



The Independent Word

Spring 2006

From the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the newsletter of the Independence Party of Florida.

This newsletter will provide a forum in which we can communicate with one another on topics of party interest. We will be using the newsletter to provide contact information, encourage discussion between local groups, and facilitate greater participation by those members who are currently isolated from any organized local group. As such, this newsletter will depend on YOUR input to make it vibrant and relevant to YOU. We are accepting research articles, opinion pieces, profiles of local groups and reports on party activities across the state. Tips or techniques to improve fund-raising, membership drives and participation are welcome.

The Party Platform will give us a framework for our articles and columns. Topics from the party's platform include:

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Voting
- Campaigns and Financing
- Education
- Criminal Justice
- Health
- Social Welfare
- Business and Economic Development
- Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources
- Veterans

I look forward to hearing from you.

*Shauna Ayers
Editor*

"It does not take a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority, keen on setting brushfires of freedom in the minds of men." – Samuel Adams

Independence Party of Florida State Meeting

The Independence Party of Florida State Meeting will be held Saturday March 25th, 2006, from 10am to 4:30 pm at the Herndon Public Library, 4324 East Colonial Dr., Orlando, Florida (for directions please call Kay Sauer, Orange County Chairman, at 1-407-275-8897).

There are a wide area of topics to discuss, including:

- Election of new State Party Executive committee members
- The State Chairman is stepping down after serving 4 years
- Information-sharing between County Committees
- Formation of committees for special topics, such as Candidates, Funding, Membership, Platform, Planks, etc.

From the State Party Chairman

(excerpted from an email sent 2/19/2006)

Each County in the State of Florida has seen major growth in new homes, business, and automobiles on our roads, and much of this growth is affecting the very lives of some of our members,... ..people who have a hard time just getting out of their driveways, some their homes being taken by Eminent domain, and have you considered all the taxes we are paying on everything under the sun: Phone, Water, Sewer, roads, energy, and the high cost of health care!

As a State party we must come together, organize as one and vote as one, but to do this WE as a Party must agree on the same things,... ..issues, Candidates and party platform planks. We must choose and endorse those candidates WE feel will work for all of us, instead of just the party.

I ask each of you to please come to this very important State meeting in Orlando. Don't count on someone else making a decision for you.

*Peter Allen
Chairman IPFL*

independence

n., 1. The condition of being politically free: autonomy, freedom, independency, liberty, self-government, sovereignty. See DEPENDENCE, FREE. 2. The capacity to manage one's own affairs, make one's own judgments, and provide for oneself: self-determination, self-reliance, self-sufficiency. See DEPENDENCE. (Source: *Roget's II: The New Thesaurus, Third Edition. Copyright © 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by the Houghton Mifflin Company*)



The Principles of the Independence Party of Florida

Integrity

We are what we are and we don't pretend to be something we are not. Our word is good and we are accountable for the promises we make. In our personal actions and party affairs, we seek to exemplify the same fair, open, and democratic processes we advocate for our government. Before we evaluate others in the light of our principles, we stand first in the light ourselves.

Dignity

We respect all people as equal human beings possessing certain inalienable rights which include life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Each member has an equal voice and vote in our party, and we conduct ourselves so as to honor the people and institutions we serve. As a party, we advocate public policy only where broad member consensus exists and respectfully leave action on other matters to the free exercise of individual conscience and discretion.

Justice

All citizens deserve equal rights, protection, and opportunity under the law. In our party and public affairs, we are ever vigilant to promote only those rules and laws which assure equity and freedom for all citizens.

Responsibility

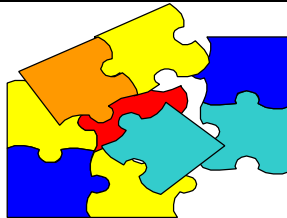
We are accountable for our actions or failure to act, and it is up to us to generate the results we want. We readily assume the duties mandated by our purpose, and we seek to manifest excellence in performing our agreed upon tasks.

Service

Political power belongs to the people and is only entrusted to those who serve. In our endeavors, we work for the benefit of all citizens, not ourselves alone. Our job is to fulfill the expectations of those who have honored us with their trust.

Community

As individuals, party, and nation, we live in relationship with each other and the earth. While exercising our rights and pursuing our individual interests, we are also mindful of the good of the whole. As a party, we endeavor to articulate the public good through open democratic processes and then manifest that good in our communities, state, and nation.



Branch News

The Independent Word is looking for contact information for all local branches, so that members or prospective members seeking information about meetings and events in their local area can be directed to the appropriate party representative.

Copies of The Independent Word may be provided as promotional materials at fund-raisers and membership drives. If your local branch wishes to request copies for this purpose, please contact us as described on the back page.

