

The Informed Democrat

~ of SWFL ~

An Opportunity For Change: Fall Elections

Cape Coral
Cape Coral Mayor,
Districts 1, 4, 5, 6

City of Palms
Fort Myers Mayor,
Wards 1, 3, 5

Vote November 7
Closed Primary September 12

Cape Coral is in for some changes, and it's going to affect you and your family in big ways. It will affect the **money** in your wallet, the **traffic** on the streets, the **water supply**, how safe you might be, which **building projects** are approved, how fair and useful the City's policies are, and ultimately, the quality of life in your community.

The **City of Fort Myers** has been wracked with scandal after **scandal** in the last year.

First, the Freeh report detailed years of mismanagement and corruption in the **FMPD**. Then a report found **FMFD** also had a "culture of misconduct." Next was the resignation of building services supervisor Christy Barker, citing demoralized, micro-managed, and understaffed **City departments**.

develop **Seven Islands** into an eight-story shopping, dining and entertainment destination?

Find out which candidates share your priorities and **vote**. The mayor and council members in districts 1, 4, 5 and 6 are up for election. All Cape Coral voters can vote for candidates in every district.

Watch for candidate info in our **August issue**.

Most notably, however, are the revelations of **toxic waste** being dumped in **Dunbar** from the 1960s to early 1990s. The City knew of the need for site cleanup since **at least 2010**, when the Department of Environmental Protection reported it. They failed to notify residents of the danger, and only reporting from The News-Press spurred the City of Fort Myers to finally take action. *(see overleaf)*

POLITICS MOVES FAST

Get our latest updates at: leecountydems.org
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\$45M Lee County Taxes Gifted to Charter Schools

HB 7069, recently signed into law by Governor Scott, will "take your tax dollars and give it to for-profit corporations," said Lee County Schools **Superintendent Greg Atkins**. Among other changes in the 278-page bill, school districts are required to set aside a percentage of funds intended for **public school construction** and give that money to private corporations to build charter schools that taxpayers will not own. This will have an immediate effect on our local public schools.

Our State Representatives are up for election November 2018.



Image: Phil Roeder via Flickr

Finally, there is the City's '**Midtown**' plan. It is literally a big developer's wish list made law, and is up for vote again August 7th. Only community opposition stopped it being passed already, without proper community feedback on how it will effect us and our city/region.

Mayor Randy Henderson has been in office since 2009 and on Council since 2001. He is up for re-election this November.

Dunbar Toxic Waste

The City of Fort Myers dumped **toxic sludge** from a water treatment plant in **Dunbar**, at a site that has had homes nearby for many decades.

As of June 23, the City of Fort Myers is beginning to take the existence of arsenic and other toxins seriously. The City have agreed to fence the property, and have independent contractors evaluate the dumping sites and neighborhood groundwater wells.

Lee Health CEO: free market “a real problem”



Socialized medicine: Hospital Municipal de Chiconcuac, Mexico. Photo courtesy Presidencia de la República Mexicana

Former Lee Health CEO Jim Nathan was asked about “free market” healthcare, as proposed in the *American Health Care Act*, in an interview on WGCU on May 19.

He said “the reality is, in healthcare [...] we’ve got a real problem in going to a total free market system. [...] When you follow the money, the entrepreneurial spirit will be to follow the most profitable cases, and leave for someone else the most complex: the uninsured and underinsured cases. [...] So you raise a most critical issue that we face in our nation: with people debating that healthcare is not a right, it’s a privilege and others that say that it’s a right for everybody.”

Health care is not a free market: you cannot delay illness to ‘shop around’!

HR1215: Malpractice Victim Damages Capped at \$250k

While our attention has been on the AHCA, another bill made its way to the House floor with little fanfare. **HR 1215**, introduced by Steve King of Iowa, prohibits victims of medical malpractice or negligence from seeking damages greater than \$250,000, yet *juries may not be informed of this*.

Julie Braman Kane, President of the American Association for Justice, says this bill protects “medical professionals who sexually assault patients, nursing homes that neglect and abuse their residents, and pharmaceutical manufacturers that market deadly drugs and devices.”

Most troubling, this Resolution protects drug and medical device companies from any lawsuit *even if the FDA has issued a recall*.

From Section 6 of HR 1215:

A health care provider who prescribes, or who dispenses pursuant to a prescription, a medical product approved, licensed, or cleared by the Food and Drug Administration shall not be named as a party to a product liability lawsuit involving such product and shall not be liable to a claimant in a class action lawsuit against the manufacturer, distributor, or seller of such product.

This bill punishes patients who are injured or killed by their health care provider, as \$250,000 is unlikely to cover their full medical costs and lost earnings.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Call, Write and Email:

Rep. Frances Rooney, FL-19
 Washington, DC Office
 120 Cannon HOB
 Washington, DC 20515



Image: Flickr user 'justgrimes'

How To Vote By Mail

Registered to vote in Lee County? You may request a Ballot-By-Mail for either single, multiple or ALL elections through 2020.

You may request your Vote by Mail Ballot online at www.lee.vote or by telephone. on **239-lee-vote**.



How to get a Florida ID

If you don’t have a driver’s license or other valid photo ID, you will need to obtain a **Florida ID Card** to vote.

We recommend to start the process **now**, as you may need to gather many ID documents to get one, and cards can take several weeks to arrive.

www.gathergoget.com is a useful website run by the Florida DMV. It will help you identify which documents you need and whether you can apply online or in-person.

Full requirements/process are online at: www.dmv.org

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