

The Informed Democrat

~ of SWFL ~

April Freeman: Cape Coral's next Mayor?



The nation's loss is Cape Coral's gain: **April Freeman** made a deeply personal decision to

refocus on local politics recently, to be closer to her elderly father.

Freeman needs no introduction with most Southwest Floridians. A highly skilled **TV and film** producer, she describes herself as **"a wife, mother, business owner, grandmother... and I've run for Congress."** She studied Economics, Political Science and Communications at Yale, and is a graduate of Yale's Women's Campaign School.

"Many Democrats are **fiscally conservative,**" Freeman says, and want to **"spend smartly"** on what's best for all residents, not just a few. She believes the Cape's City government needs more "co-operation and transparency," and will work to attract high-tech **jobs** and lower the **crime** rate.

During a prior campaign, she noticed that many residents had never seen their representatives; some did not know **who** theirs were. She hopes to change this.

Freeman decided to run for **Mayor** during her late mother's illness. Spending part of her time in Washington, she was reminded, would keep her away from where she is needed most: her **family and community.**

Nicole Dillon: Fort Myers' next Mayor?



A "real deal Floridian" and lifelong **Lee Co. resident,** **Nicole Dillon** is a mother and

grand-mother who challenged herself to create a better life for her family and community. She earned a bachelor's degree at **FGCU,** and she, her two daughters, and her grandchildren are all proud to be educated in our **public schools.**

Dillon believes Fort Myers needs **"strong representation"** to "defend the haves and have nots."

Dillon wants to address "gun violence, drug infested regions in Dunbar, misuse of taxpayer money and injustice with law enforcement," by working collaboratively with businesses as well as residents, throughout the city. She says Fort Myers is a **good place to live;** and she would like to become your Mayor to make the city she loves magnificent—for all residents.

POLITICS MOVES FAST

Get our latest updates at: leecountydems.org

Facebook: 'Lee County Democrats'

Twitter: [@leecountydems](https://twitter.com/leecountydems)

An Opportunity to Win

Demographic change and low **voter turnout** (13-18%), create a golden opportunity to get Democrats elected, here in Lee County. **12** registered Democrats are running, supported by Lee Co. Democratic Party. **Cape Coral** has **4 seats** available to Democrats. **Fort Myers** has over 2,000 more registered Democrats than Republicans (**44% to 29%**), but the Mayor is a Republican.

We need just **2,000 more** Democrats to vote this year, to win these seats. Let's make **2017** positive for Dems in Lee County!

DEMOCRATIC PARTY CANDIDATES

CITY OF CAPE CORAL

Mayor: April Freeman

District 1: Graham Madison Morris

District 4: Jennifer Nelson

District 5: James Schneider

CITY OF FORT MYERS

Mayor: Nicole Dillon, **Curtis Sheard ***

Ward 1: *Teresa Watkins Brown*

Ward 3: Minnie Jackson, Crystal Johnson, *Terolyn Watson*

Ward 5: Steve Hooper, Lydia Lowell-Sherman

* **Profile in next issue**

Italics = incumbent

Her heroes are Claire Huxtable and Erin Brockovich, who taught her "confidence that no matter the obstacles life throws at you, with a well-made up mind, determination and heart... you can **accomplish anything.**"

Cape Coral Council

D1: Graham Morris



Morris is past President of Cape Coral Civic Assn. “I’m running for a **modern city**. We have real challenges to confront to meet the future in a meaningful way. We need a focus on innovative ideas and **creative solutions** while minding the cost to taxpayers.”

D4: Jennifer Nelson



Nelson came to SWFL in 2008 for a senior management role at **Goodwill**; her career there took her from Texas to California to Florida. She graduated from UT at Austin and is “mom to an active twelve-year-old.” “I hope to elevate the level of professionalism and **leadership** on Council by offering my experience, knowledge, and expertise,” and says “government should understand how its actions impact its **community**.”

