



The Brief

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Winning, Chairman Rick Lacey

I'm dedicating this Chairman's article to all the unsung heroes of our local Brevard Republican Party. Last November we celebrated another huge success in Brevard County by sweeping every Republican candidate on the ballot and almost every registered Republican in the Non-Partisan contests including flipping Palm Bay from Democrat control to Republican.

This success was no accident. It happened because dozens of special BREC committee members and volunteers donated their money, time, ideas and energy to help on our committees. These committees included Social media and Communications, Election Integrity, Voter Registration, Fundraising, as well as our Republican Clubs and Campaign Volunteers.

As I've said many times by "Working Together" we win!

Please consider contacting us at BrevardChairman@gmail.com and becoming a Republican Volunteer. There are multiple ways you can help us continue to build one of the most successful Republican Committees in Florida. You will make a difference!

Rick Lacey, Chairman Brevard Republican Party



Spring is in the Air, David Fosdick

And election flyers are in your mailbox! After such a busy 2024 election season we have a special election sprung (pun intended) on the voters in Brevard County. The election is required to fill legislative positions to fill the vacuum caused by President Trump's appointment of Michael Waltz to National Security Advisor.

First is the primary election. Early voting starts on March 22 with Election Day on April 1st. Voting will be for two positions; Florida Senate District 19 and Florida House District 32. As there is only one Democrat candidate for each position, so this will be a Republican only primary.

Republican candidates for the **Florida Senate** seat are;

Marcie Adkins https://www.marcieadkins.com	Mark Lightner III https://www.votelightner.com/
Rep. Debbie Mayfield https://debbiemayfield.com/	Tim Thomas https://timforsenate.com/

Republican candidates for the **Florida House** seat are;

Terry Cronin https://votedrterrycronin.com/	Brian Hodgers https://brianforflorida.com/	Bob White https://bobwhiteforflorida.com/
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Voting by mail is possible in this election. Since this is a new year you must **renew your request for a mail in ballot** with the Supervisor of Elections. Get the information you need to do this at - <https://www.votebrevard.gov/Ballots-by-Mail/Request-a-Mail-Ballot>.

Early In-Person Voting for the Primary is Saturday, March 22 – Saturday, March 29, 2025. You can vote at any of the 9 early voting locations. More details can be found here – <https://www.votebrevard.gov/Election-Information/Early-Voting>.

Election Day is on April 1st where you will be able to vote in-person at your normal polling place which is listed on your voter registration card.

This primary provides Republican voters the opportunity to select the candidate they believe will best support their principles in our legislature. We encourage all voters to review the candidate's web pages and social media to make the best choice possible. The flyers that arrive in your mailboxes provide information on the candidates, but at times they can be quite misleading. Sometimes they are not factually accurate and/or intentionally misleading. The pictures and tag lines may infer endorsements and relationships that may not exist. Double check your research of the candidates before you cast your vote. Please carefully make your choice, but **be sure to VOTE and make your voice heard**.

David Fosdick, Vice-Chair Brevard Republican Party and Precinct 511 Committeeman



*The original Constitution read; Article 1 Section 3 Clause 1; The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each state, **chosen by the legislature** thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.... The 17th Amendment –*

*The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, **elected by the people** thereof, for six years; and each Senator shall have one vote.*

The 17th Amendment of the United States changed the way citizens choose their state's senators. This amendment permitted the citizens to primary and elect their senators. Prior to that, the state's legislatures chose a senator to represent their state in the United States' Senate. For us that would mean Tyler Sirois and all the other Florida State Legislators would make the selection at a meeting in Tallahassee as to who would represent the state of Florida in Congress. All that changed with the signing of the 17th Amendment.

The 17th Amendment became law in 1913. It was signed by Republican President Howard Taft just weeks before he left office. The Progressives were soon to take power, led by Woodrow Wilson. The Progressives had been pushing for reform for decades, they finally got it. One may question as to why it makes a difference as to how the senator is determined as long as we have one. It does make a difference, and in my opinion, the 17th Amendment was the start of a decline in the United States of America. Originally, the will of the people was represented democratically by the popularly elected U.S. House of Representatives. The U. S. Senate was originally designed as a republic, as representatives for the state legislatures. Recall, our country is a Constitutional Republic with blends of elements of democracy to ensure the protection of rights of all citizens and the sovereignty of the states. It's important to understand that the House, was intended to have representatives switched out every two years, changing as the people felt they needed to. They are to represent the people, me, you, us- the people. They could come and go every two years as the people saw fit. They were popularly elected by the people in their constituency. They could propose *popular agendas*, here today, gone tomorrow ideas. The senators, however, were intended to be the stability, the group that would operate as a check upon the changing representatives. They, the senators, controlled the popular passions of the majority, the House of Representatives. The senators represented the state as a stable and steady check in the federal government.

