



# The Tusk

*The Official Newsletter of the...*



Issue #2

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(The pachyderm uses his ivory tusk to dig and bore for work and food.  
We use our Tusk to dig and bore to help keep Brevard County red.)

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## **LEMIEUX SWORN IN AS FLORIDA SENATOR**

Former Florida Attorney General George LeMieux, who has been sworn into office as the nation's youngest and 99<sup>th</sup> ranking member of the U.S. Senate, says he has "no intention" of running for the seat in 2010.

The ceremony in Washington occurred one day after Mel Martinez stepped down. Martinez is joining the Tampa office of the world-wide DLA Piper law firm as a lobbyist. He will be able to advise clients on strategy, but federal law prevents him from directly lobbying members of Congress for two years.

LeMieux, 40, also served as chief of staff to Governor Charlie Crist, who appointed him to fill the slot and is considered the frontrunner in the growing race for the open Senate seat next year.

In his first newsletter to constituents, LeMieux said: "There are tremendous issues facing this nation, and although my time in Washington will be brief, I intend to work hard every day to address these critical challenges and serve the people of this unique, diverse and wonderful state."

## **STEELE PLACED ON PROBATION AS BREC CHAIR**

Jason Steele, who has been placed on probation as chairman of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee, says he will "continue to lead local Republicans in accordance with my fundamental belief in conservative values, come what may."

The Republican Party of Florida announced its probation decision after a lengthy process of grievances and a hearing during which Steele was accused by former BREC Secretary Travis Clinger of violating the Republican loyalty oath. He was charged with inappropriately commissioning a poll while running as a candidate for the state legislature, and of announcing that BREC had voted to voice its disapproval of state and national party activity in primary elections.

RPOF said neither action was "of a magnitude to disrupt the activities of the Republican Party," but announced the probation for the remainder of Steele's term as chairman – until the 2010 election.

"We have worked to build a vibrant local party from which to promote the best ideals of our Republic. That remains our goal, and if I am to be watched or monitored to see if I am behaving, so be it," Steele said. "Brevard Republicans aren't working in secret; we're working to better our community. This decision changes nothing. We will continue to be heard, and we

will continue to build on the strong foundations of conservatism that have always assured that we are on the side of the people.”

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## **POSEY HOLDS HEALTH CARE TOWN HALL MEETING**



Congressman Bill Posey received numerous standing ovations from more than 2,500 people attending a recent town hall meeting on health care that he held at the King Center in Melbourne. The two-hour event featured a panel of ten health care experts, Posey expressing his views on health care reform, and questions from the audience.

Posey said there was no clear picture of what the ultimate “official” bill would look like since there were four separate versions going through Congress at the time.

What he supports, Posey said, include a guarantee that the 80 percent of Americans who want to keep their current plan are allowed to do so, increased competition among health care plans, lowering the overall cost of medical care, tax credits to help Americans purchase affordable insurance, ability of small businesses to pool their resources to obtain insurance for their employees, and arrangements of coverage for those with pre-existing conditions.

Posey said what he opposes includes any bill not made available to Congress and the public for at least 72 hours for review, mandates on Americans’ current plans, establishment of a board of unelected bureaucrats making health care decisions, taxes on small businesses, mandated coverage of abortion services and mandated coverage of illegal immigrants.

Panelist Dennis Smith, a former director of the federal Center for Medicaid and State Operation, said there was a need to solve health care problems for a relatively small number of people – out of 300 million Americans – that need assistance, “but let’s not turn the rest of the world upside-down” by granting the government “tremendous, unprecedented authority” over states and private insurance carriers.

## ***ELLIS CALLS MID-TERM ELECTIONS “CRITICAL” FOR GOP***

Clerk of the Courts Scott Ellis, speaking at the September meeting of the Melbourne Area Federated Republican Women, said it is critical for Republicans to win the 2010 midterm Congressional elections, otherwise the 2012 races would be a “typhoon” against the party.

