

Cord Byrd, A Former Right-Wing State Legislator And Florida's Current Secretary Of State, Has Refused To Acknowledge Biden's 2020 Presidential Victory, Espouses QAnon Beliefs, And Is Married To A Public Backer Of The Proud Boys, Moms For Liberty, And The January 6 Capitol Insurrection

Cord Byrd Is A Former Florida "Gun Lawyer" And State House Republican Who Ron DeSantis Appointed As Secretary Of State In May 2022

Ron DeSantis Appointed Cord Byrd As Florida's Secretary Of State In May 2022

Ron DeSantis Appointed Cord Byrd As Florida Secretary Of State In May 2022. "Gov. Ron DeSantis replaced outgoing Secretary of State Laurel Lee on Friday with state Rep. Cord Byrd, who cursed at Black Democratic lawmakers during the session and whose wife has made comments supporting QAnon and the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol riots." [Orlando Sentinel, [5/13/22](#)]

Ron DeSantis Appointed Esther Byrd, Cord Byrd's Wife, To The Florida Board Of Education In March 2022. "Gov. Ron DeSantis appointed Esther Byrd to the state's Board of Education, a move that will almost certainly serve to further politicize that appointed panel." [Florida Politics, [3/12/22](#)]

Cord Byrd Was Elected To Florida's House Of Representatives In 2016 And Served In The State Legislature Until His Appointment As Secretary Of State

Cord Byrd Was Elected To Represent Florida's 11th District In Its House Of Representatives In 2016 And Was Subsequently Reelected. "CORD BYRD [...] District: 11 -- Republican [...] Elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2016, reelected subsequently." [Florida House of Representatives, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

Prior To Politics, Cord Byrd Operated A Firearm Law Practice And Styled Himself As The "Florida Gun Lawyer"

Cord Byrd Is A Lawyer From Neptune Beach, Florida. "Byrd is a lawyer from Neptune Beach. His practice specializes in firearms-related cases, according to his website, such as helping clients get revoked concealed weapon licenses reinstated or appealing a firearm purchase denial. On the site and on Facebook, Byrd refers to himself as the 'Florida gun lawyer.'" [CNN, [5/13/22](#)]

Cord Byrd Earned His Juris Doctorate From St. Thomas University School Of Law In 1997.

Education: University of North Florida, BA, 1990-1993; St. Thomas University School of Law, JD, 1995-1997

[Florida House of Representatives, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

Prior To His Legislative Career, Cord Byrd Operated A Private Firearm Law Practice And Called Himself The “Florida Gun Lawyer.” “Byrd is a lawyer from Neptune Beach. His practice specializes in firearms-related cases, according to his website, such as helping clients get revoked concealed weapon licenses reinstated or appealing a firearm purchase denial. On the site and on Facebook, Byrd refers to himself as the ‘Florida gun lawyer.’” [CNN, [5/13/22](#)]

- **Cord Byrd’s Firearm Law Practice Reportedly Offered To Help Clients Reinstatement Revoked Concealed Carry Licenses And Appeal Firearm Purchase Denials.** “Byrd is a lawyer from Neptune Beach. His practice specializes in firearms-related cases, according to his website, such as helping clients get revoked concealed weapon licenses reinstated or appealing a firearm purchase denial. On the site and on Facebook, Byrd refers to himself as the ‘Florida gun lawyer.’” [CNN, [5/13/22](#)]

As Secretary Of State, Cord Byrd Has Claimed To Champion “Election Integrity” While Defending Efforts To “Target” And Suppress Florida’s Black Voters “With Surgical Precision”

Cord Byrd, A Self-Proclaimed Champion Of “Election Integrity” Efforts, Has Backed A Plethora Of Voter Suppression Measures As Florida’s Secretary Of State

Florida Secretary Of State Cord Byrd Claims To “Lead The Way In Election Integrity.” “Florida’s Governor Ron DeSantis, Florida’s Secretary of State Cord Byrd and the Florida Legislature have made elections integrity a top priority by making significant investments to ensure Florida has the technology, infrastructure and resources to conduct the nation’s most efficient and secure elections. Under the Governor’s leadership, Florida has become a model for successful elections administration. Secretary Byrd and his team at the Florida Department of State work hard each day to ensure to protect the significant investments that have been made and use these resources to continue to lead the way in election integrity.” [Florida Secretary of State, Office of Election Crimes and Security, accessed [5/14/24](#)]

