



## AGENDA

February 21, 2018 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Estero Rec Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero, FL 33928 - 239-498-0415

Candidate Question: **“How did you make the decision to commit to running for public office?”**

(Times are approximate.)

### **6:30 PM – Gathering**

### **6:45 PM - Pledge of Allegiance**

#### **Reading of the First Amendment**

#### **Welcome to the Club – Steven Blumrosen**

- Introduction of Officers and Directors
- Anyone not sign in?
- Please contribute what you can to the donation jar to help the Club pay for the room
- Reminder, this is the time to renew membership or apply to become a member of this Club (only \$20!)

#### **Secretary’s Report (if we had a Secretary)**

#### **Treasurer’s Report – Jim Watson**

Thank you, Lee County, for the use of this Rec Center in the Village of Estero.

Introduction of candidates who are registered Democrats and who are present (who will talk later)

### **6:55 PM - Welcome to the Village of Estero - Mayor Jim Boesch**

Since we are meeting in the still-new Village of Estero, the Republican mayor has been invited to this meeting as a way of introducing our Democratic Club to him and his Village to us. Mayor Boesch will inform us about the creation and development of the Village of Estero, provide an update on what is happening currently, and share some thoughts on the future of the Village of Estero.

Short Question and Answer

### **7:10 PM - Elected Lee County Supervisor of Elections, Tommy Doyle**

Since we are a Club focused on Lee County elections, the Supervisor of Elections has been invited to meet us and let us find out some things about him, in person. See attached questions and concerns (pp. 3-4). Bring your own.

Short Question and Answer for the SOE, Tommy Doyle

### **7:30 PM - Candidates who are registered Democrats**

2-minute stump “shout-out” from each candidate who is registered as a Democrat.

## **7:40 PM - Florida Congressional District 19 (FL CD19) primary candidates (alphabetically):**

**David Holden** – You grew up in a civil rights-oriented family. Does civil rights encompass health care and freedom from fear of gun control (including being controlled by gangs with guns)? What will you do about these issues if you are in the US Congress?

**Todd Truax** – You have spent your work-life providing health care to the elderly. The last time I saw you was at the Q, Mr. Muhammed’s Quality of Life Center. So, you, too, are attuned to issues of equality and civil rights. Is staying at home during the end times of life a civil right? I have heard on the news, recently, that it can be less costly to taxpayers than staying in an institution. Will you work for aging-at-home if you are in the US Congress?

Q&A Debate

## **8:20 PM - Wrap Up**

Democrats – Thank you for taking the time to attend this meeting. We are grateful, since there were other things you could have been doing. Bring some friends next time.

If you liked what you experienced here, tonight – or you didn’t like it and would like to make it better – please become a member. Membership applications are on the back table. Dues are only \$20.

Asks of a Democratic Club in Lee County:

- Become a member, join the fun, help us become a more-perfect club.
- This election year, the Democratic Party of Lee County is already raising funds, making phone calls and getting ready to knock on doors. They would like this club to send 5 volunteers to their battle for a more Democratic Lee County. And, they will be providing several fun opportunities to help raise GOTV money. Please, after paying your dues to our Club, consider going to **www. leecountydems.org** and becoming a recurring donor to the Democratic Party of Lee County.

If you have any questions or would like to become a member of The Democratic Club of Lee County, speak with any officer or director of the Club, including myself, Steven Blumrosen, President, The Democratic Club of Bonita Springs and South Lee County - 239-270 2655.

**The Democratic Club of Bonita Springs and South Lee County  
meets the THIRD Wednesday of every month through the elections.**

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, March 21, 2018. Same place, same time.**

## **Black History Month**

LBJ was the first president from the South since the Civil War.

When LBJ signed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, he reinforced FDR’s belief that the security of our nation depends on the physical and financial security of each person.

Since the “Double-V” victory of WWII, the Democratic Party has been the party that restrained intolerance, opened doors to individual opportunity, and more greatly bent the arc of history toward justice.

The party of the people.

## Some topics and questions for Lee County SOE Tommy Doyle

What is the procedure for becoming a candidate?

What is the procedure for registering to vote?

We hear about the old days when people were entitled to vote but were not allowed to vote. And, we hear about how people literally fought for the ability to register to vote, like at Selma. But, that was more than half a century ago. Today, things like the Voting Rights Act of 1965 are still in the news. How does your office handle concerns like these?

What is the procedure for becoming a poll worker? Are poll workers volunteers or do they get paid?

You are here, a Republican amongst Democrats. How much community networking is done by your office?

Do you reach out to schools?

On your website, there is an entire section about restoration of civil rights. That is because someone convicted of a felony loses many of their civil rights and can no longer vote in Florida until their civil rights are restored. It seems you have all the information someone might need, right on your website. You even have a state-by-state comparison from the Restoration of Rights Project.

Is that so someone who is considering a life of crime rather than college and a life of rewarding work can look for a more lenient state than Florida? For instance, the entry for the lovely state of Maine with its four seasons, genteel coastline and delicious fresh lobster says, "No civil rights lost, even upon incarceration." And, for the state that was once the Republic of Vermont, the entry says, "Vote and office eligibility not lost." Many other states automatically restore the right to vote upon a convicted felon's release from prison.

The procedures for a convicted felon to regain their civil rights in Florida seems a bit daunting.

1. Is voting a right or a privilege? The media, talks about the Right to Vote. If someone has an inalienable right to vote, how can they lose that right because they do something unrelated to voting?
2. When you talk to students from pre-k to twelfth grade, do you inform them of our precious ability to vote?
  - a. How that made us, the US, exceptional in 1787 and still makes us a leader in the world's experiment with electoral representative government as opposed to imposed monarchy with an aristocracy and appointed nobility?
  - b. How the ability to vote is a terrible thing to lose and a difficult thing to regain?
  - c. How is that received by the students?

Do you believe in the separation of church and state, or will you prefer putting your polling places in facilities owned by religious organizations and advertising your preferred religious establishments with polling place signs on our public thoroughfares?

Will you have back-up machines at all the polling places during each election?

**Some topics and questions for Lee County SOE Tommy Doyle (cont.)**

How much does it cost to run an election?

Who pays for “private” elections – elections, for example, of boards of directors of homeowners’ associations?

A couple of years ago, a candidate for public office in a nearby county to the south wanted to speak at our Club. I asked if he was a Democrat. He refused to tell me, insisting that such information is private and confidential. And, he said he was running in a non-partisan election, so it was against the law for him to say. I asked for the citation to the statute; he hung up. What’s up with that?

Your questions:

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