Apologizing to the group for being the bearer of bad news, Ellis said the problem in Congress is that many Republican members pass themselves off as being “Democrat-lite.” They have to learn to stand for less government and mean it, he said, adding that some people don’t seem to understand that the Democrats are looking to become a permanent majority in this country.

There are “too many sacred cows in government,” Ellis said, and it is critical that we understand the necessity to cut spending at all levels.

Reflecting on the Carter years of the late 1970s, Ellis said people under the age of 40 don’t seem to know that era of high spending and high inflation was one of incompetence, although without evil intent.



## ***NFRW HOLDS BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN ORLANDO***

More than 1,300 registrants from 46 states attended the recent National Federation of Republican Women biennial convention in Orlando, hearing speeches from such leaders as Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele, Florida Governor Charlie Crist and Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty.

The four-day event covered such themes and topics as opposing the administration’s health care reform plan, supporting the flourishing tea parties and other grassroots conservative movements, and helping the Republican Party build momentum for the 2010 elections. Attendees also trained for leadership roles in government, politics and community by attending a campaign management school and workshops on health care reform, women and campaigns, technology, and membership development.

## **VALUE VOTERS SUMMIT HELD IN WASHINGTON**

Social and religious conservative activists from throughout the country attended the recent Value Voters Summit in Washington, DC, where they heard numerous speakers denounce Obama administration stands on topics such as health care, abortion, same sex marriage and firearms restrictions.

Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee amused the crowd by referring to Washington as “the land of czars, clunker cars and Hollywood stars.”

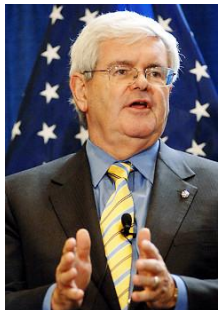
Huckabee was the winner of an unofficial straw poll of candidates the delegates would like to see as the 2010 Republican presidential nominee, garnering 28 percent of the vote. There was a virtual four-way tie for second place, with former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin and Indiana Representative Mike Pence each gaining in the range of 12 percent.

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## **NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE STUDENT CONFERENCE HELD**

The Young America’s Foundation’s 31<sup>st</sup> annual National Conservative Student Conference held recently in Washington, DC, attracted more than 400 young activists from 190 colleges and universities in 38 states.

For five days, the students learned about conservative ideas that are seldom taught in college classrooms.



Speakers – including former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, columnist Ann Coulter and South Carolina Senator Jim DeMint just to name a few – stressed the importance of remaining true to the founding principles of our nation: smaller government, strong national defense, market-based economy and traditional values.

The students also were encouraged to read the classics of conservative thought to help them dissect the liberalism that today permeates many classrooms throughout the country.

## **QUOTABLE QUOTES**

National correspondent John Miller, writing on “Rubio Rising” in National Review:

“Florida Governor Charlie Crist is running for the Senate, and he isn’t supposed to lose – let alone lose in the Republican primary. He enjoys a high approval rating, has a history of success among voters, and raises campaign cash with the intensity of a Category 5 hurricane. His main opponent in the GOP primary is Marco Rubio, a 38-year-old Miami native who quotes Snoop Dogg lyrics on his Twitter account. On paper, it looks like a mismatch between an unbeatable juggernaut and a doomed also-ran. Yet Crist may be vulnerable: He warmly embraced President Obama’s stimulus spending and is one of the most liberal politicians in the Republican firmament. Rubio is among the brightest young stars on the right. Their contest could become the sleeper race of 2010.”

Radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh, writing on health care in his magazine *The Limbaugh Letter*:

“The left has no concept of the deep love of liberty that motivates the vast majority of Americans....The days of us being defensive, or worrying about how the media portrays us, are over. Going on offense has worked. There’s a huge lesson to be learned here. Moderate Republicans need to take note: this is how you win, and you don’t do it by acting as if you’re part of the Oxford Debating Society. You do it by unapologetically, passionately standing up and demanding answers, calling them out. Refusing to back down. Even, as Obama put it, ‘getting in their face.’”