The Founders of our country studied history, they collectively knew and understood what led to the downfall of other democracies and republics. They saw that mob democracy could pose a threat and be dangerous. Again, the state legislators were local folks that the people likely interacted with daily and would see and or interact with in their communities. So, when a local, like Tyler Sirois, would run into a constituent in his community, he would be obligated to that constituent, not only on his behalf, but on the U.S. Senator as well. The people were close to their representatives. The senate was intended to represent

the state legislature who frequently gave instructions to their senators during frequent correspondence and this correspondence came directly from the people. Bottom line – state legislators kept the senator they chose in line with the people that the state legislator represented. It was difficult to control the federal government. The state legislature-controlled senate would prevent overreach of the federal government. The state legislatures appointed their own U.S. Senators to defend their interests and most importantly, the interests of the PEOPLE – us. State legislature controlling the Federal Senators was an obstacle for those wanting to have more control in the Federal Government. A goal of the Progressives was to get rid of the obstacle and a way to do that was to remove the interest of the state legislators – let the people directly vote for their Senator. A whole new game!

If we did not have the 17th Amendment the republicans would be in the majority and steadily holding control of the U.S. Senate. Currently there are more red/ republican held state legislatures in our country. (32 Republican-18 Democrat) That alone would mean that the red states likely would select a republican to represent the state in Congress and that is the true representation of the people. Just look at the political map after the election, red dominates. We need our state’s representation back. Repeal the 17th Amendment.

MaryEllen Galanopoulos, Precinct 215 Committeewoman



Republican leaders and community members gathered on Sunday, February 23, 2025, to have fun at the Space Coast Key Lime Pie Festival, held at Viera’s Space Coast Daily Park. The festival brought together a mix of local officials, families, and key lime pie lovers, all eager to enjoy a day filled with sweet treats and friendly competition.

Head Judge Matt Susin (School Board Member, District 4) truly got into character for the event, showing up in a full judge’s wig and carrying an oversized gavel, ready to take his role seriously—but with plenty of good humor. He was joined by Brevard County Executive Committee Chairman Rick Lacey and committee member Renee Torpy, along with a group of elected officials and community leaders who had the tough (but tasty) job of judging the festival’s much-anticipated Key Lime Pie Baking Contest.

The judging panel featured an impressive mix of local leaders, including County Commissioner Katie Delaney (District 1), Viera East Community Development District Representative Rob Dale (Group 5), and Brevard County School Board Members John Thomas (District 3), Gene Trent (District 2), and Megan Wright (District 1). Palm Bay City Councilman Mike Hammer, former Satellite Beach Council Member Mindy Holcomb-Gibson, and former West Melbourne Council Member John Dittmore also stepped up to the challenge. Rounding out the panel were local community members Max Madl, Bobby Putnam, and Neal Johnson, all lending their taste buds and expertise to help crown this year’s best Key Lime Pie.

The contest featured over ten talented amateur bakers, each bringing their own spin on the iconic Florida dessert in hopes of winning the top prize. In the end, Crystal Grindrod took home the grand prize, impressing the judges with her perfectly balanced, tangy-yet-creamy Key Lime Pie. Danielle Johnson and Shannen Harvey also wowed with their unique takes on the classic treat, making the competition incredibly close.

Pies were judged on appearance, crust, filling, flavor, and creativity. Judging these pies was no easy feat, as each one had its own creative twist—some with an extra punch of zest, others infused with strawberries, and one even featuring vanilla bean. Contestants pushed the boundaries of tradition with toppings like candied Key lime and even a Key lime pie cheesecake, making every bite a new and exciting adventure.

The festival wasn’t just about indulging in dessert; it was also a moment for an exciting community announcement. Matt Susin revealed plans for the county to attempt a Guinness World Record for the “World’s Largest Key Lime Pie” at next year’s festival. With the help of Brevard Public Schools Food Services

and this year's contest winner, Crystal Grindrod, the effort is set to be a show-stopping celebration of both community spirit and culinary creativity.

As the sun set on another successful festival, it was clear that the Space Coast Key Lime Pie Festival is more than just a gathering—it's a testament to the strong bonds within Brevard County. With Republican leaders continuing to serve and engage with the community, events like these highlight the spirit of tradition, leadership, and, of course, a shared love for a great slice of pie.

Renee Torpy, Precinct 403 Committeewoman