



We **STILL** cannot be silent.
We **STILL** cannot be indifferent.



**Daunting and Devastating
Yet
Much to Appreciate**

While Jeff Bezos tarnished the Washington Post's slogan, "**Democracy Dies in Darkness**," may we **ALL** continue to shine a light into the darkness.

Reflections on Our FFD Past

We came together with a shared belief that our freedoms were being stolen from us in Florida. Little was being said nationally. Our concern was that, if left unchecked, such actions could spread across our nation.

We were unified around the need to expose key issues, collaborate with multiple pro-democracy groups nationally & in Florida, and develop shared language and messaging.

We were committed to help enhance the efforts of various pro-democracy organizations and draw upon their existing talents and experiences. We grew exponentially throughout Florida and beyond. We found multiple ways to collaborate with national, state and local pro-democracy organizations. We met many talented, dedicated individuals.

FFD, with our many impressive and dedicated partners, helped grow participation, provide education and add value in our pro-democracy journey. Below are many of the key presenters.

David Pepper – Saving Democracy
Bobby Block – Florida First Amendment Foundation

Simon Rosenberg - Hopium Chronicles
Lauren Brenzel – Floridians Protecting Freedom

Andra Watkins – How Project 2025 Will Ruin Your Life
David Jolly – Pro-Democracy Summit
Andrew Warren – Former Hillsborough County State Attorney
Tommy Doyle – Lee County Supervisor of Election
Kate Arnold OB/GYN – Florida’s Assault on Freedoms
Leslie Poole – Environmental Studies, Rollins College
Anna Eskamani – Florida State Representative
Rita Harris – Florida State Representative
Nikki Fried – Chair, Florida Democratic Party
Nick Penniman V – CEO, Issue One, Fake News
Nick Penniman IV – Former Publisher St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Fake News
Mike Martin- Retired president, Florida Gulf Coast University
Gwyn Gittens – Former Lee County School Board Member
Dale Anderson – Choose Democracy Now
Madelon Stewart, EdD – The Purple Group
Marge Cox – The Purple Group
Bobbie D’Alessandro – The Purple Group
Mike Caruso – State Representative, Palm Beach County

Karen Svoboda – Defense of Democracy
Rick Wilson – The Lincoln Project
Dr. Robert Hilliard - educator, author, trailblazer
Patricia Okker – Former New College of Florida President
Dave Aronberg – Florida State Attorney
Dr. Ruth Ben-Ghiat – Fascism on Our Doorstep
Jaclyn Lopez – Jacobs Public Interest Law Clinic for Democracy & the Environment, Stetson Law
Brynn Tannehill – Florida’s Assault on Trans People
Dahnny Roman – America Votes
Social Justice Alliance – Right to Read Festival
Scott Rivkees, MD – Florida’s Assault on Public Health
Nancy Terreri – Statewide Call to Action
Bob Schaeffer – Statewide Call to Action
Cecile M. Scoon – Florida League of Women Voters
Andrew Spar – Florida Education Association
Rosemary Nilles – League of Women Voters of Citrus County
Nora Viñas – Floridians Protecting Freedom
David Silverberg – The Paradise Progressive
Steve Phillips – author “How We Win the Civil War”
Mike Chitwood – Volusia County Sheriff

FFD sponsored or partnered multiple post-carding events and friend-raisers to encourage GOTV (Get Out the Vote) and amendment advocacy. We participated in four very successful programs hosted by Mike Kiniry of WGCU. We proudly utilized donated funds for media buys to increase awareness and education around Amendment 4.

**THANK YOU to all organizations and donors
with whom we were honored to meet and collaborate.
YOU made this journey enjoyable, inspiring and amazing!**

Going Forward

The results in Florida and nationally are daunting and devastating. The strategies we supported did not achieve the outcomes we worked so hard to accomplish.

This is a time to heal, refresh and reflect. Let us allow ourselves to be proud of what we have done together and in collaboration with others. While we may not have a clear long-term strategy, we must remain vigilant and continue to shine a light into the darkness.

Let us not live the lesson learned from the 1930s: ***"First they came for 'others' so I did not speak. When they came for me, there was no one left to speak for me."***

If we see the darkness of authoritarian or fascist actions,

let us pledge to shine our light, speak up, and speak out.

Now, more than ever...
We **STILL** cannot be silent.

Ali Velshi is speaking to us!
Please watch!
9 inspiring minutes!

"To be politically engaged is to put it all on the line, knowing full well that the outcome – at least the immediate outcome – might not be the one you worked so hard to achieve. But it does not mean the end of the fight. History is steeped in examples of people who fought through the darkness, people who knew that defeat paves the way for triumph. The fact that your side did not win this time is not a loss. It is simply a sign that your work is not yet done."

Watch Ali!!!

YOUR Feedback Welcomed!

The Floridians for Democracy and Floridians for Democracy Institute boards will be meeting soon to discuss future possible short-term and longer-term steps.

We may create a survey for all FFD participants.

In the meantime, your thoughts and suggestions are always welcomed.

Please email

info@floridiansfordemocracy.org
and title it "Feedback."

Thank you!

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We envision a state of Florida where all elected leaders proactively implement laws ensuring all residents have equal opportunity, regardless of race, gender, religion, or sexual orientation as granted by democratic freedoms dictated in the constitution.

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