Cord Byrd Was The Lead Defendant In *Florida State Conference Of Branches And Youth Units Of The NAACP v. Byrd*, A Challenge To Florida Senate Bill 7050, Dubbed An “Omnibus Voter Suppression Law.” “Florida State Conference of Branches and Youth Units of the NAACP v. Byrd [...] Lawsuit filed on behalf of the Florida State Conference of Branches and Youth Units of the NAACP, Equal Ground Education Fund, Voters of Tomorrow, Disability Rights Florida, Alianza for Progress, Alianza Center, UnidosUS and Florida Alliance for Retired Americans against Florida Secretary of State Cord Byrd (R), Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody (R) and Florida’s 67 county supervisors of elections. The plaintiffs challenge omnibus voter suppression law, Senate Bill 7050, that among many anti-voting provisions, imposes restrictions and penalties on third-party voter registration organizations (3PVROs) that seek to

register eligible Floridians to vote and puts limitations on voter assistance options for requesting a mail-in ballot.” [Democracy Docket, [5/24/23](#)]

- **Florida Senate Bill 7050 Was Signed Into Law In May 2023.** “Today, Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) signed another omnibus elections bill: Senate Bill 7050.” [Democracy Docket, [5/24/23](#)]
- **Florida Senate Bill 7050 Imposed Restrictions And Penalties On Third-Party Voter Registration Organizations And Restricted Mail-In Ballot Access.** “The plaintiffs challenge omnibus voter suppression law, Senate Bill 7050, that among many anti-voting provisions, imposes restrictions and penalties on third-party voter registration organizations (3PVROs) that seek to register eligible Floridians to vote and puts limitations on voter assistance options for requesting a mail-in ballot.” [Democracy Docket, [5/24/23](#)]
- **In Florida, People Of Color Are Five Times More Likely Than White People To Rely On Third-Party Organizations When Registering To Vote.** “In Florida, people of color are five times more likely to rely on third-party organizations than white people. S.B. 90 in 2021 and another bill in 2022 both imposed new restrictions on these organizations.” [Democracy Docket, [5/24/23](#)]
- **Florida Senate Bill 7050 Also Tightens Voter Roll Maintenance Requirements That Could Facilitate Voter Roll Purges.** “S.B. 7050 also strengthens list maintenance requirements that could lead to voters having their registrations purged. The law amends changes the word ‘shall’ to ‘must’ throughout the section of the code describing list maintenance, removing any ambiguity about what is required of elections officials. Additionally, the law: Mandates that election officials review registrations at least once a year to identify voters who aren’t registered at a legal residence and initiate the removal of those voters, [...] Clarifies that voter registrations can be removed in response to “official” information from any governmental source, not just those specified in existing law and [...] Speeds up the removal process by adding deadlines for voters to respond to notices of removal and deadlines for election officials to make final determinations of voters’ eligibility.” [Democracy Docket, [5/24/23](#)]

February 2024: Cord Byrd Claimed A Judge’s Ruling, In Which He Accused Florida’s Election Laws Of Anti-Black Racial Targeting, Raised Questions Of Impartiality And Rendered Him Unfit To Rule In A 2023 Election Law Case. “Saying he ‘appears to have a closed mind,’ the state has asked a federal judge to remove himself from a case about the constitutionality of a 2023 Florida elections law. Attorneys for Secretary of State Cord Byrd last week filed a motion seeking the recusal of Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker, pointing to parts of a ruling he issued Feb. 8 in a separate court battle about a 2021 elections law. In that ruling, Walker entered a judgment in favor of the state after the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals overturned his earlier decision that the law improperly discriminated against Black voters. But Walker also wrote that the state ‘has, with surgical precision, repeatedly changed Florida’s election code to target whichever modality of voting Florida’s Black voters were using at the time.’” [Orlando Sentinel, [2/26/24](#)]

- **In The Cited Ruling, District Court Judge Mark Walker Had Written That Florida ““Has, With Surgical Precision, Repeatedly Changed Florida’s Election Code To Target Whichever Modality Of Voting Florida’s Black Voters Were Using At The Time.””** “Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker issued a seven-page order denying a

request for recusal filed last week by attorneys for Secretary of State Cord Byrd... But Walker also wrote that the state ‘has, with surgical precision, repeatedly changed Florida’s election code to target whichever modality of voting Florida’s Black voters were using at the time. That was not this court’s opinion — it is a fact established by the record in these cases (involving the 2021 law). Even so, following the state of Florida’s appeal, this persistent and pernicious practice of targeting the modalities of voting most used by Florida’s Black voters has apparently received the stamp of approval in this (11th) Circuit.” [WLRN, [1/27/24](#)]

