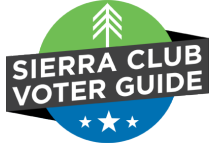




# SIERRA CLUB TAMPA BAY GROUP



Explore Enjoy and Protect the Planet November / December 2022



## 2022 General Election November 8, 2022

### Florida Sierra Club 2022 Political Endorsements!

Tampa Bay Group's Political Committee has been hard at work for you, vetting and recommending solid environmental candidates for endorsement by Sierra Club.

At the start of the election season we meet and review local, state and congressional races within our Group's boundaries, including races where districts overlap with neighboring Groups like Suncoast, Pasco, and Manatee-Sarasota. We look at the candidate's overall record and platform; their performance on environmental, equity, justice and inclusion issues. All endorsements must be vetted and approved by the Group's Executive Committee and a second voting tier, which varies depending on whether it is a local, state or congressional race. We are careful to comply with state and federal election laws, most of which apply to communications and contributions.



### Charlie Crist for Florida Governor

### Adam Hattersley for Florida Chief Financial Officer

#### Hillsborough and Pasco counties

**Kathy Castor** - US House of Representatives - District 14 \*

**Janet Cruz** - Florida Senate - District 14

**Darryl Rouson** - Florida Senate - District 16

**Michele Rayner** - Florida House of Representatives - District 62

**Diane "Dee" Hart** - Florida House of Representatives - District 63

**Fentrice Driskill** - Florida House of Representatives - District 67

**Andrew Learned** - Florida House of Representatives - District 69

**Angela Birdsong** - Hillsborough County Commission - District 2

**Mariella Smith** - Hillsborough County Commission - District 5

**Kimberly Overton** - Hillsborough County Commission - District 7

**Karen Perez** - Hillsborough County School Board - District 6



### **NOVEMBER GENERAL PROGRAM - VIRTUAL**

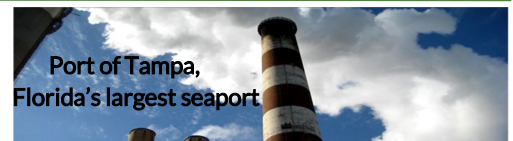
**Wednesday, November 9, 2022 7:00pm**

**PROGRAM:** Hillsborough's Dirty Air / Dirty Energy Nexus!

**SPEAKER:** **Brooke Ward**, a lifelong resident of Tampa Bay, has focused her work on moving Congressional targets to ban fossil fuels and fossil fuel infrastructure and move to renewable energy. Hillsborough was the only county in the State to receive an "F" on the State of the Air report from the America Lung Association, 2018 - 2022. Brooke is also an active proponent of water protection, and the founder and facilitator of the Tampa Bay Climate Alliance. She was the state coordinator for Floridians Against Fracking and successfully got then-candidate Governor Ron DeSantis on record in support of a fracking ban. Brooke was also an adjunct law professor of advocacy at Fordham University.

**Room opens at 6:45 and Program starts at 7:00pm. Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83949261754?pwd=T1dNTINGOGk0bmtYVCtCWFFyNWNuUT09>



## 2022 Executive Committee

**Group Chair / ICO:** Rocky Milburn  
(813) 966-9785  
[rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:rocky.milburn@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Vice-Chair / Parliamentarian**  
**Political Chair:** Gary Gibbons  
[gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:gary.gibbons@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Conservation:** Nancy Stevens  
813-380-1668  
[nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:nancy.stevens@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Outings Chair:** Shirley Denton  
[Shirley.denton@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Shirley.denton@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Recycling Chair:** Barbara Heineken  
[Barbara.heineken@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Barbara.heineken@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Tabling Chair:** Michael Newett  
[Michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Michael.newett@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Communication Chair:** Rob Jordan  
[robert.jordan@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:robert.jordan@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Plastics Chair/Media Contact:**  
Janet Stanko  
[janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Transportation Chair:** Jim Shirk  
[jim.shirk@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:jim.shirk@florida.sierraclub.org)

## Other Officers & Assignments

**Secretary:** Kathy Crosby  
[kathy.crosby@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:kathy.crosby@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Membership Chair / Volunteer Coordinator:** Linda Hugues  
[linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:linda.hugues@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Treasurer:** Don Kruse  
[don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:don.kruse@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Program Chair:** Bonnie Newett  
[bonnie.newett@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bonnie.newett@florida.sierraclub.org)