State News Beat

Fiscal Responsibility

Federal Reserve Website Teaches Children and Adults Alike About Fiscal Responsibility

The Federal Reserve has a website intended to encourage the teaching of greater fiscal responsibility to school-age children and adults, both: <http://www.federalreserveeducation.org/fed101/index.htm>

The site contains a specially engineered search engine designed to guide educators in finding materials to help increase students' understanding of economics. Activities for younger students include a variety of online games and puzzles designed to stress the importance of smart spending. Activities for older students include role-playing scenarios in which they can see what it's like to be a bank examiner, or sit in on a meeting with the Federal Reserve Chairman as he works with the Federal Open Market Committee to set interest rates.

A personal finance section for adults aims to encourage more informed decisions on such topics as consumer banking, buying a home and getting a mortgage, interest rates, loans and credit, and more, by explaining topics in an engaging manner, with a minimum of jargon.

Voting

Next State Constitutional Officer Elections in 2006:

- Filing Deadline (Judicial & Federal Candidates): May 12, 2006
- Filing Deadline (All Other Candidates): July 14, 2006
- State Primary: September 5, 2006





Campaigns and Financing

Resource Review:

<http://www.politics1.com/fl.htm>

This website is billed as "Your complete directory of Florida candidates for Governor, United State Senator and Congress in the current election cycle ... state political parties ... the official state election office ... and state news sources." Upon review, it appears to walk the walk – it shows clear recognition of third-party candidates and write-ins, and provides links to many other useful resources, including campaign websites, political blogs and newsfeeds.

Resource Review:

<http://www.uselections.com/finance.htm>

This website provides links to multiple resources for researching campaign finance.

Education

Notes on Governor Bush's 2006

State of the State Address

Governor Bush urged the Legislature to continue the momentum of reforms enacted over the past eight years by adopting critical reforms to bring rigor and relevance to middle schools and make middle grades count more than ever for students in Florida.

At the high school level, the reforms will add rigor by requiring students in grades 6 through 8 to earn 12 credits in math, science, language arts and social studies before they are promoted to high school. This will ensure they are properly equipped for the studies to come.

At the high school level, the reforms will add relevance by allowing students to tailor their own education, by choosing a major based on their career paths and interests.

For more information on the Governor's proposals for education reform, visit http://www.myflorida.com/myflorida/eogadmin/showPress.jsp?press_id=7321 .

Criminal Justice

Resource Review:

<http://www.dc.state.fl.us/crimpage.html>

This website provides links to multiple educational and informational resources for researching criminal justice topics.

Health

Resource Review:

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/>

The Florida Department of Health homepage provides newsfeeds, event announcements and links to resources available for Floridians.

Social Welfare

Florida statutes addressing topics of social welfare include 496.404 f.s., 430.02 f.s., 403.075 f.s., 430.04 f.s., 409.912 f.s., 383.0115 f.s. and 186.007 f.s.

Business and Economic Development

Economic Report Card Cautions Florida to Pay More Attention to its Human Capital

The 19th Development Report Card for the States, released online in January by the nonprofit Corporation For Enterprise Development indicated that Florida needs to devote more attention to developing its human assets, preserving its natural resources and harvesting its intellectual capacity if it hopes to sustain growth.

"While Florida has improved its status on this report card, the state has much to do to share economic success among its residents and provide a higher quality of life," says David

Buchholz, research director for CFED. "Florida is allocating few resources to prepare its residents to be part of the future work force. Its poor investments in education may hamper its ability to provide businesses with a competent labor and limit its residents' opportunities to prosper."

Florida received a "C" for performance (the performance of the economy for its citizens), a "B" for business vitality (business competitiveness and entrepreneurial energy) and a "D" for development capacity (the positioning of the state for future economic growth).

The complete 2006 Development Report Card for the States, including all 68 measures and analysis of each state, is available online at <http://www.cfed.org/go/drc> .

Environment, Agriculture and Natural Resources

Resource Review:

<http://www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/>

The National Resources Conservation Service website for Florida provides information for Communities, Farmers and Ranchers, Homeowners, Florida NRCS Employees, Policy Makers, Teachers, Students, and Volunteers about events, awards, resources and grant opportunities in the conservation and agricultural arena.

Veterans

Resource Review:

<http://www.floridavets.org/>

The Florida Department of Veteran Affairs homepage provides newsfeeds, event announcements and links to resources of interest for Florida veterans





Submission Guidelines

All article submissions must be in one of the following formats:

- Typed hardcopy
- Email
- Electronic file in .txt, .doc, or .rtf formats, either emailed as an attachment or on a Windows-readable CD or floppy disk.

If a graphic is to be included, it would be best if it was sent in a separate electronic file, to make layout easier. Hardcopies of graphics are also acceptable, but may lose some quality upon being scanned in.

Please include contact information with your submission, so that we may communicate with you prior to publication to confirm details, arrange for complimentary hardcopies, and/or address any editorial questions about the article that may arise.

Send all submissions to:

IPFL Newsletter
c/o Shauna Ayers
1650-302 Margaret Street, #307
Jacksonville, FL 32204-3869

Disclaimers:

Opinions expressed are those of the individual authors, and may or may not reflect the opinions of the general membership of the Independence Party of Florida.

No guarantee of publication is made. Editors and writers collaborate closely on revisions, which can be extensive, and final copy is sent to authors for approval.



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