

Weston Democratic Club



Volume 21 Number 4 The Weston Democratic Club MEETS Every 2nd MONDAY of the Month January, 2007

From Our President
ANN ZUCKER

What a great time to be a Democrat. We are in the majority in both branches of the U.S.

Our local Congressperson, Debbie Wasserman Schultz has been tapped for a major leadership position in the House.



Our local State Senator Nan Rich has been elected chair of the Broward Legislative Delegation. Our District 98 Representative Franklin Sands has moved to the Democratic Leadership Suite in Tallahassee and our newest Democratic Representative Martin David Kiar has just been named ranking Democrat on the State Education committee.

I don't know about all of you, but I am totally overwhelmed by the showing our Weston elected officials have made in ALL aspects of government.

We have a lot to be proud of. Let's celebrate together at our next meeting.

Fondly,
Ann

General Meeting
Monday January 8th, 2007

7:30 P.M.
Bonaventure Town Center
16690 Saddle Club Road
Near Bonaventure Blvd

**BROWARD
COUNTY
PROPERTY
APPRAISER**

**LORI
PARRISH**



WE look forward to seeing YOU!



From the Office of Representative Franklin Sands

COUNCIL & COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS ANNOUNCED

The leadership of the Florida House of Representatives released the Council & Committee appointments on December 12, 2006. I am pleased to announce that I have been selected to serve on the following Council & Committees:

Government Efficiency & Accountability Council
Committee on Audit & Performance
Committee on Health Innovation
Committee on Business Regulation

The first committee week is scheduled for the week of January 8, 2007, and I am excited to begin work on many of the important issues facing our district. If you have any comments, suggestions or would like to talk about any issue you feel should be addressed as we prepare for the 2007 Legislative Session, please do not hesitate to contact my legislative office at the number provided below. I am accessible to you!

THE LONG-AWAITED SPECIAL SESSION

Let me begin by saying that it is about time! Homeowners throughout Florida have been pleading with state leaders to solve the escalating hurricane insurance crisis and now the time has arrived.

Well, the good news is that it is better late than never. However, by waiting this long, homeowners may not see any relief in the upcoming year. Floridians are hurting and it is my hope that my Republican colleagues are really committed to addressing this crisis with meaningful reforms that will produce a stable market and lower our insurance premiums. It is important to realize that this crisis, if not addressed properly, could topple our economy and bring Florida's economic prosperity to a screeching halt.

January 16, 2007, marks the beginning of the Special Session to tackle the hurricane insurance crisis. I am hopeful that the Legislature will embrace a spirit of bipartisanship as we look for solutions that will ease the burden of our homeowners and small business owners.

I will keep you updated as we progress through the Special Session and the first committee week.

Contact Information Representative Franklin Sands

16600 Saddle Club Road
Weston, FL 33326
954-424-6800

1402 Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399
850-488-0590



"Ask Lori"

**Helpful Tax Saving Advice and Tips from
Broward County Property Appraiser Lori Parrish**

Dear Lori:

My mother and I are purchasing a condo which she will be living in. Is she eligible for the \$25,000 Homestead Exemption, if both of our names appear on the deed?

**R. Weisz, Broward County, Florida
(via email)**

Yes, provided the deed states "Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship". Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship allows your mother to qualify for Homestead Exemption with the full 3% Save Our Homes cap. Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship allows you to retain your full Homestead Exemption on another property, as well. We **always recommend you seek professional advice from a qualified attorney when making real estate decisions**, however, this information will help you better understand this common form of ownership.

Joint Tenants with Rights of Survivorship or "JTRS" gives two or more unmarried co-owners legal rights to a property. JTRS owners each own overlapping 100% interest—any one individual filing for homestead would qualify for 100% of the Save Our Homes coverage. When a JTRS co-owner dies, all remaining title interests automatically are divided between the remaining JTRS co-owners(s) with the last one alive owning the entire property.

Keep in mind this is a very simple explanation of a complicated legal issue. There are many more variants of ownership types, but this should give you a basic understanding of the answer to your question. If you would like to learn more about this and other important property tax issues, please visit our website at www.bcpa.net or contact our office directly at (954)357-6830.

Sincerely,

If you have a question for the Property Appraiser, please email Lori at lori@bcpa.net or write to her at the Broward County Property Appraiser's Office, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 111, Fort

SAVE THE DATE FEBRUARY 24, 2007

The DEC is coming to Weston. Once again, the annual Jefferson Jackson Awards Dinner will be held at the Bonaventure Hotel and Spa. Seat and table information will be forthcoming, but be sure to hold the date. Let's welcome them with a large WDC delegation

GET INVOLVED WITH YOUR CLUB

**MAKE SURE
EVERYONE YOU
KNOW HAS
RENEWED THEIR
DUES FILL OUT
THE FORM ON THE
NEXT PAGE
PAY YOUR DUES**

E-glitch: Sarasota mess creates a test case Tallahassee Democrat Editorial Sunday, December 17, 2006

A few weeks before the general election, and six years after the biggest election meltdown in U.S. history, which played out here in the capital, a recent chairman of the U.S. Election Assistance Commission told CNN news anchor Lou Dobbs that Americans' lack of faith in electoral machinery is fully justified.

The lack of a paper trail to verify what happens when certain electronic voting machines are used sets off the most alarms. But the short history of new technology is alarming in itself, what with voting machines that lose votes, fail to register votes, count votes twice, award votes to the wrong candidate and simply crash and wipe out votes.

Surely it wouldn't happen again, federal officials were saying the first week in November. In Florida we were adding, "surely - please - not here."

And yet here we are, back in the limelight with the embarrassing and to date inexplicable bollixing-up of a congressional election in Sarasota County. On Nov. 7, and in early voting, more than 18,000 votes were - as was said to occur to human beings in bloody El Salvador in the '80s - "disappeared."

Votes simply didn't show up in that particular race, suggesting quite selective indifference if, as the elections supervisor there blithely suggests, Sarasota County voters just didn't give a flip about who would replace Katherine Harris in Congress.

It's a dubious assumption, given that they voted enthusiastically in other races on the same ballot - those for Florida's governor, where the undervote was just 1,800, for example, and the U.S. Senate race, where the undervote was just 1,600. Nor did a similarly large percentage of 'undervotes' show up in adjacent counties in that same congressional district.