Weekly Standard Executive Editor Fred Barnes, writing in *The Wall Street Journal*:

“Republicans are discovering just how effective an opposition party can be in Washington. Their strategy is simply to aggressively and relentlessly oppose the liberal agenda of the president and the Democratic Congress. As a result, Barack Obama’s agenda is in jeopardy, and the president is disconcerted, less popular and on the defensive....Republicans fret about alienating voters who turned against them in the past two elections. They shouldn’t. Independents are the largest bloc of these voters. By opposing Mr. Obama, especially on spending and health care, Republicans have created a mass migration of independents away from the president. They are moving the center to the right.”

Syndicated columnist David Limbaugh, appearing in The Washington Times National Edition:

“Mr. Obama and his Democratic supermajorities in Congress have done the nation a great favor by showing their true colors and what they will do with unchecked power. And the American people have responded with a grass-roots, non-violent revolt. Polls now show that the majority of voters in every state are conservative. The one thing that could undo this public excitement is for moderate Republicans to help these statist Democrats get their feet in the door on socialized health care. There can be no compromise driven by semantic deception, such as co-ops in place of the ‘public option.’ The only reforms Republicans should accede to are free market ones.”

Columnist Jeffrey Kuhner, writing in The Washington Times National Edition:

“President Obama is the most radical leader in U.S. history. Much of the public is focused on his ambitious plan to nationalize health care. The more they hear about it, the less they like it. Hence, Mr. Obama’s poll numbers are dropping like a stone. Yet his environmentalist agenda is just as dangerous. If passed, it will destroy American’s free-market system...Environmentalism has very little to do with protecting the environment. It is green socialism. Its objective is to achieve what red communism couldn’t: the conquest of capitalism. Instead of central planning and a command economy, we would have a highly regulated, highly taxed bureaucratic corporation that would stifle economic growth and individual initiative.”

Editor Charles Kesler, writing on “The Conservative Challenge” in the Claremont Review of Books:

“The worst thing about Big Government is the reasons given for it, which always point to more and more programs, to government unlimited in its power and designs. Some – not all – of the agencies and departments established under its rubric may be tolerable, and a few even good. That’s one reason the conservative task is so challenging. It requires not only discriminating in theory between the proper and improper functions of government, but also examining in practice the good and bad that government programs do, the second-best purposes they fulfill, the political costs and benefits of altering or abolishing them. All of these need to be elements of a long-term conservative strategy...to reform fundamentally the federal government and its programs.”

Henry Olson, vice president of the American Enterprise Institute, writing on “The Reemerging Republican Majority?” in the Claremont Review of Books:

“If it is to be the majority party again, the GOP must be able to win again in the suburbs, while taking as much as it can of the white working class vote, which tends to be rural and urban. Of course, suburban America is no longer lily white...the Hispanics of Florida’s I-4 Corridor are prime examples of the racial and ethnic transformation of the suburbs...America’s greatest conservatives, Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan, were careful students of public opinion and demographic trends. Each adapted America’s timeless conservative principles, rooted in the Declaration of Independence, to their times and their audiences. They created new political coalitions that endured well beyond their elections. Republicans today must learn from their example and create a rhetoric and politics that appeal both to the party base and the new American suburbanites.”

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### ***CANDIDATES’ LIST FOR NOVEMBER 3 LOCAL NON-PARTISAN ELECTIONS***

#### **Cape Canaveral Mayor:**

Jim Morgan, Leo Nicholas, incumbent Rocky Randeis

#### **Cocoa Beach Council, Seat 2:**

Ben Malik (R), incumbent Ken Griffin (R)

#### **Indialantic Council, Seat 1:**

Lori Halpert (R) elected without opposition

#### **Indialantic Council, Seat 3:**

Chris Campbell (NPA),  
Incumbent Vincent Benevente (R)