**ICO Webmaster:** Bob Rice  
[bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:bob.rice@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Newsletter:** Corky Crowley  
[corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:corky.crowley@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative:** Dave Varrieur  
(813) 503-6970  
[dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Media Contact:** Cheryl Van Beek  
[cheryl.vambeek@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:cheryl.vambeek@florida.sierraclub.org)

**Outings Leader/Trainer:** Ed Shindle  
[Ed.Shindle@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:Ed.Shindle@florida.sierraclub.org)



## Outings are Back!

For updated outings please go to our schedule, which we will publish on **MeetUp** page online **Up-**

**coming events | Sierra Club Groups of the Greater Tampa Bay Florida Area (Saint Petersburg, FL) | Meetup** and our website <https://www.sierraclub.org/florida/tampa-bay>.  
**Florida Seller of Travel Reference No. ST37115**

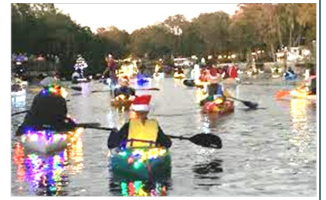
Participant Agreement Waivers will be required for all participants through advance registration, call: (415) 977-5630 or [www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/](http://www.sierraclub.org/outings/chapter/forms/)  
All trips have experienced, trained, certified leaders.

**Friday, Nov. 25, Hike** Black Friday Hike at Golden Aster from 9:00 to 1:00 pm. Avoid the crowds and skip the mall and hike the Hillsborough Golden Aster Preserve. This is a beautiful ELAPP site containing the rare and endangered golden aster which should be in bloom as well as the only remaining site for the Florida scrub-jay To RSVP go to our website.

**Sunday Dec. 11, Holiday Boat Parade** Join Sierra Club and Friends of Hillsborough River for the **22nd Annual Hillsborough**

**River Holiday Boat Parade.** Bring your decorated boat and launch from the Lowry Park boat ramp just before sunset.

Pre-registration is required, for information go to our website.



## Tampa Bay Outdoor Leader Training

**Saturday, November 12, 2022; 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**Location:** 8123 Double Branch Rd, Tampa, FL 33635

Exciting news is that we have Tampa Bay Outdoor Leader Training, **OLT101 and OLT201**, Basic First Aid scheduled for November. This is the first training opportunity since COVID shut down outings. The training will be a hybrid of on-line training (Thank You to Bob Rice for developing it), and in-person training. Thanks to the on-line component, this will be a one-day event. If you want to be trained as an outings leader, please contact Shirley Denton at [sierra.tb.outings@gmail.com](mailto:sierra.tb.outings@gmail.com).

## Join the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Stadium Recycling Initiative!

Come and join the volunteers at Raymond James Stadium and recycle for 2 hours prior to the start of each event then we are allowed to enter the stadium at no charge. Events this season include all the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football games, USF Bulls games, concerts and more. To join this exciting program, please contact David Varrieur at [dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:dave.varrieur@florida.sierraclub.org)



## Conservation Committee

The next meetings will be Monday, November 14 and Monday, December 12 at 6:30 via Zoom. The December meeting will review a previously recorded, very informative, slide presentation on contaminants in water.

★ **Tampa PURE:** The City requested and was denied additional funding for PURE. City Council requested that the over \$800,000 funding that they do have be spent on:

1. Requesting an exemption from SB 64 to give them more time to plan,
2. Answering Sierra Club's questions from March, 2022, and
3. Developing a water plan to use current water sources and explaining when more will be needed.

**Tampa PURE and SB 64:** We are focusing on getting Tampa's discharge of wastewater into Tampa Bay be considered a beneficial use under SB 64 legislation. Sid Flannery has written a detailed paper on how the wastewater provides fresh (rather than salty) water to the Tampa Bay estuary and supports wildlife there. Getting this ruling would not prohibit other uses for the reclaimed water but would give time to consider specific needs and plan for additional water treatment on a case by case basis.

**Tampa Water issues Going Forward:** We hope to promote solutions that are good for the environment and citizens, such as water conservation and expanding reclaimed water to water lawns, which not only reduces drinking water use but also reduces the nutrient-rich reclaimed water going into the Bay.

★ **Lawn-Free, Climate-Friendly Yards:** Caryle Cammisa is looking for volunteers to start an education program on water friendly yards.

