

THE INFORMED DEMOCRAT OF SWFL



Why I Am a Democrat

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By India Palencia

I am a Democrat because I believe in fairness, justice, and the radical idea that hard work should be enough to make ends meet. I grew up in a small town outside of Tulsa, the daughter of two “hippy” parents who worked tirelessly but still relied on charity to help provide for our family. We were the poor kids in the rich church, the ones who learned early that kindness and community matter more than wealth.

Politics was always in the air—my older brother took to it like a fish to water, becoming a political consultant. Me? I took the scenic route. For years, I watched, voted, and spoke my mind, but never stepped into the fight. That changed when my community asked me to take on a seemingly simple task: moving a school bus stop. Eight months later, after navigating a bureaucratic labyrinth of school boards, city councils, and county commissions, I had not only won our battle but discovered something life-changing—I love fighting for justice.



That experience sent me down a path I never expected. I’m now studying for the LSATs, determined to turn my passion into a career in law. Because when I look at my children—first-generation Honduran Americans—I know silence is not an option. The privilege of assuming someone else will do the work no longer exists.

So here I am, a proud, stubborn, God-loving, people-loving, justice-seeking Southern Democrat in one of the reddest states in the country. No big deal, right?