D5: James Schneider



Realtor **Schneider** owned **Sotheby's of Maryland**, managed over **200 employees**, and holds a degree in **Public Admin.** from UPenn. He moved four years ago, to live a mortgage-free life by the water. “I understand budgeting and how to be **fiscally smart**. I have the insight and experience to bring **businesses** to the Cape that bring in jobs.”

Fort Myers Council

W1: Teresa Watkins-Brown



Ward 1 Councillor for 8 years, **Watkins-Brown** has a long resume of **community service**. She has a Masters from Barry Univ. and retired from Centurylink after 35 years. “I’m running for **re-election** as I love my community and my city.”

W3: Minnie Jackson, Crystal Johnson, Terolyn Watson

Ward 3 Councillor **Watson** has two Democratic challengers:



Jackson is a former **nurse** and **director** at **Lee Health**. She’s lived in Fort Myers her whole life, and “is running to make the city a more **functional** place. I know how to **get people to collaborate**.”



On the STARS Advisory Board, **Johnson** helped secure **\$30,000** funding. She is a fixture at Council meetings, advocating for the **community**. “I take pride in being honest, trustworthy and having a heart to **serve**. I want to bridge gaps and **keep people informed**.”

W5: Steve Hooper, Lydia Lowell-Sherman



Hooper is a former **lawyer** with **35 years’** experience here in SWFL. He has a BA in **political science** (FTU) and a **JD** from Stetson, “I’m running as I think it’s high time I **stop complaining** about problems and **start doing something**”



Community leader **Lowell-Sherman** has “lived, worked, been in **business** and volunteered in Ft. Myers for **58 years**. Lengthy involvement with many groups and agencies provide me with **insight** into the city’s **critical issues** that few elected officials have.”

We Need You!

Help us register new voters and get them out to **VOTE**. If you’d like to see **change** in our County, State or Country, help us increase voting.

Lee Co. Dems received \$5,000 in Janet Reno Grant money to promote **voter registration, phone banking, canvassing, and door knocking**. We bought 4 new cell phones, 2 tablets, a mobile internet “hot spot,” and 2 mini-projectors for training—plus a phone bill paid with grant money—so we can **support our volunteers**. (We also made 3,000 “Vote By Mail” magnets; sponsored events; and expanded our email and Facebook reach...)

We have the resources, we have the space—now **we need YOU**.

Volunteer at leecountydems.org



Citizen Advisory Boards

Make a **positive impact** in your community: join a Citizens Advisory Board. These give members of the **community** and skilled **professionals** a meaningful say in local governance.

Lee County has **over 70 vacancies** on various committees: incl. Affordable **Housing, Conservation, Disaster** Advisory, Black Affairs and Parks & Rec.

There are also many positions on **City** Advisory Committees. **Bonita** has **three** vacancies (*Outreach, Streetlights and Bicycle/Pedestrian*). **Cape Coral** has **four**, in Budget Review. **Fort Myers** has **twenty** vacancies, but most are Ward-specific; **Ward 3** esp. needs reps! **Fort Myers Beach** has **six** (*Public Safety, Community and Marine Resources*). **Sanibel** has **three** in Recreation and Contractor Review, and three more in October in Employee Pension Trustees.

Full details: leecountydems.org

KEY DATES: FALL ELECTIONS 2017

29 Jul.: Ballots mailed: military & o/s (*Primary*)

8 Aug.: Ballots mailed (*Primary*)

14 Aug.: Voter registration deadline (*Primary*)

5-9 Sep.: Early voting (*Primary; 10am-6pm daily*)

12 Sep.: **Primary** [50% wins seat in Fort Myers]

22 Sep.: Ballots mailed to military & o/s

3 Oct.: Ballots mailed

10 Oct.: Voter registration deadline

30 Oct.-4 Nov.: Early voting (*10am-6pm daily*)

7 Nov.: **General Election (7am-7pm)**