★ **Land Use: 12910 Boyette Road:** there is a proposal for a land use change for a property next to the Gibbons Nature Preserve that is currently a golf driving range.

If you would like more information or would like to get involved with a project, contact Nancy Stevens at [Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org](mailto:Nancy.Stevens@Florida.SierraClub.org).



## Single Use Plastics: *by Janet Stanko, Sierra Florida Single Use Plastics Working Group*

Many of you already have reduced your single use plastic use because you "get it" with reducing waste especially of single use plastics. You can take your individual actions to the next level with some actions listed below. Individual actions leveraged with communications will leverage our efforts.

♻️ **Best Buy** is now charging for single use bags at the checkout! Charging for single use products is the surest way to get the customer's attention and reduce single use plastic use. Thank them on social media for their reduction in single use bags. Here's the article: <https://corporate.bestbuy.com/moving-away-from-single-use-plastic-bags/> Here is Best Buy's Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/bestbuy/>

♻️ **Publix petitions at fall events:** Don't forget to take petition materials to fall events. We have palm cards, fact sheets, post cards, in addition to the digital petitions. In January, we are planning a media event in Tampa to ask Publix to stop using plastic bags. We need pictures of Publix bags as litter in our neighborhoods or natural areas. If you have questions, or need materials, contact me and please send pictures to [janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org](mailto:janet.stanko@florida.sierraclub.org) or text to 904 208 1341.

President Biden signed the **Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)** into law on August 16, 2022.

### Here Are the Top 10 Benefits<sup>1</sup>

1. **30% tax credit on solar systems.** The solar Investment Tax Credit (ITC) means you get back nearly a third of the cost of your system if purchased between 2022 and 2032.
2. **30% tax credit on energy storage technologies.** This credit covers batteries that run on solar energy that can be used to power your home in a grid outage.
3. **Tax credits for home builders.** With these credits for builders, we can expect to see more clean-energy homes on the market.
4. **Up to \$7,500 tax credit on electric vehicles (EVs).**
5. **30% tax credit on EV chargers.**
6. **\$8,000 rebate on heat pumps.**
7. **\$1,750 rebate on heat pump water heaters.**
8. **\$840 rebate on electric stoves, cooktops, ranges, and ovens.**
9. **Up to \$4,000 rebate on breaker box upgrades and \$2,500 rebate on electrical wiring**

**Cleaner air.** With all these incentives in place, the White House expects a 40% cut in greenhouse emissions from 2005 levels by the end of the decade.

Lastly, the Sierra Club and SunPower are giving you an additional incentive. Go solar with SunPower and the Sierra Club and you'll get a **\$1,000 VISA Reward card rebate** when you purchase or lease your SunPower solar system. Plus, when you go solar, SunPower will donate **\$1,000 to the Sierra Club** on your behalf. Let's help transition our world to clean energy.

## Biographies of the Four Candidates for the 2023-2024 Executive Committee - "ExCom"

**Shirley Denton:** I joined the Sierra Club in the 1990's, and I have been on the Executive Committee of the Tampa Bay Sierra Group since 2020 and I would like to continue my working with the ExCom.

I am a retired environmental professional with a 35+ year career in plant ecology. During my professional years, I was often involved in large-scale community planning and permitting, wetlands permitting, and water use permitting, in combination giving me a good understanding of how the planning and development approval process works in Florida. I also bring leadership experi-

ence with other environmental organizations. I believe that my scientific, professional, and non-profit experience will let me contribute meaningfully to the Executive Committee.

In 2017, I became an Outings Leader, and in 2019 I became the Outings Chair for the Tampa Bay Sierra Group. I and others, are now working to enhance our outings program including increasing the number of leaders, improving our local outings training process, and bringing on more and more diverse outings.

I will greatly appreciate your support and encourage you to

participate in the Group's outings and other events.

**Gary Gibbons:** I am a native Floridian, born in Tampa. In my professional life, I am a "mostly-retired" attorney, and in my spare time, you'll likely find me on my Stand-Up Paddle Board or kayak deep in the mangroves photographing something beautiful, or hiking, biking, or fishing in the Bay or in the Gulf. I am a certified Outings Leader for Sierra Club and love leading Outings to explore the beautiful area that we live in and to inspire others to get active in advocating for protection of our fragile



# The Nominating Committee of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club Group presents the 2023-2024 Executive Committee (ExCom) Candidates for election.

