



**REPUBLICAN PARTY**  
— OF SARASOTA COUNTY —



**Newsletter**  
April 7, 2025

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Chairman's Message

**Graci McGillicuddy**  
Lifetime Achievement Award



**A "who's who" of nearly 300 people packed into to Michael's on East to honor Graci McGillicuddy receiving the Republican Lifetime Achievement award.**

**Speakers included**

- **State Senator and RNC Treasurer Joe Gruters**
- **State Senator Jim Boyd**
- **State Representative James Buchanan**
- **State Representative Fiona McFarland**
- **Congressman Vern Buchanan's wife, Sandy**

**Videos were sent by:**

- **U.S. Senator Rick Scott**
- **U.S. Senator Ashley Moody**
- **Congressman Greg Steube**
- **Sarasota County Sheriff Kurt Hoffman**
- **Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis**

**Graci has been a pillar of the Republican Party of Sarasota County for decades, supporting our activities and living out conservative values impacting generations in Sarasota County. She is a a beloved defender of preventing child abuse and treating those who have been harmed and we were grateful to have someone of such caliber to honor.**

**Thank you to everyone who was at the event, and to the Republican Women's Club of Sarasota for helping us put it on.**

**Jack Brill  
Chairman  
Republican Party of Sarasota County**





## Republican Party of Sarasota County leadership





## New Republican Club for Palmer Ranch

We are excited to announce that a new Republican Club is forming for the Palmer Ranch area of Sarasota County. Anyone interested should contact Mark Frandsen at 708-307-4318 or email Mark at [iamcars@yahoo.com](mailto:iamcars@yahoo.com).

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# Vote By Mail

Florida law now requires new mail-in ballot request each cycle.

Mail-in voting is the law and we cannot cede this ground to the Democrats. So a few things to remember:

- Sarasota County Republicans frequently beat Democrats in mail-in voting, along with early voting and day of voting, in past election cycles.
- Since that time, the Republican Florida Legislature and Governor DeSantis have further tightened our election laws every session.
- Requesting a mail-in ballots simply gives you the option to vote by mail. You can still vote in person until and including election day by dropping off your ballot. But if a hurricane hits, and it did in 2024, then a mail-in ballot allows you do to that ahead of the hurricane. There is no downside to requesting one.

Requesting a vote by mail ballot gives you all of the options for your voice to be heard at the polls. Just point your smartphone camera at the QR code below to go straight to the Supervisor's site or click this link:

<https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/Voter-Information/Vote-by-Mail>



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## Why Florida is Flourishing

There is a reason that Florida is the fastest growing, most successful state in the nation, why we have more in-migration from other states than any other state in the union.

Florida has low taxes, low regulations and a financial surplus that is the envy of other states. We don't talk fiscal responsibility, we act on it.

But we also have demonstrated openly for the nation and world to see that we will protect our children from being overtly sexualized. We value freedom, the dignity of the individual, parental rights, economic opportunities for everyone

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## Purpose of the Republican Party of Sarasota County

ARTICLE II: Objectives. General purposes of this organization as a "political party" are to achieve the following objectives and aims:

- (a) Election to office of qualified Republican persons;
- (b) Foster loyalty to the Republican Party;
- (c) Promote an informed electorate through political education;
- (d) Increase Republican Registration;
- (e) Seek qualified Republicans to become candidates for local, county, state and federal offices;
- (f) Promote the election of all Republican candidates in the General Election;
- (g) In general to uphold the principles of freedom, equality and justice on which the Republican Party and the government of this nation is founded, as set forth in the Constitution of the United States and the state of Florida.

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***Club Presidents!*** Please email your speakers, dates and locations to Rod Thomson at [rod@thomsonpr.com](mailto:rod@thomsonpr.com) if you want them updated on this list. Thank you!

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### Sarasota Republican Club

**Rich Tobin**

**"The Day Reagan Was Shot"**

April 17 | 6:00 PM Social  
| 6:30 PM Dinner &  
Speaker

Marina Jacks, 2 Marina  
Plaza

President: Greg "Tex"  
Bukowski

[WEBSITE](#) | [EMAIL](#)

### Republican Club of North Port

**NP Mayor Phil Stokes  
and Deputy City  
Manager Jason  
Yarborough**

April 28 | 6 PM

VFW POST  
4860 Trott Circle North Port,  
Florida 34287

President: Mark  
Frandsen

[WEBSITE](#) | [EMAI](#)

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### NOVA Republican Club

**TBD**

May 1 6:30 PM

Venice Community  
Center, 326 Nokomis  
Ave. S, Venice, FL  
34285

President: Michael  
Sollitto

[WEBSITE](#) | [EMAIL](#)

### West Villages Republican Club

### Republican Women's Club of

### Republican Club of South Sarasota

## Jamie Miller

April 14 | 6 PM |

Grand Paradiso  
20125 Galleria Blvd,  
North Port

President John Coughlin

WEBSITE | [EMAIL](#)

## Sarasota

### Tunnels for Towers

May 2 | 11 – 1 PM

Michael's on East, 1212 S. East  
Ave., Sarasota, FL

President: Linda Ivell

[WEBSITE](#) | [EMAIL](#)

## County

### Sheriff Kurt Hoffman

April 9 | 11:30 AM

Venice United Church of Christ,  
620 Shamrock Blvd, Venice

President: Donna Carter

May 14 speaker: Tom Knight  
June 11 speaker: James Buchanan

[WEBSITE](#) | [EMAIL](#)

## Gulf Coast Republican Women Federated

Comedian  
Kathy Penkwitz

April 16 | 6 PM

Gecko's, 5585 Palmer  
Crossing Circle Sarasota  
FL 34233

[RSVP by EMAIL](#)

President: Maryellin  
Kirkwood

May 21: Rep. Fiona  
McFarlands

June 18: Commissioner  
Mark Smith

[EMAIL](#)

## East County Republican Club

**Meets 3rd  
Monday of  
the month**

6:30-8:00 PM |  
Superior Word  
Fellowship

6512 Superior  
Ave, Sarasota, FL  
34231

President: Vic  
Rohe

[WEBSITE](#) | [EMAIL](#)

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## Republican Club of Longboat Key

**Rick Piccolo  
CEO of SRQ**

April 29 | 5:30 PM

Zota Beach Resort,  
4711 Gulf of Mexico  
Dr, Longboat Key

President: Nick  
Gladding

[WEBSITE](#) | [EMAIL](#)

## Sarasota County Young Republicans

**School Board Member  
Robyn Marinelli**

April 29 | 6:30 PM

Loaded Cannon Distillery  
3115 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard  
Lakewood Ranch

President: Sebastian Girstl



IF THIS MESSAGE WAS FORWARDED TO YOU, [CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#) SO YOU CAN RECEIVE THE RPOSC NEWSLETTER BLAST EACH WEEK!

## Republican Party of Sarasota County

5971 Cattlemen Lane | Sarasota, FL 34232 | 941.777.4467

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[www.sarasotagop.com](http://www.sarasotagop.com)

Republican Party of Sarasota County | PO Box 15333 | Sarasota, FL 34277 US

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