

## NEWS RELEASE



## Blue Wave for 2018?

### ***More Northwest Florida Democrats running for office than ever before!***

Aug. 1, 2018, Shalimar, FL. — As political party primaries approach in late August (28th) the Okaloosa County Democratic Party (ODP) announced today that more local candidates are running for office on the Democratic ticket than ever before. From National Races like the US House of Representatives District 1 race to Regional Races for the State House to local races... Democrats are running at every level, something that has not always been the case.

“Our goal is to compete for every office and on every issue and we are despite what some in our local media have stated,” said Okaloosa Democrats Executive Committee Chair John Whitney. “With the plethora of candidates this cycle and the trouble our nation and State is in, there is more reason than ever to get out and vote. Our main focus is helping get Democratic candidates elected,” he added.

Here’s a brief look at some of the more popular local races;

#### **Florida’s 1st Congressional District**

- Florida’s District 1 election for the US House of Representatives is seeing plenty of action! Looking to unseat controversial Republican incumbent and Trump-lover Representative Matt Gaetz the two Democratic challenges have been mixing it up across NW Florida discussing the issues. Retired US Navy Commander Phil Ehr of Pensacola, FL is going against Doctor Jennifer Zimmerman a Pediatrician from Pace, FL.

#### **FLORIDA SENATE DISTRICT 2**

Longtime NW Florida Democrat Mary Jeanne “Gigi” Gibson is seeking the State Senate District 2 seat challenging Republican Sen. Gainer of Panama City and has put her campaign in high gear. Florida District 2 covers all of Bay, Holmes, Jackson, Walton and Washington counties as well as part of Okaloosa County. A mostly Republican district Gainer was unopposed in the 2016 race. ‘Gigi’ has been holding ‘Meet & Greets’ around the area and attracting both Democrats and Independents to her campaign.

#### **FLORIDA HOUSE DISTRICT 4**

Seeking the State House District 4 seat, Rebecca 'Becky' Koelzer is going after former Destin Mayor and friend to Developers everywhere, Mel Ponder. Last time around Ponder reportedly spent more than \$150,000 to get elected and has largely been absent from the District ever since. Koelzer's campaign theme is '*Okaloosa First!*'. Florida District 4 covers most of Okaloosa County including Crestview. A mostly Republican district Ponder was elected unopposed in the 2016 race.

"Today's issues both locally, within our state and nationally are too important for folks to not let their voices be heard. And with all these great choices there really is no excuse for not voting both in the Aug. 28th Primary and in the General Election this November!" concluded Whitney.

The Okaloosa County Democratic Party and its affiliated organizations, stand for encouraging meaningful participation in our democracy by all citizens from voter registration without discrimination to support for local Democratic candidates and the Democratic Party of Florida. For more information please visit <http://www.okaloosademocrats.com> or visit us on Facebook.

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**US Senate**

Bill Nelson [www.nelsonforsenate.com](http://www.nelsonforsenate.com)

**Governor**

Andrew Gillum [www.andrewgillum.com](http://www.andrewgillum.com)

Gwen Graham [www.gwengraham.com](http://www.gwengraham.com)

Jeff Greene [www.jeffgreeneforflorida.com](http://www.jeffgreeneforflorida.com)

Chris King [www.chriskingforflorida.com](http://www.chriskingforflorida.com)

Philip Levine [www.phillevine2018.com](http://www.phillevine2018.com)

Alex "Lundy" Lundmark no website

John Wetherbee [www.johnwetherbee.com](http://www.johnwetherbee.com)

**Florida Senate District 2**

Mary Jeanne "Gigi" Gibson [www.gigigibson.com](http://www.gigigibson.com)

**Florida House District 4**

Rebecca Koelzer [www.koelzerforflhouse.com](http://www.koelzerforflhouse.com)

**US House District 1**

Phil Ehr [www.ehrforcongress.com](http://www.ehrforcongress.com)

Jennifer Zimmerman, MD (Dr. "Z")  
[www.jenniferzimmermanmd.com](http://www.jenniferzimmermanmd.com)

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