## MAIL IN BALLOT VOTE - BY NOVEMBER 30, 2022

I am a member of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. I vote for the following **Four candidates** for the 2023 / 24 term on the Executive Committee.

Membership number :

	INDIVIDUAL	JOINT
1 Shirley Denton:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Gary Gibbons:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 Don Kruse:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Michael Newett:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### PLEASE VOTE for Four of the Candidates

One vote for an individual member, two votes for joint members only. Please include your **8 digit membership number or ID number on membership card or look above your address on the newsletter.**

**Mail your ballots to:**

Sierra Club Election  
PO Box 1596  
Thonotosassa, FL 33592

Tampa Florida, I am a prior Executive Committee member and current Treasurer of Tampa Bay Sierra Club. I am a huge proponent of electric vehicles- "EVs" and renewable energy and believe in leading by example...an EV is my main source of transportation with 95% of all its operating energy coming from clean energy "the sun" of a "50kw Solar System" powering my school. I'm a Supporter/ Participator of National Drive Electric. I've also served on the Sierra Club's political committee to make sure we elect and support green leaders. In my professional life I am the CEO of the Beauty and Health Institute.

## Biographies of the Four Candidates for the 2023-2024

ecosystem.

At an early age, I learned to love and respect the woods and the Gulf and our amazing rivers. I'm deeply concerned with the degradation of our springs and water quality issues everywhere in Florida, and I want to work towards restoring and protecting our precious resources, wetlands, and watersheds before it is too late.

I am presently serving as the Political Committee Chair, and for the past two years I have served as Vice Chair of the Ex-

Com of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club. I want to continue the good work that we are doing. Working on the Political Committee has kept me busy in the endorsement process of screening and interviewing political candidates with a goal of electing candidates to public office who will be mindful of the need to protect the environment in every decision which they make.

Don Kruse: Born and raised in

Michael Newett: I have been a member of the Tampa Bay Sierra Club for many years and have served on Executive Committee for seven years. During that time, I have served as Treasurer, Conservation Chair, Events and Tabling Chair, and have participated on the political committee as well as the Raymond James recycling initiative. I also worked with USF students to host joint Solar Fairs. I would look forward to serving another 2-year term. Thank you.





**SIERRA CLUB**

TAMPA BAY GROUP

# Sierra Club Tampa Bay Group

November December 2022



Nonprofit Org.

U.S. POSTAGE

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TAMPA, FL

Permit No. **2834**

### Address Changes:

Please call (415) 977-5653 or email [address.changes@sierraclub.org](mailto:address.changes@sierraclub.org)  
Include your membership number located on the mailing label.

Tampa Bay Group  
P.O. Box 1596  
Thonotosassa, Florida 33592

Web:  
[florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay](http://florida.sierraclub.org/tampabay)



**Membership:** Join today for just \$15.00 and receive a FREE Sierra Club 1892 style Trail Cooler Tote at [www.sierraclub.org](http://www.sierraclub.org)



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City : \_\_\_\_\_

State : \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed, made payable to *Sierra Club*

Please charge my: MasterCard  Visa

Exp. Date : \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number : \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES INDIVIDUAL JOINT

INTRODUCTORY	\$15	\$20
REGULAR	\$39	\$49
SUPPORTING	\$75	\$100
CONTRIBUTING	\$150	\$175
LIFE	\$1000	\$1250
SENIOR	\$25	\$35
STUDENT	\$25	\$35
LIMITED INCOME	\$25	\$35

SIERRA CLUB  
P.O. BOX 421041  
Palm Coast, FL 32142-6417

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## TAMPA BAY SIERRA CLUB ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY !

Wednesday, December 14, 2022 – 6:30-9:30pm



At New World Brewery  
810 E. Skagway Ave., Tampa 33604  
Just east of Hwy 275,  
1 block south of Busch Blvd.  
Convenient parking across the  
street from restaurant.  
Buffet Dinner \* Cash Bar \*  
Door Prizes

Short Awards Ceremony  
to recognize volunteers

Cost: \$20 per person

Payment by credit card is available online at  
<https://square.link/u/WPhevcvR>

Or mail check payable to Tampa Bay Group Holiday Party

Send to: Tampa Bay Sierra Club,  
PO Box 1596, Thonotosassa, FL 33592

For questions contact Michael Newett, [newett554@live.com](mailto:newett554@live.com)

