

Weston Democratic Club



Volume 20 Number 9 The Weston Democratic Club MEETS Every 2nd MONDAY of the Month April, 2006

From Our President ANN ZUCKER

OK now, what ticked me off this month. Oh my God, there were so many things that it becomes difficult to even list them.

Katherine Harris, the bipolar GOP answer to the Wicked Witch of the West and the sole reason why George Bush is now President, putting in ten million dollars of her own money because she sees that her fund raising capacity has dwindled to nothing and she is convinced that she can buy the election.....



Charlie Crist, the front running GOP candidate for Governor, stating in public that he thinks the latest legislation in South Dakota effectively combating Row Vs. Wade is a wonderful thing and he would enact a similar law if he is elected.....

Vice President Dick Cheney shooting his dear friend and effectively getting away with attempted murder.....

How about our Governor, King Jeb, trying to bust the Teachers Union by tying salary raises to the dreaded FCAT test (a joke to begin with)?.....

Or our Liar in Chief telling us that he thinks we will still be in Viet Nam.....oops, I mean Iraq in 2009. A war we went into because of his lies, and that he is keeping us in because of his overinflated ego.

I could go on and on, but I am just aggravating myself and the reader, so I'll stop. Get everyone you know involved. Let them all know that this is the time they need to get off their comfortable butts and get out there in the trenches. It is the only way we can make 2006 matter. We need you and we need your friends.

Help us please, pay your dues, get out to the precincts, call around, do whatever you need to...but do it!

See you in April.

Fondly,
Ann

INSTALLATION GALA Monday April 10th, 2006

7:30 P.M.

Coffee & Cake

Bonaventure Town Center

16690 Saddle Club Road

Near Bonaventure Blvd

Postponed from last month

Congresswoman
Debbie Wasserman
Schultz as our
Installing Officer



WE look forward to seeing YOU!

REPORT ON THE HISPANIC OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Hispanic Outreach Committee is planning a great event. Our May meeting will be a forum for Hispanic issues. Already booked for the event is County Commissioner Diana Wasserman Rubin, Pembroke Pines Commissioner Angel Castillo and Weston City Commissioner Mercedes Henriksson.

As with all Hispanic Outreach functions, we will be tasting a myriad number of Latin taste sensations. It will truly be an evening to remember. Mark your calendar for our May meeting.

This group will be bringing a lot of life to the WDC. Even the meetings are a blast!!!!

GET INVOLVED
JOIN A COMMITTEE



Your active participation in the Weston Democratic Club will help us to fight our Republican adversaries. Call any of the following chairman.

Campaign Issues
Harry Levine - 954-385-4088

Fund Raising
Toby Feuer - 954-384-1335

Hispanic Outreach
Ricardo Pina - 954-660-0411

Hospitality
Sharon Cheren - 954-349-9964

Mailing
David Feuer - 954-384-1335

Newsletter
Ann Zucker 954-389-4514

Program
Renee Smoley - 954-389-1811

Publicity
Stanley Rosen - 954-389-4683

Telephone Squad
Toby Feuer - 954-384-1335

The Embryonic Stem Cell Research Dream

By Rep. Franklin Sands

How much more as citizens are we supposed to take?

If we forbid government funding of embryonic stem cell research, essentially we are prolonging the plight for finding cures to debilitating and degenerative diseases that affect thousands of Floridians. Where is the logic?

My bill, HB233, limits this research to stem cells that were left over after invitro fertilization treatment and would otherwise be destroyed. So be very clear, the choice is to throw the stem cells in the garbage or use them for research to find cures for diseases.

Ethical safeguards and oversight are built into the bill. Cloning is forbidden and the penalty is a fine and a fifteen year prison sentence. The ten year \$15million annual contribution from general revenue (from a \$70 billion dollar budget) is seed money to attract Biotech business to Florida, and to form alliances between businesses and our great universities. Florida does have the potential to become a talent magnet and a multibillion dollar stem cell/biotech industry. The alliance will create high paying (\$72,000 average) careers in Florida compared to the thousands of minimum wage jobs we traditionally create.

Unbelievably, the Republican-led House Health Care Regulation Committee did not agree. I could have forced a vote and lost, or temporarily postpone the bill and live to fight another day. I chose life.

The real debate came down to the question of when life actually begins. Testimony was given on both sides of the debate. What concerns me is why folks opposing stem cell research equate the same life status of stem cells in a Petri dish to a mom and dad.

But here's the problem with that argument. If you truly believe that frozen embryos are fully-fledged human lives, and you oppose stem cell research using embryos, then you must also oppose invitro fertilization. As you may know, invitro fertilization creates several embryos, purposely knowing that many will be unused and then destroyed. If you believe these are human lives, wouldn't you oppose the process that created them to inevitably throw them away?

And yet, I know of no religious group or conservative politician that opposes invitro fertilization. Possibly it would alienate too many of their parishioners or constituents, many of whom have had children or have family members who have conceived by this method.

When I first drafted this legislation, I envisioned a bipartisan effort for the health and lives of Florida's citizens. By looking at the co-sponsors on the bill, you could say I achieved my objective and I appreciate that support. So what happened? A small number of members have serious religious objections, and I respect that on a personal level. But I am afraid that many members may oppose stem cell research for political reasons.

A Harris poll taken in June of 2005 for the Wall Street Journal found that almost 74% of all Americans supported embryonic stem cell research, and a majority across all religious and political lines supported government funded embryonic stem cell research as well. So why is there an issue in Florida? Why can we not agree to put partisan politics aside and act to find cures for our loved ones and friends?

People have asked me why I brought this controversial bill forward. I did not bring it forward for any special interest group. I offer this legislation for the same reason I entered politics: to help people live a better quality of life. As corny as that sounds, it is my reason for being in the process. The Florida Better Quality of Life and Biomedical Research Act is a positive, responsible piece of legislation to fund research and find cures for all humanity, regardless of your religion or party affiliation.

We can do better, and we must do better. We must move HB 233 forward.

State Representative Franklin Sands is a Democrat from Broward County
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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE STATE SENATOR NAN RICH

One of the most important pieces of legislation I have filed relates to Ethics Reform. SB 2660 and HB 1525, the companion bill sponsored by Representative Dan Gelber, would result in "real" ethics reform.

Current law allows members of the Legislature to solicit funds and accept contributions from a political committee, committee of continuous existence (CCE), electioneering communications organization, or a 527 organization described under the internal revenue code. While the new gift law bans members from accepting something as simple as a cup of coffee, it allows members to receive a \$10,000 contribution, or even more, to one of these political entities. This is a gaping loophole in ethics reform that SB 2660 / HB 1525 will close. The Legislature created them and we can eliminate them!

The bill will prohibit members of the Legislature, statewide elected officials, and candidates for those offices from raising or excepting money or coordinating or consulting with any such committee or organization. My proposed legislation is not partisan. Many Democrats and Republicans have some ties to these fundraising organizations that are allowed to raise unlimited amounts of money. As elected officials we need to be held to a higher standard and remove any appearance of impropriety. With all of the scandals in Washington, we owe it to Floridians to do everything we can to remove the power and influence of special interests in our elections process.

**BE PART OF THE EXCITEMENT!!!!
HELP KEEP US VISIBLE IN WESTON!**