



The Brief

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Pray with the New Speaker, Rick Lacey

Well, it took longer than we expected, but America now has a new Speaker of the House that I believe every Conservative Republican will be proud to have as Leader the Peoples House. Congressman Mike Johnson of Louisiana was elected to his 4th term and serves as the Vice Chair of the House Republican Conference. With two decades of previous experience in Constitutional law, Mike serves on the House Judiciary Committee, and is the chairman of its Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government.

Mike is a strong supporter of an unborn child's Right to Life, Religious Liberty, the Second Amendment and free market principles. He also serves on the Armed Services Committee and works to build our military to the level that will keep America safe in the world.

Mike earned his Juris Doctorate from the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in 1998.

Mike and his wife Kelly, a former school teacher from Webster Parish and now a Licensed Pastoral Counselor, have been married since 1999 and have four children, Hannah, Abigail, Jack and Will.

Although the process to elect a new Speaker was at times frustrating and hard fought, Speaker Mike Johnson is the perfect leader to take on the challenges of open borders, runaway inflation, and high energy costs, in addition to the serious threats to freedom in the Middle East and Ukraine.

Let's congratulate Speaker Mike Johnson and pray for his success as the 56th Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Rick Lacey
Chairman, Brevard Republican Party



Peace through Strength, Xiaoqi Wang, District 4 Chairwoman

There is much talk about United States foreign policy toward China, and since I am Chinese American, people often want to talk to me on the topic. To be honest, I don't know why it is such a hard a topic. If you understand American Conservatism, the answer is a no brainer.

When Russian invaded Ukraine, the popular view was we must help Ukraine, humanity demanded it. After sending billions of dollars in aid and equipment to Ukraine, with no end in sight, many people now

question the path we are following in Ukraine. Many wonder if we should take a different approach before it is too late.

I believe that our experience in Ukraine provides a valuable lesson for the future. The current popular view is that China is our enemy, we must support Taiwan's independence at all costs, and if China and Taiwan go to war, the United States must help Taiwan defeat China. What people are not asking is: Are we ok spending billions, possible trillions of dollars, waging a multiyear proxy war in Asia? Is the United States OK with the death of millions? Taiwan's cities and industries being bombed into rubble? Is the United States public OK with the economic and social costs of losing the goods supplied by Taiwan? Or is there a better approach that should be considered and implemented now, before fate forces our hand?

As the United States gets weaker, its enemies have become bolder, and as its enemies get bolder, the United States loses its ability to positively impact the path the world will follow in the years to come. President Trump is right, if he was President, these wars would not happen. President Trump understands that what is good for the United States is good for the world, that the world needs a strong United States and to be strong, the United States needs a strong military and healthy economy.

I believe that one of the core principles of Conservatism is peace through strength. Where does that strength come from? It comes from individual freedom, personal responsibility, limited government, the rule of law, fiscal responsibility, and free markets.

I also believe that Conservatism is the key to a better world. But Conservatism is a hard sell; individual freedom, personal responsibility, limited government, following the rule of law, fiscal responsibility and free markets requires hard work and moral fortitude. Concepts usually not associated with populism.

If we have learned anything from the present administration, it is that populism does not work and, if allowed to flourish, the United States will never be able to fight its way through the conflicts that blindly following populist whims will get us into.

We need to elect a conservative leader President in 2024. Someone who believes in individual freedom, personal responsibility, limited government, the rule of law, fiscal restraint, and free markets - someone who has the moral fortitude to govern according to these principals. If we elect such a leader, our economy will be healthier, our military stronger and, with peace through strength, we will be able to consider and implement strategies that are in our best interests, rather than having our hand forced by fate.

Xiaoqi Wang, District 4 Chairwoman



**Biden-Harris 2024, Mike Hoagland,
Precinct 429 Committeeman**

You may have noticed a few bumper stickers while driving around Brevard County reading "Biden-Harris 2024". It reminds me of the old saying "ignorance is bliss". I don't believe the democrat leadership is ignorant, but I do believe their voters are. We expect the democrats to address the environment, economy, women's right to choose, gun control, schools, voting rights and a few other issues. They will address these issues from their ideological view point. They will not address these issues with conservatives with any degree of specificity. They will tell us what a great job Biden has done and let's continue with his leadership.

The entire world is witnessing the decline of our country, but not the democrat electorate as they are ignorant. What we are facing is a Marxist agenda to transform our country. How these people got us into a position where republicans are called racist and white supremacists is beyond my understanding. The democrats are the party of the KKK. Biden's mentor was Senator Robert Byrd of West Virginia, a leader in the KKK. Again, how any American patriot, Christian or Jew can support this party truly is an amazing political feat. Everyone should read Mark Levin's new book "The Democrat party hates America".

Locally, we have had some great successes. With an overwhelming number of registered voters, no democrat should ever be able to attain political office in Brevard County. Registering voters and voter turn-out are all that has to occur to achieve total political dominance in Brevard. It is then a matter of holding our elected officials accountable for their actions. Elected officials are elected to serve not to master. We all see instances where that is forgotten. We need to have the courage to primary those who don't live up to the conservative principles which got them elected. Remember "Power Corrupts".

While we are making inroads with minorities, there is a group that political analysts say support the democrat ideologues. They are single white women. We can probably identify the issue but they are not going to listen to any male. This demographic most likely can only be approached by another woman. Is it feasible for Brevard County republican women's organizations to take this on? This just my thought. As an older male, I would not know where to start.

