

First Coast Tiger Bay Tracks



September 2018 The First Coast Tiger Bay Club, Inc. P.O. Box 2608, Jacksonville, FL 32203

Tired of Depraved Political Dialogue?

September 21, 2018

For all the money spent on campaigns you would expect something more elevating. Regrettably this loathsome state is merely a reflection of the wider political dialogue that seems to get progressively less civil. How did we get this way, what are the consequences and what can be done to improve it?

To address these issues the **First Coast Tiger Bay Club** presents **Rick Mullaney**, Director of the Jacksonville University Public Policy Institute. Rick has been a student and practitioner of both politics and public policy for many years. The Institute he founded is a leading venue in Florida for public policy debates, forums, conferences, lectures, polling and research. As such he has been monitoring the coarsening of political discourse both nationally and locally for some time. While many factors contributed to this decline, two really stand out.



First, the “Gatekeeping” role of traditional media has been supplanted by online and social media. Fact-checking and context formerly provided by journalists and editors is not part of the Wild, Wild West peer-to-peer communications of social media; virtually anything can be submitted online and bots (or computer robots posing as humans) can give the impression a story is trending to create the illusion of a real story read by many.

A second and somewhat related factor has been the ascendancy of President Donald Trump who very effectively uses social media in his campaign and governing style. The recent Florida party primaries for governor illustrated how Trump helped transform politics—the campaign focus for **both parties** was on him: Republicans stumbled over themselves to see who was more pro-Trump (or said fewer negative things about him in the past) while the Democrats presented a mirror-image opposite to see who was the most anti-Trump.

Our guest speaker will provide insight into those primary election results as well as the upcoming races for senator and governor plus the mid-term congressional outlook; he will also offer speculation about national trends from both a policy and politics perspective.

Rick Mullaney is the Founding Director of the Public Policy Institute, which offers four graduate degree programs in public policy, including the only Master in Public Policy (MPP) degree in Florida. In addition he is a lawyer and a political analyst for WJXT Channel 4 and WOKV, 104.5 FM in Jacksonville and host of a radio program, *Policy Matters*, on WJCT 89.9 FM. He received a BA in Political Science at the University of Florida (1973-1977), graduating *Phi Beta Kappa* and first in College of Arts and Sciences. He also graduated from law school at UF (1977-1980), serving on the Moot Court Team and as an Editor on the Law Review. After graduation, he worked as a business lawyer, prosecutor, Mayoral Chief of Staff, and General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville. During this time, he received the Prosecutor of the Year Award for the state of Florida and Lawyer of the Year Award for the City of Jacksonville. He ran for Mayor of Jacksonville in 2011.

During more than 35 years in the private and public sectors, Mullaney has represented diverse public entities, been involved in numerous public policy initiatives and political campaigns, and lectured on legal and public policy topics in more than 20 states. He serves on many nonprofit boards including Gateway Community Services, St. Vincent’s Foundation and HealthCare System, and the World Affairs Council. He and his wife Lynn have three children: Taylor, Richie and Katie. For more information on the Public Policy Institute see: <https://www.ju.edu/publicpolicy/index.php>

We hope you can join us on **September 21** to engage in a dialogue on the current state of political discourse in America. In the meantime we invite you to download “Information Disorder,” a guide and toolkit for understanding social media and its impact; this useful tool was developed by the Shorenstein Center for Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and is available for free at the links on next page.

2018 Tiger Bay Officers

Henry Cordes, President
Dr. Stephen Baker, 1st Vice President
Hazel Gillis, Secretary
Marcia Turner, Treasurer

FIRST COAST TIGER BAY CLUB meets for lunch every month, except December, on the 3rd Friday at 11:30 at The River Club, 1 Independent Drive, 35th Floor. Cost for the event, which includes the wonderful buffet and parking, is \$25.

Reservations are required: Call (904) 404-5471 or E-Mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com

“Types of Information Pollution on Social Media”

As quoted from the *Palm Beach Post*, August 24, 2018

Misinformation: False information created without harmful intent, including rumors unwittingly spread by people caught up in the moment possibly trying to be helpful

Disinformation: False, manipulated and imposter content deliberately created to harm a person, organization or country; includes conspiracy theories and rumors

Malinformation: Information based on reality, deliberately created to inflict harm; includes leaks, hate speech, revenge porn

Source: <http://firstdraftnews.org>, a project of the Shorenstein Center for Media, Politics and Public Policy at the Harvard Kennedy School

For a useful **Guide and Toolkit** on **Information Disorder** and how to combat it see:
<https://firstdraftnews.org/infodisorder-definitional-toolbox/>

August 2108 STRAW POLL Results

1- How much do you think political party matters for the position of Tax Collector?

10% - A great deal 41% - Some 49% - Not much

2- Do you think that the Tax Collector should be an elected or an appointed position?

83% - Elected 10% - Not sure 7% - Appointed

3- How important do you think administrative experience is for the position of Tax Collector?

73% - Very important 27% - Somewhat important 0% - Not very important

4- How important do you think political experience is for the position of Tax Collector?

20% - Very important 58% - Somewhat important 22% - Not very important

5- How important do you think government experience is for the position of Tax Collector?

44% - Very important 41% - Somewhat important 15% - Not very important

2019 Changes for The First Coast Tiger Bay Club

At the last meeting of the Tiger Bay Board, the members voted to reduce the number of meetings per year from eleven to nine. The months we will not meet will be June, July and December. This change is being made to accommodate the vacation and holiday plans of the members. All other meetings will continue to be held on the 3rd Friday of each month.

Dues will be reduced to \$75.00 for the year. Due to an increase in the cost of the meal, lunch will be \$28.00. There will also be an option for those who wish to pay in advance. If you pay in January the cost will be \$275.00, which covers dues and meals for the year. This is a cost savings of \$52.00 per year.

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political forum that promotes free and open debate but does not support any candidates or issues.

Dr. Stephen Baker, Newsletter Editor

Henry Cordes, Publisher

**Reservations are REQUIRED. Please RSVP by
Tuesday September 21, 2018
E-mail: fctigerbay@gmail.com or 904-404-5471**

The First Coast Tiger Bay Club is a multi-partisan political and civic forum designed to explore crucial issues of the day by interacting with outstanding speakers in an open format. The club is non-partisan, never supports particular candidates, nor take sides on issues.