



# The Brief

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## Report from the Chairman, Rick Lacey

To quote Thomas Paine, “These are the times that try men’s souls”. Never in our history did the United States suffer under a more incompetent administration. Out of control spending, record debt, runaway inflation, a fentanyl crisis, disastrous policies for immigration, energy and education and most of all, serious threats to our National Security from Russia, Iran, North Korea and, most concerning, Communist China.

We need to replace these left wing Biden policies with common sense, conservative government and we need to do it in the 2024 election.

Once again, Florida will play the major role in electing America’s President. In 2024, the Sunshine State will be the largest swing state in the US with 30 Electoral Votes (3<sup>rd</sup> highest). Now with two great Florida Republicans, President Trump and Governor DeSantis running for the Republican nomination, Florida will be in the spotlight for the next two years. As Republicans, we fully realize that primary contests can be rough and tough, however it is up to us at the grass roots level to keep the campaign to a battle of ideas not personal attacks. So, let’s commit to supporting Republican candidates in the Presidential primary, and then rally behind the winner to save our nation from the socialist policies of Biden and the looney left. Let’s get to work!

Rick Lacey

Chairman, Brevard Republican Party

### Active Registered Voters

5/25/23

Republicans:	197,086
Democrats:	127,678
NPA's:	125,093
Minor:	11,461
Total:	461,318

Update Windows

## Sitting on the Fence, Dave Fosdick

Twenty seven percent (27%) of registered voters in Brevard County have no declared Party affiliation. I am sure each voter has reasons that lead them to that position. There are numerous economic, social and policy issues to be considered. There are people that have left their Party of choice because they don’t agree with the current direction. Then there are the “don’t trust/don’t care” people. God bless them all, each to their own.

However, Florida is a closed primary state. That is the one down-side to not declaring a Party affiliation. Primaries are an important part of our elections process – it is where the best candidate for each Party is selected to run in the general elections.

The 2024 Presidential Election is in the news daily, but the primary election is not just about the Presidency. There are many other County, State and Federal positions where the best candidates are selected in the primary elections. Perhaps the value of your voice is important to those selections and you should reconsider your Party affiliation.

Dave Fosdick, Precinct 511 Committeeman  
District 5 Chairman



## Committeeman of the month, Mauricio Tamargo

It was a great honor to be named Committeeman of The Month in April. I thank Rick and the BREC leadership for that great honor. Before I tell you more about myself, let me ask you to do something to help BREC because it is sorely needed. Besides serving as a precinct captain and on one of the BREC committees, I ask you to please consider making a recurring donation to BREC of \$10 or \$20 every month. You can do this easily on the website ([brevardrepublicans.org/get-involved/donate](https://brevardrepublicans.org/get-involved/donate)). I have been doing this since I moved my law practice here from Virginia and if we all do it we can do more to build our Party operation.

I have been involved in the GOP since before I became an American citizen in 1976. I had the honor to meeting and supporting Ronald Reagan during his race against Gerald Ford.

Back then I worked with Mike Thompson, Jeb Bush, and many other clever and industrious GOPers to build a Miami GOP from scratch. In those early days Miami was majority Democratic. I was the chairman of the Dade GOP voter registration committee when, thanks to anti-Communist President Reagan, we flipped Dade County to majority Republican.

Then I helped elect Ileana Ros-Lehtinen as the first Miami-Dade GOP, and Latina, Member of Congress, and became her chief of staff for 14 years. Like me, Ileana was also born in Cuba. After serving on the Congressional staff, President Bush appointed me the chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission at the Department of Justice for eight years. During those years of federal service I was allowed to serve as a precinct captain. I was not allowed to serve in any elected Party office, like county REC.

When I left federal service I was elected to the Fairfax County REC and also the Virginia Republican State Central Committee, which is equivalent to the Florida Republican State Committee. Let me now explain that the Virginia GOP organized structure is complicated, and I think Byzantine. But it does work well. The 120 counties each have their REC, so that much is the same as Florida GOP. Above that there are 11 GOP congressional committees, and even further above that there is the State Central Committee. It is important to note that membership in each of these elected GOP committees includes a filing fee, including the local REC, that ranges from \$50 to \$300. These fees are one thing I think should be emulated by the Florida GOP. Especially here at the county level. BREC is doing very well in local elections but it is starving financially.

The Virginia State Central Committee is comprised of the following members, each county REC chairman, 2 to 5 representatives from each of the GOP congressional committees, 3 members from the VA Ladies Clubs, 3 YRs, 3 CRs, 3 from the House of Delegates, and 3 from the State Senate, plus some others appointed by the State GOP chairman. One good thing this structure creates is a very integrated Party system.

Thank you again for the honor of Committeeman of the month. I hope my history and experiences will be helpful to BREC. I also hope to be an active member of BREC for many years to come.

Mauricio Tamargo, Precinct 411 Committeeman



Dana Blickley was raised in Jacksonville, Florida and moved to Brevard County in 1985. She attended Brevard Community College (Eastern Florida State College) and the University of Central Florida where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Public Administration. Dana is very involved in local and state Veteran advocacy, she serves on the Board of Directors for the National Veterans Homeless Support (NVHS). NVHS is an organization that strives to eliminate homelessness among Veterans in Central Florida.

Before election to office, Dana worked for the Brevard County Property Appraiser for over 20 years. Dana was elected as Brevard County Property Appraiser after knocking on over 21,000 doors in Brevard County. She canvassed the entire county by bicycle over a period of 54 1/2 weeks. Dana was elected Property Appraiser in 2012 and re-elected subsequently without opposition in 2016 and 2020. Since then, Dana has implemented new technologies to make the office of the Brevard Property Appraiser more efficient, providing quality and professional customer service, working to be the best in the State of Florida at producing accurate, equitable, and uniform property valuations.

Please be aware of these legislative updates that affect property appraisals:

"Save our Homes" Homestead Exemption portability period from two years to three years, effective January 1, 2021.

Florida voters approved Amendment 6, providing the surviving spouse of a combat-disabled veteran aged 65 and over to continue to receive the deceased spouse's exemption, effective January 1, 2021. Regrettably, this is not retroactive and the date of death for Veterans must be on or after January 1, 2020.

Florida Legislature amended Section 196.202, F.S. — Increasing the Widow, Widower, Blind Person, Persons Totally and Permanently Disabled Exemption from \$500 to \$5,000 the exemption for property of widows, blind persons, and persons totally and permanently disabled. Effective Date: January 1, 2023.

Keep in mind:

When making changes to your property titles, deeds, estates, or trusts, please be sure to contact our office to see if you need to refile your homestead exemption. You do not have to wait; these changes can be made all year round! You can find additional information and specifics on all Hot Topics as well as other news at the Brevard County Property Appraiser's website. The website also provides access to all necessary forms for exemptions, address changes and much more, along with instructions on submitting these forms online or via USPS.

Dana Blickley – Property Appraiser