God Bless you all.

Mike Hoagland, Precinct 429 Committeeman, President, Heritage Isle Republican Club

**Vote Early
Vote Once**

Voting Explained

Election integrity and voting are topics that often show up in the news. Most articles are written to support an ideological position and don't explain the intricacies of voting.

Let's start with voter registration. There are several paths to register to vote: online, at events assisted by a voter registration agent, when you get a driver's license, at a Supervisor of Elections (SOE) office. Registration records key information used in the voting process: address (mail ballots) and signature (identity verification – mail ballots). This information is stored in a database. Maintenance of this database is complicated and challenging. People move away – the last thing they think of it to notify the SOE. People pass away, move in from out of state (and are still registered in previous), and ineligible voters become eligible to vote. This creates much transactional information that needs to be managed by the SOE.

Next, let's give some insight into in-person voting.

- Polling place – where you can go to vote. Either on the day of the election or at a special early voting location. All are listed at <http://votebrevard.com> and on your voter registration card.
- Election Clerk – is part of the SOE and in is in charge of voting at polling locations.
- Poll workers – work for the SOE and perform roles in the voting process under the direction of the Clerk.
- Poll Watcher – a person who represents a candidate or a political party and observes the voting process in the polling place. This is a citizen who wishes to watch the voting process for a candidate or political party.

- EVId – electronic voting identification device used by poll workers to identify voters and determine the type of ballot to issue.
- Tabulator – Once you have filled out your ballot, you are required to place it in a device that scans it, registers your selections, and securely stores it. Ballots/counts are protected four ways 1) the paper ballot, which is used in an independent audit 2) a count printed out at the end of the day 3) uploading the information to the SOE data center over a virtual private network; and 4) on a memory stick that is protected and stored for 18 months.
- Spoiled ballot – if a ballot is miss-marked, it is marked as spoiled by the Clerk before issuing a new one. If someone brings in a mail-in ballot, it is taken by a poll worker and must be marked spoiled before a new in-person ballot is issued.
- Non-solicitation area – is an area around the polling place where political campaigning is prohibited. All signs, tents, and campaigners must be 150 feet away from the entrance. If you are harried by a campaigner within the non-solicitation area, report it to the Election Clerk.
- Secure ballot intake stations (aka ballot drop box) – are repositories located at SOE offices in the county and at the early voting locations. They are monitored by a poll worker while in operation and emptied of ballots at the end of the day. If you notice anything that seems unusual, please notify the Election Clerk.

Finally, about mail-in voting. Mail-in ballots must be requested every election cycle. Mail-in ballots can be requested 3 ways, by phone to the SOE, by mail, or online at votebrevard.gov. Doing vote by mail is why maintaining voter registration is so important; if you need to update your address or signature, we recommend you visit the SOE office closest to you. Mail-in ballots can be returned by USPS or placed in a secure ballot intake station (recommended).

Signature verification - When the SOE receives a mail ballot, the first step is to validate the signature to verify it came from the registered voter (not a fraudster) This is done by signature matching, a process that matches the signature on the Mail ballot envelope to the one(s) on file with their voter registration data.

Brevard County Supervisor of Elections, **Tim Bobanic**, has developed a tool which allows designated individuals representing a candidate in a contested race, a PAC or a political party to view ballot envelope signatures and signatures on file in the SOE database side by side. This allows Poll workers and Poll watchers rapidly verify a signature's validity. As other Florida counties adopt this award-winning technology, it is clear that Brevard County is leading the way for the rest of Florida.

Randy Stackhouse, Precinct 516 Committeeman

Dave Fosdick, Precinct 511 Committeeman, District 5 Chairman



Elected Official Spotlight, John Tobia, Brevard County Commissioner District 3

It has been an honor serving as Brevard's District 3 Commissioner. During this tenure, my goals have remained consistent; to ensure fiscal responsibility of taxpayers' resources, spearhead conservative legislation, and uphold the safety of our community. I have experienced many challenges and failures along the way but also have a few successes that I hope have helped shape Brevard County into an even better place to live.

Focusing on safety, I wrote and passed a resolution protecting our community by formally rejecting

the radical movement to make Brevard a sanctuary county. I also sponsored an amendment to County Policy allowing employees the ability to exercise their Second Amendment right in the workplace, for not only their own protection but also that of their co-workers. In 2020, I proposed, and the Board subsequently passed, an ordinance which allowed local businesses that cater to children to classify as a park, therefore prevent sexual predators from entering their establishment. I created legislation requiring that the free E-Verify tool be used by companies that do business with Brevard County, to ensure that workers are legally eligible for employment.

Along with success, however, came failure. Brevard County should not be handing out taxpayer dollars to private organizations. However, the Commission has done this time and time again. The Board gifted \$30 million to the Westin hotel project, and also voted to borrow money to pay an \$8 million incentive to Jeff Bezos' company, Blue Origin. Additionally, the Board voted in 2017 for a tax increase and in 2019 to bust the voter approved tax cap. While I fought and voted against these liberal choices, I was not able to change the minds of the majority of the Board.

With less than a year remaining in my term, I will continue to fight for Brevard's best interests. An item certain to return before the Board is the public funding of LGBTQ+ events such as Space Coast Pride Fest, the host of 'Drag Queen Story Time.' Please know that my office is always available should you have any questions or concerns regarding issues facing Brevard County.

John Tobia, Brevard County Commissioner, District 3