- **In The Current Case, Byrd Was Defending A Law That Restricted Third Party Voter Registration Organizations, Which Black And Hispanic Voters Disproportionately Rely On In Florida.** “Three consolidated lawsuits challenging the 2023 law allege that the state has placed improper restrictions on what are known as “third party” voter registration organizations. Plaintiffs contend that the organizations play an important role in signing up Black and Hispanic voters.” [Orlando Sentinel, [2/26/24](#)]
- **March 2024: Walker Struck Down A Portion Of The Law For Discriminating “Against Noncitizens Regardless Of Immigration Status.”** “A federal judge on Friday struck down part of a 2023 state elections law that placed restrictions on what are known as ‘third party’ voter-registration organizations, saying the law discriminated ‘against noncitizens regardless of immigration status.’ Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker issued a summary judgment on part of the law that would prevent non-U.S. citizens from collecting or handling voter registration applications.” [WMNF, [3/1/24](#)]

Cord Byrd, Described As A Ron DeSantis “Loyalist,” Sponsored Some Of Florida’s Most Controversial Legislation During DeSantis’ Early Tenure, Including Those Dubbed The “Anti-Protest” And “Don’t Say Gay” Bills

Before Being Appointed As Florida’s Secretary Of State, Cord Byrd Was A Ron DeSantis “Loyalist” In The Florida House Of Representatives

Cord Byrd Was Reportedly “One Of The More Right-Wing Members Of The Florida House.” “Before his selection for the new role, Byrd was one of the more right-wing members of the Florida House. And Abdelilah Skhir, with the ACLU of Florida, says Byrd sponsored some of the most divisive legislation in the past few years.” [NPR, [7/18/22](#)]

Former Florida State Representative Carlos Guillermo Smith Called Cord Byrd A “Hyper-Partisan GOP Loyalist Who Takes Orders From Ron DeSantis.” “We need a Secretary of State who’s top priority is free and fair elections, not a hyper-partisan GOP loyalist who takes orders from Ron DeSantis.” [Carlos Guillermo Smith via X, [5/13/22](#)]

- **Guillermo Smith Also Called Cord Byrd A “QAnon Conspiracy Theorist And Promoter Of The Big Lie.”** “Florida now has a QAnon conspiracy theorist and promoter of the big lie overseeing our state elections and DeSantis’ elections police.” [Carlos Guillermo Smith via X, [5/13/22](#)]

- **Carlos Guillermo Smith Represented Florida’s 49th District From 2016 To 2022 And Is Currently Running For The Florida State Senate In The 17th District.** “Carlos Guillermo Smith (Democratic Party) is running for election to the Florida State Senate to represent District 17. He declared candidacy for the Democratic primary scheduled on August 20, 2024. Smith (Democratic Party) was a member of the Florida House of Representatives, representing District 49. He assumed office on November 8, 2016. He left office on November 8, 2022.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [5/15/24](#)]

Florida State Representative Anna Eskamani Claimed That Byrd’s Appointment Was An “Award” For His Loyalty To Ron DeSantis. “Terrible appointment -- not only is it an "award" to Rep. Byrd for voting w/the Governor (including on UNCONSTITUTIONAL MAPS!) but Byrd has supported partisan bills that place barriers to voting and has verbally assaulted Democratic members in the legislature too.” [Anna Eskamani via X, [5/13/22](#)]

- **Anna Eskamani Represents Florida’s 42nd District.** “Anna Eskamani (Democratic Party) is a member of the Florida House of Representatives, representing District 42. She assumed office on November 8, 2022. Her current term ends on November 5, 2024.” [Ballotpedia, accessed [5/15/24](#)]

While A Member Of The Florida House Of Representatives, Cord Byrd Sponsored “Some Of The Most Controversial Legislation Supported By [Ron DeSantis],” Including An Unconstitutional “Anti-Protest” Law And Florida’s Controversial “Don’t Say Gay” Bill

Cord Byrd Is A Ron DeSantis Ally Who Was “At The Forefront Of Some Of The Most Controversial Legislation Supported By” Governor DeSantis. “DeSantis’ May 13 appointment of Byrd, who was at the forefront of some of the most controversial legislation supported by the governor, to succeed Laurel Lee immediately drew pushback from Democrats. Lee stepped down from the post to run for Congress.” [Orlando Sentinel, [5/24/22](#)]

- **Cord Byrd Sponsored Florida’s Controversial Parental Rights In Education Bill, Which Has Been Called The “Don’t Say Gay” Bill.** “Skhir says Byrd also sponsored Florida’s controversial Parental Rights in Education legislation, which has been derisively dubbed the ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill by opponents. He also sponsored a 15-week abortion ban, as well as legislation prohibiting schools and employers from discussing race.” [NPR, [7/18/22](#)]
 - **According To Its Text, The Parental Rights In Education Bill’s Aim Was To Prohibit “Classroom Discussion About Sexual Orientation Or Gender Identity In Certain Grade Levels” In Florida’s Primary Schools.** “In March 2022, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signed into law the Parental Rights in Education bill, better known as the ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill (the Bill) by its opponents. According to the text of the Bill, its aim is to prohibit “classroom discussion about sexual orientation or gender identity in certain grade levels” in Florida’s primary schools.” [Georgetown Journal of Gender and the Law, [2020](#)]
- **Cord Byrd Reportedly Sponsored A Bill To Ban Abortion At 15 Weeks.** “Skhir says Byrd also sponsored Florida’s controversial Parental Rights in Education legislation, which has been derisively dubbed the ‘Don’t Say Gay’ bill by opponents. He also

sponsored a 15-week abortion ban, as well as legislation prohibiting schools and employers from discussing race.” [NPR, [7/18/22](#)]

