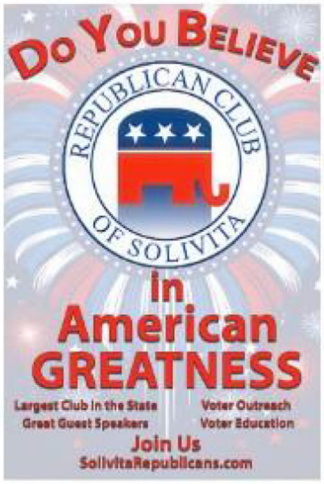

In Case You Missed It...

It has been a long but exciting election season to date, and we still have some very important work to do. There are two main points of focus between now and the general election and we must be successful in both areas. The first is:

EDUCATE

This means to review your sample ballot as soon as they are available and learn about every candidate and initiative found there. You MUST fill out the ballot completely. Read, listen, research and ask. Of course, if you still need assistance, I will try to help wherever I can. The second is:

MOTIVATE

Get out the vote. Remember that every ballot that we leave blank is basically a vote for the other side. Reach out to friends, family, and co-workers. Some of these groups will need your guidance and/or assistance to make this very critical process complete. Be there. Make this happen.

Thank you.

Peter Thompson.

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

Officers Present- Peter Thompson, Glenn Larson, Elaine Thompson, Jennifer Rush, Beverly Gianini, Michelle Weisinger, Carol and Don Rimdzuis, Jeff Minner, Mary Lou and John Townsend, Carmen Moreno, Lori Brown, Dennis Falk, Jim Guth.

Peter announced that Gary Phillips will again be coordinating the Tent Coverage on Election Day (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. Contact Gary at phillips251@yahoo.com with your availability. Thank you in advance for stepping up.

Shifts available are:

6-9 AM Peter (set up)
9-11
11-7
1-3 -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 21 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%). Voting is an important citizen activity, we select our leaders by voting on good faith and if that good faith is not returned we can vote them out at the next cycle. But in order to do due diligence in our leadership bench we have to get involved an educated about the potential leaders.

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 am ore friends and informative fashion, I encourage 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 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 21-31. 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 timed 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.

Jon gave bit of biography, he is the former mayor of Frostproof. He is in his first term running for his second. He apologized for a mixup after being invited to Solivita two years ago, and got lost at one of the gates (easy to do if not familiar with Solivita).

Colleen talked about Memory 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 is in infrastructure and growth. The Current speaker of the Florida House is Sam Garrison and the Majority leader of the Senate is Ben Albritton.

The audience asked a few questions: Here is Jim Guth addressing one of our congress representatives on a question of concern.

Questions that came up will Medicare and or Medicaid pay for Memory Care? (Applications will determine.)

Who can fix our traffic issues, developers build communities and they don't do anything for the roads. (Good question for county commissioners).

Permitting these developers and community impact fees.

This fall we will be faced with Amendment 3. (if it passes county services could be cut, sheriff and fire rescue services are sacrosanct and untouchable. In 2027 if passes will cut budget by 4.95 B$. Services in Parks, libraries etc could be affected.)

My thought—remember this came from the idea that there is a lot of waste and abuse in grants to support services to few. There is enough funds to provide for services that affect most people but some of those funds grow and grow and services don't. This is the belt tightening efforts of our leaders to reset priorities and allow control over mini-buracraucities that are out of control now. Going back is always harder than preventing it in the first place.

If passed the mill rate will certainly be affected to shift to a source that can be manipulated. Example—see your home is worth 350k$, under

current policy you are offered a homestead exemption to reduce the taxable amount of your home by $50k, if this passes it will raise it to 150k$ in 2027 and 250k$ in 2028. Notice that if it passes and the exemption kicks in it will still have a little bit of value in your home that is not affected in the reduction but that amount can be affected by raising the mill level to a capped amount to offset the loss.

Realtors support this whole-heartedly…...WHY??????

Remember essential services will always be funded (Law enforcement and Fire and Rescue).

Budget and tax reform comes up every 20 years and the next scheduled event is…...wait for it…….yep 2027.

The Answer to Jim Guth question regarding (Amendment 3) and what is available to offset the revenue loss...the answer is increased local government taxes, sales tax, raise property tax mill level as just a few. My question is are these tax tinkering tactics capped so as to not become an immediate burden to citizens.

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

The meeting started at 5:15 and was over at 7:38 PM
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