

# THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



## Why I'm a Democrat

By Patrick Sheehan

September 1, 2025

Hi, I'm Patrick. I'm the quintessential "Millennial." I'm staring at 40, and my generation likes to joke how we've survived something like ten "once in a lifetime" events. Global conflicts, Y2K, 9/11, Fannie Mae and Bernie "Made Off" with all the money; the housing crash that followed. Sure, we all remember those. But we saw so much more. I watched TWA flight 800 news reports as a kid, and overheard my folks talk about some monster named Timothy McVeigh. And while the DOE gets hacked to death today, nothing will change education for a nation quite like being a middle schooler and watching the events of April 20<sup>th</sup>, 1999 play out.

I'm a Millennial. To most of us, this IS America. This is the world we grew up in; my generation's reality. Sarcasm and dark humor are our language, a coping mechanism to bring light to the absolute blanket of fear this nation has been under for the past 30 years. We're not stupid, we're just broke, overworked, underpaid, overstimulated, and honestly, just bloody tired.

And now, most in my age bracket are either *fortunate* enough to be stuck in their first home loan still or barely cutting it in a place they can't afford. And the list of housing misery levels goes down from there. Women had rights, now they don't, somehow. I'm a Millennial. Most of us are parents now. Now that's a top priority—my absolute favorite little dude on the planet, my toddler-sized Mini-Me. And he's a SWFL native. This little dude, who, only months old, slept through Hurricane Ian. By the time it was done, the roof was down to the OSB, water leaks, no power; homeboy wakes up with a smile and a coo. That's reason enough not to worry about the roof, lucky to have one in the first place. It does cause concern for the environment though. As someone who's been through multiple hurricanes, in multiple states, I feel like I can gauge how lucky I am, but also how absolutely horrifying things can get.

I'm a Millennial. That's my part of our larger story. I'm lucky enough to be a dad, one of the last in my group. Great guys, some who have been through, and others who are currently up against real, gut wrenching, impossible odds when it comes to the health of their kids. I write that holding back emotion; I've watched their little families grow. How to put a bow on this? It sounds like I'm a bit irritated about the way the world is. I'm looking at 40. Really? I was just playing Tony Hawk Pro Skater yesterday with Kyle. Oh wait, that was 26 years ago too. Now I have to care about stupid things like

healthcare, the economy, my insurance premiums, taking care of bills, my aging mom, what the environment is doing to where my family lives, *and* what kind of country is my little dude going to grow up in? And hell, I'm lucky enough to worry about retirement investments because lord knows Social Security won't exist. The war against science and fellow humans, simply because of their race/religion/income/sex has never made sense to me.

I'm a Democrat because I have to do something. I don't want this weird blanket of fear to be the future any of these kids have to grow up under. The needle can be moved, and it starts by extracting all the little blue dots in the sea of red to paint a much clearer picture. There's a ton of other guys out there like me. The ones who grew up on Jon Stewart and see Joe Rogan nowadays as nothing more than "The View" for sensitive, snowflake, middle-aged white dudes. Millennials are out there, and I want to help with that channel for them back into the Democratic Party. I'm a Millennial, and that's why I'm a Democrat.

*Patrick Sheehan is a Precinct Committeeman for Precinct 410.*