

## Democratic Progressive Caucus of Tampa Bay

### March 28, 2019 Election Declared Candidates

#### President:



#### **Nina Tatlock**

I first starting serving on Organization Director Boards in the year 2000 as a Founding Board member and Vice President for Art IN Hand Gallery, an Artist Cooperative Gallery in Zionsville, Indiana, and I'm happy to say that Cooperative Gallery is still in existence today. After moving to Florida I was elected to the South Shore Arts Council in 2008, serving terms off and on multiple times in positions of Secretary, Treasurer (currently), and Vice President. In 2010, I served as a Founding Board member of the Firehouse Cultural Center in Ruskin, FL and served on that Board for several years. I have also served off and on for my Homeowners Association in Apollo Beach as Secretary, Vice President, and President during the 2018-2019 two year term. In 2016, I attended the very first formation meeting for the DPCTB and have been actively involved ever since. I have a Bachelor of Science from Purdue University in Consumer and Family Sciences and an Associate of Science from Indiana University in Optometric Technology. I have spent a number of years working as a Fiber Artist, exhibiting and teaching fiber art techniques. I am currently a professional volunteer, political activist, and an elected Precinct Committee Woman. I am running for President of The Democratic Progressive Caucus of Tampa Bay and I ask for your vote on March 28, 2019.

#### Vice President:



#### **Vanessa Lester**

I am a servant leader. This means that thru my volunteer service I want to ensure that the least privileged in our community's highest needs are being addressed. I possess several skills that will contribute to my success as the Vice-President of the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Tampa Bay (DPCTB). First, I have an endless amount of energy which is what it will take to properly serve and support the Caucus President, Leadership, Committees, Caucus Members and others in our community. Next, I have utilized effective communication, negotiation and organizational skills professionally to achieve goals for over 30 years. Since joining the DPCTB Outreach Committee and

Leadership I have focused on the following: Attending and participating in Steering Committee meetings, contributing to leadership discussions and decisions, reviewing documentation and providing feedback, help coordinate and plan our fundraiser, assisted in the candidate endorsement process, been sworn in as a DEC Precinct Committee representative, GOTV by canvassing, phone banking and poll greeting. My life's diversity has given me the privilege of experiencing the things we advocate for first hand (e.g. socially & economically marginalized communities, racial & gender equality, education, affordable housing etc.). More importantly than tangible abilities I have an insatiable thirst for knowledge. The most important thing that I have learned over the last three to four years is that no generation gets a pass on activism. That every human right gained is not permanent and can be lost faster than achieved. I, Vanessa Lester, would like you to know the following about me: Every morning before my feet hit the floor I give thanks for my life, health, strength and waking up another day; I think of three different things that I am grateful for (no repeats) and I ask the question how may I serve. My spirit say's, teach the next generation so they will be prepared to receive the torch that is passed to them. Then I get to work doing whatever I can to improve our democracy and I will continue to do this until I breathe no more.

#### Treasurer:



#### **Jackie Brenner Simpson**

Jackie grew up in the Tampa Bay Area. She graduated from University of South Florida with a Bachelors and Masters of Accountancy. She is also a Certified Public Accountant. She began the first four years of her career at Deloitte & Touche LLP working with the Assurance Practice. She spent the next three years at Bloomin' Brands Inc. as a Senior Accountant in International Accounting where she traveled to 11 different countries performing financial audits on Outback Franchisees around the world. She has now been with PricewaterhouseCoopers for just over seven months as a Senior Accountant with the Domestic Tax Department. She is relatively new to political activism and has been an active member and officer of the DPCTB since February 2017. She also volunteers with and donates to both the Humane Society of Tampa Bay and Metropolitan Ministries throughout the year.

## Secretary:



### **Emily Yederlinic**

Emily is an executive assistant at her day job. She is highly organized, and she has a strong attention to detail.

Emily has been a member of the caucus since it became certified in March 2017. She served as a member on Community Outreach from March 2017 to December 2018. She is currently serving as the Deputy Secretary of the caucus.

During her time as Deputy Secretary, Emily has worked to improve the efficiency of the caucus by way of organization and accessibility. Emily is a strong believer in transparency and accountability. She is a solution-oriented person who cares deeply about the DPCTB and its success.

## Board of Directors (Seven Seats):



### **Melanie Lachs**

Two years ago, I joined the DPCTB in the wake of a deeply disturbing election. Since then, I've had the honor to partner with dedicated people trying to build awareness and create change on voter suppression, medicare for all, food insecurity, immigrant rights and many other progressive policies that I value. I have participated in the DPCTB endorsement process, phone banked for endorsed candidates, canvassed for candidates and GOTV, organized canvasses, greeted voters at the polls and helped with many other things that make the caucus run - tracked legislation, edited e-mails, helped write announcements, helped with fundraising, and moved a lot of tables and chairs. The 2020 elections are an incredible opportunity to make progressive policy and elect progressive candidates. As a Board Member, I will support and help lead

our caucus' work to make that happen.