#### **Melbourne Beach Council, 2 Seats:**

Gail Gowdy (R), Robert Femina, Jean Marshall (D),  
incumbents April Evans (NPA) and Paul Guglietta (R)

#### **Rockledge Council, Seat 6:**

Ted Hartselle (R), Edward Newell (R),  
Kimberly Prosser (D)

#### **Satellite Beach Mayor:**

Joseph Ferrante (R)  
Martha Kirby (R)

### **Satellite Beach Council, 2 Seats:**

William Higginson (R),

**BREC member Frank Montelione,**

David Omler (R), Scott Rhodes (R)

### **West Melbourne Council, 3 Seats:**

Andrea Young (R), incumbents John D'Amico (R),

Michael Hazlett (R) and Andrew Jones (R)

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### ***HOUSE SEAT GAIN EXPECTED FOR FLORIDA***

Stephanie Simon, writing in the Wall Street Journal, says that following the 2010 census, early analysis indicates that Florida is one of six states expected to gain a seat in the House of Representatives.

The analysis was conducted by the National Conference of State Legislatures and Election Data Services, a political consulting firm. Based on population growth, gains by the six states, all located in the South and West, will have to be offset in the 435-member House by states with expected population losses elsewhere, primarily in the Northeast.

A state's votes in the presidential Electoral College depend on the size of its congressional delegation, Simon points out, "so the census will likely tilt the balance of power slightly, with reliably Republican 'red states' gaining several votes while Democratic strongholds such as New England lose clout."

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### ***CONSERVATIVE INSTITUTIONS***

(Each issue we will focus on a different national organization that is making a difference for the conservative cause.)



#### **The Heritage Foundation**

One of America's most influential research

organizations, The Heritage Foundation, located in Washington, DC, formulates and promotes conservative public policies based on the principles of free enterprise, limited government, individual freedom, traditional American values and a strong national defense.

It began in 1973 and started to flourish during the Reagan Administration. Today it has more than 500,000 members throughout the United States, and has set a goal for itself of reaching the one million mark.

Under the leadership of its president, Ed Feulner, Heritage reaches out through its website,

[www.heritage.org](http://www.heritage.org), blogs, radio, television and magazines. It hosts numerous lectures and panel discussions at its headquarters, and publishes papers on all aspects of conservative thought.

"We have our work cut out for us this year as liberals try to redistribute wealth, abolish secret ballots in union elections, nationalize health care – the list goes on and on," Feulner says. "But we believe we can take on this charge, because with Heritage leading the way, conservatives are better equipped than ever before to win the battle of ideas."

One national network that Heritage runs is its Community Committees Program, which is designed to increase its visibility. This past January, the newest one was established in Naples, where several people on Florida's west coast were neighbors who had been unaware of their joint interest.

"The Morning Bell," Heritage's free daily e-mail, provides the latest information on each day's concerns. Go to the website to sign up, and consider becoming a Heritage Foundation member.

### ***UPCOMING EVENTS***

Monday, Oct. 5 – New Millenium Republican Club Meeting at 6:30 pm at the Suntree/Viera Library, call 255-0619 for information

Wednesday, Oct. 7 – Melbourne Area Federated Republican Women Meeting at 11 am at the Holiday Inn Viera, call 727-1212 for reservations

Thursday, Oct. 8 – Brevard Republican Executive Committee Meeting at 7 pm at the County Government Building on Fran Jamieson Way, call 777-9086 for information

Thursday, Oct. 22 – Ronald Regan Clubs, Inc. Meeting at 6:30 pm at Jimmie's Restaurant at the Turtle Creek Golf Club in Rockledge, call 525-7502 for information

Tuesday, Oct. 27 – Space Coast Florida Republican Winners Club Meeting at 10 am at the Comfort Inn and Suites, Cocoa Beach, call 302-8839 for reservations and information

