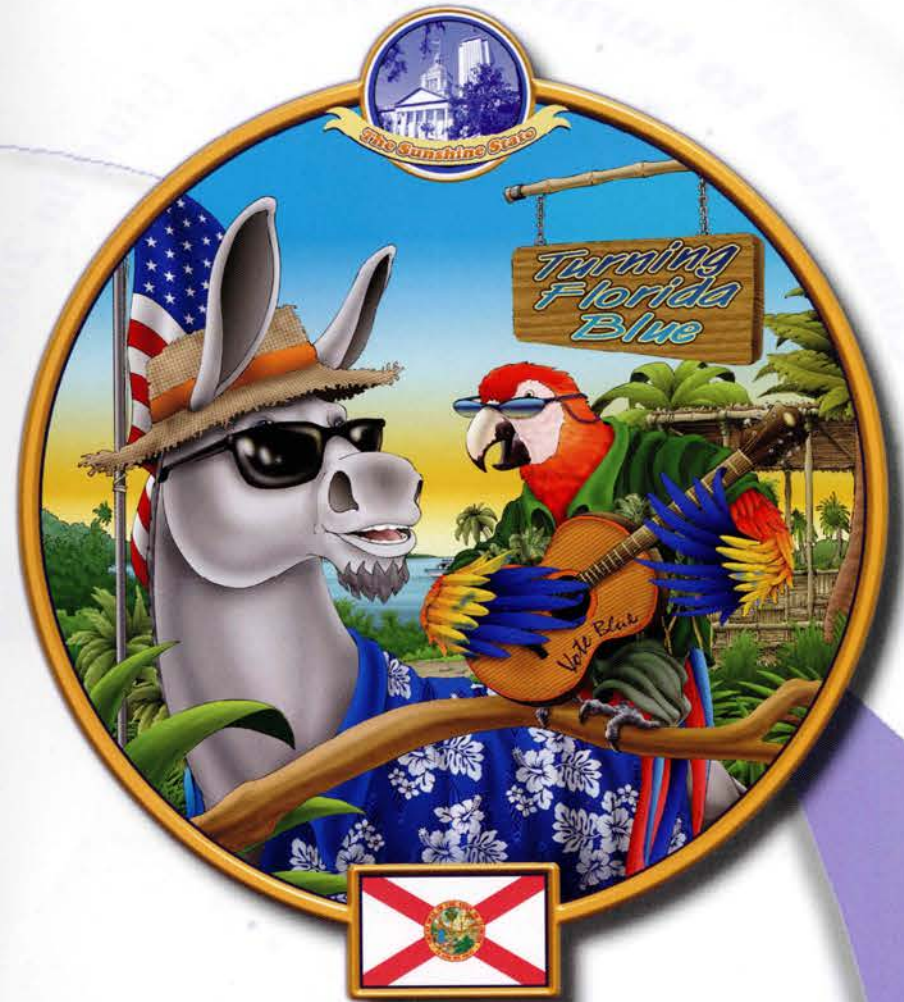


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