### **Russell Giambrone**

My name is Russell Giambrone and I am running for a position on the Board of Directors to help continue the wonderful work of the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Tampa Bay. I am a former Area Steward for the Communication Workers of America and represented over 1200 Pacific Bell employees in Los Angeles. I worked with the United Farm Workers in their fight to unionize the Farm Workers in California, which included working with Cesar Chavez in his battle against grape growers using pesticides that harmed the workers. My family and I moved to Florida in 2005 and we now live in Ruskin. I am currently a Precinct Committeeman for the Hillsborough Democratic Party, the Interim President of Our Revolution Tampa Bay, and have been recently elected a Board Member of

the newly formed Hillsborough Democratic Environmental Caucus.



### **Rebecca Fiore**

Rebecca Fiore is a community advocate; actively involved with local charities such as Meals on Wheels and MHR Food Pantry. She is currently a Board Member and the Membership Chair for the Democratic Progressive Caucus of Tampa Bay, a 2019 Fellow with the New Leaders Council Tampa Chapter, and a Precinct Captain for the Hillsborough County Democrats. In her role with the Caucus, she works with the steering committee to help organize events, plan meetings, and engage members to help build and maintain the caucus infrastructure. As a Precinct Captain, she is committed to her community while focusing on empowering diverse and underrepresented voters, to help build a stronger relationship between every member of her

precinct and the local Democrat party. With New Leaders Council she is gaining valuable skills that will help move the Caucus forward towards our mission. DPCTB has allowed her to have a direct impact on the community and she loves being a part of such a dynamic team of individuals.



### **Maria Jose Chapa**

My life's work and passion is aligned with progressive values through my work as a grassroots community and labor organizer. I think that it's important that the board should have a diverse and inclusive voice to highlight blind spots the progressive caucus may have in terms of intersectionality and representation. I would like to have meetings that include partnerships with other organizations that can lend their expertise and provide educational workshops for our members to be empowered and informed.



### **Michelle Kenoyer**

A native of Rhode Island and longtime prior resident of Seattle, Washington, Michelle is a 15-year resident of the Tampa Bay area and is active in local Democratic and progressive organizations. A supporter of, voter for, and donor to Bernie Sanders during the 2016 Democratic primaries, she faithfully got behind Hillary Clinton as the general election's Democratic candidate and volunteered/donated to/supported numerous local Democratic candidates.

If you were to ask her which domestic and foreign-policy issues were of greatest importance to her, she'd most likely answer, "All of them." She has never been a "single-issue" voter and has little patience for people on both sides of the aisle who vote only on one issue and damn the rest. Although very opinionated and outspoken when duty forces her to be, she is (mostly) reserved in disposition and is often the quiet eye in the middle of turbulent storms. Even so, she can be a bit of a loudmouth and tries her best to treat other people as she'd like to be treated. Not always succeeding in that effort, she admits she is constantly *learning* how to evolve into a decent human being.

Speaking of learning, she's worked in the adult online learning industry for more than 17 years and currently works as an Instructional Technology Specialist with a major managed healthcare organization's eLearning and Development department. She loves to help improve the quality and effectiveness of training materials and hopes to translate those skills into a community advocacy role, such as the current open HCPDC Board Member role.



## **Marcus Klebe**

I believe that 'all politics is local' and that building political power is really about nurturing relationships. While fearmongering and division were hallmarks of the past election cycle, there is another winning combination: *compassion, inspiration, wisdom and unity*. I have been knocking on doors, canvassing for candidates since 2012, but outreach needs to be about more than just candidates: we have to educate and mobilize voters based on the issues. We have to push for progressive legislation and constitutional amendments, such as the Voting Rights Restoration for Felons Initiative here in Florida. There are so many examples of injustice and cruelty that require us to speak up and take action. We have to continue the Fight for 15, as well as our support of unions and vigorous enforcement of employee and consumer protections. We must push back against Tallahassee's cynical and blatant attempts to destroy our public schools and endanger our environment for the sake of development and profit. We need to continue to push for the survival and full funding of crucial healthcare programs, from the ACA to CHIP and Medicare/Medicaid, while continuing to push public sentiment toward acceptance of truly universal coverage. We cannot rest until we reverse the militarization of our police forces and ensure that all Floridians, regardless of creed or color, are treated equally, and with respect, by all branches of government and their many agencies. The ultimate goal is nothing less than the restoration of fair and honest leadership on the local, state and even federal level. As an experienced transactional attorney, I will think strategically about how to achieve DPCTB objectives. As a trained mediator who has helped resolved interpersonal conflicts and built consensus in hundreds of cases, I have taken many of those same skills into the field, mobilizing groups of individuals to combat threats to our collective health and well-being under the current administration. We must come together to address these threats, for "a house divided against itself cannot stand." I would be honored to join the Board of the DPCTB, adding my perspectives and energy to the formidable team already assembled. Thank you all for your commitment to the cause and your careful consideration.