

# THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



## Making America Florida???

### January 1, 2025

As Donald Trump worked to fill out a cabinet with some of the most loyal but least competent MAGA disciples, he began by looking no farther than his home state.

The first Floridian he floated for Attorney-General was Rep. Matt Gaetz. Who better to serve as the chief legal officer in the US than a J-6 conspiracy promoter who was the subject of a House Ethics Committee inquiry into allegations of misuse of campaign funds, sexual misconduct, and illicit drug use? The good news is that the uproar over his nomination was so great that he withdrew *after* he resigned his Congressional seat in order to seek the post.

The bad news is that Trump didn't have to look far for another election-denying Floridian to put up for AG. He turned to FL AG, Pam Bondi, a part of his impeachment defense team. Bondi has insisted the 2020 election was stolen and held news conferences promoting false claims of widespread ballot fraud in Pennsylvania. The FDP has sent out alarms, concerned that Bondi "will ruthlessly implement [Trump's] agenda, even if it means breaking the law and betraying the American people."

For key foreign affairs slots, Trump has tapped Sen. Marco Rubio as Secretary of State and Rep. Mike Waltz as National Security Advisor. Ron DeSantis's name has been put forth should a replacement be needed for the stunningly unqualified, morally compromised Pete Hegseth, Trump's nominee for Secretary of Defense. Citing DeSantis's efforts to [build his own army](#), [kidnap migrants](#) and [send the Florida National Guard to the Texas border](#), Florida Democrats fear that "Americans will be in grave danger if Ron DeSantis is nominated as our next Secretary of Defense."

As appalling as it has been to have these folks in the mix for key administration positions, America's loss could be Florida's gain! Trump's raid on Florida's Republican officeholders may open some opportunities for Democrats here. The Rubio appointment means DeSantis will fill the Senate seat with a temporary appointment followed by a special election in 2026. The departure of Matt Gaetz and Mike Waltz means two House seats put up for grabs, potentially putting at risk the Republicans' razor-thin House majority. Voters will fill both seats in April, with primaries on January 28. These are in ruby-red districts, but the Florida Democratic Party is starting the fight to take back Florida by working hard on these races. These special elections offer us an opportunity to register voters, re-enroll Floridians in vote-by-mail, and spread the Democratic message throughout the state. They are the first step in stopping Donald Trump's agenda, and showing the country that Floridians are FED UP with Republicans' dangerous and disastrous policies.