Wednesday, Nov. 4 – Melbourne Area Federated Republican Women Honor the Military Banquet at the Holiday Inn Viera at 6 pm; the guest speaker will be Col. Danny McKnight of Black Hawk Down fame and items will be auctioned to support our military, call 223-5921 for reservations

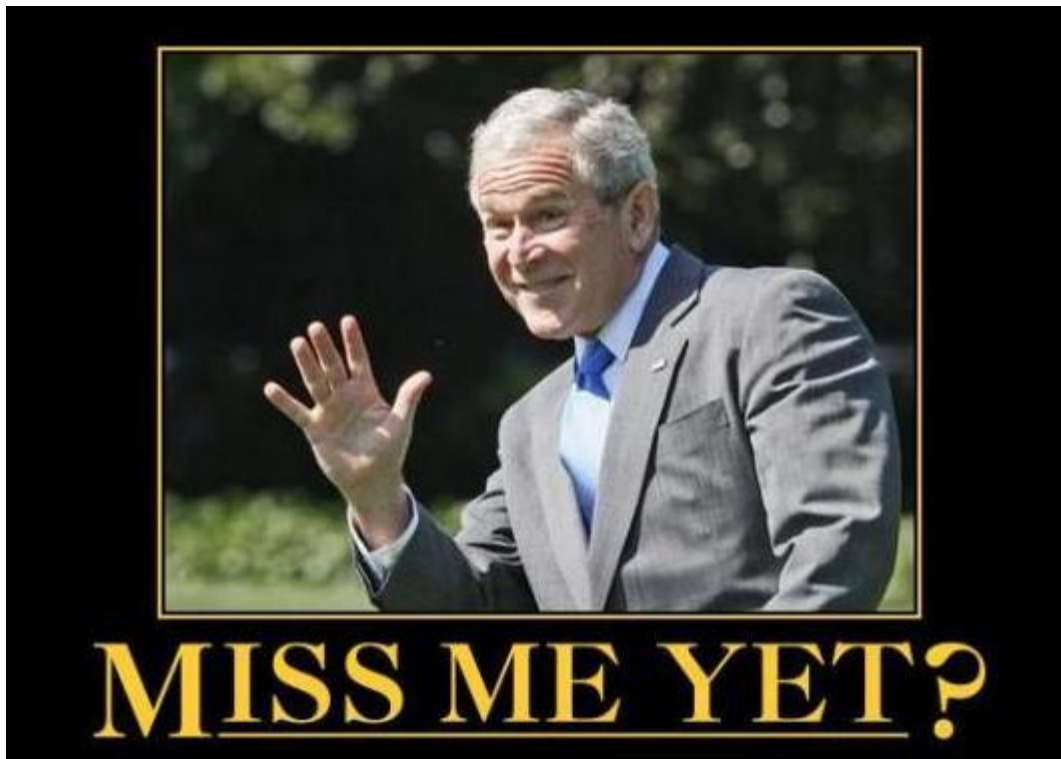
## COMICAL CLOSURE (WITH A GRIMACE)

Elementary school pupils studying civics decided to hold an election for class president, and the candidates running were Johnny and Susie. Johnny spoke about his specific ideas to make the class better and received applause when he promised to do his best. Susie then said that if the class voted for her, they would all get ice cream. She didn't know who would pay for the ice cream or where it would come from, but the class went wild anyway, and Susie won in a landslide. Everyone only wanted ice cream. Sound familiar???

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This is the official newsletter of the Brevard Republican Executive Committee. We intend to reach as many Republicans in the county as possible to keep them informed. And we need constant input – information from clubs, from district chairs, from committees, from state and local party officials, even from the average Republican-in-the-street that we can include in each issue. There are numerous Republican and Conservative events taking place in Brevard County, and we need the information in order to cover them. Also, let us know what you like about the newsletter, and what you would like to see different. E-mail [stuartgorin@bellsouth.net](mailto:stuartgorin@bellsouth.net).

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"Suppose you were an idiot and suppose you were a member of Congress.  
But I repeat myself." - Mark Twain

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