- **Cord Byrd Reportedly Sponsored Legislation That Would Have Prohibited Schools And Employers From Discussing Race.** “Skhir says Byrd also sponsored Florida's controversial Parental Rights in Education legislation, which has been derisively dubbed the ‘Don't Say Gay’ bill by opponents. He also sponsored a 15-week abortion ban, as well as legislation prohibiting schools and employers from discussing race.” [NPR, [7/18/22](#)]

Cord Byrd Sponsored Florida’s “Anti-Protest Bill.” “DeSantis picks Cord Byrd as secretary of state. Byrd sponsored last year's anti-protest bill & has fueled the Big Lie on social media. Now the top elections official in our state is Qanon. It's scary stuff, and why we have to win in Nov.” [Charlie Crist via X, [5/13/22](#)]

- **April 2021: Governor Ron DeSantis Signed The “Combating Public Disorder Act,” Or HB 1, Into Law.** “Today, during a press conference at the Polk County Sheriff’s Office, Governor Ron DeSantis was joined by legislative leadership and law enforcement officials from across the state to sign the “Combating Public Disorder Act” into law. The bill, HB 1, takes a robust approach to uphold the rule of law, stand with those serving in law enforcement and enforce Florida’s zero tolerance policy for violent and disorderly assemblies. The bill comes in the wake of ongoing violence, rioting and other forms of civil unrest throughout the United States over the last two years.” [Florida Governor’s Office, [4/19/21](#)]
- **September 2021: HB 1 Was Ruled Unconstitutional By A U.S. District Court Judge Who Wrote That The Law’s “‘New Definition Of Riot’ Was Vague And Overbroad And Criminalizes ‘Vast Swaths Of Core First Amendment Speech.’”** “In a second court loss this week for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a federal judge on Thursday squelched one of the governor’s key pieces of legislation by blocking enforcement of a so-called anti-riot law, saying that it chills free speech. U.S. District Judge Mark Walker wrote that DeSantis’s ‘new definition of ‘riot’ is vague and overbroad and criminalizes ‘vast swaths of core First Amendment speech.’” [The Washington Post, [9/9/21](#)]

Florida Rep. Anna Eskamani: “Byrd Has Supported Partisan Bills That Place Barriers To Voting And Has Verbally Assaulted Democratic Members In The Legislature.” “Terrible appointment -- not only is it an "award" to Rep. Byrd for voting w/the Governor (including on UNCONSTITUTIONAL MAPS!) but Byrd has supported partisan bills that place barriers to voting and has verbally assaulted Democratic members in the legislature too.” [Anna Eskamanivia X, [5/13/22](#)]

Cord Byrd Endorsed Myths Of Voter Fraud And Refused To Admit That Joe Biden Won The 2020 Presidential Election

“Election Denier” Cord Byrd Refused To Acknowledge That Joe Biden Won The 2020 Presidential Election And Alluded To False Allegations Of Voter Fraud

Cord Byrd Refused To Acknowledge That Joe Biden Won The 2020 Presidential Election. “The new elections chief, Cord Byrd, has a history of sparring with Democrats and, when asked, he has refused to say Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election.” [NPR, [7/18/22](#)]

When Asked Whether President Joe Biden Won The 2020 Presidential Election Over Donald Trump, Cord Byrd Refused To Answer And Claimed That There Were “Irregularities” In Swing States. “Asked about the presidential contest, Byrd repeatedly said that Biden was certified for the office by Congress. But when pressed about whether Biden won the election over Donald Trump, Byrd pointed to issues in several other states. ‘He was certified as the president. He is the president of the United States,’ Byrd said of Biden. ‘There were irregularities in certain states. ... I’m not the secretary of state of Wisconsin or Pennsylvania or Arizona. That’s up to their voters. We in Florida had a successful election in 2020. And that’s what I want to continue to have in 2022.’” [Orlando Sentinel, [5/24/22](#)]

- **When Defending An Election Law, Cord Byrd Claimed That “People Want To Interfere And Sow Chaos, And They Get Smarter And More Creative.”** “‘But we also know that people want to interfere and sow chaos, and they get smarter and more creative,’ Byrd added, defending controversial election-law measures approved by state lawmakers over the past two years. ‘Just like you don’t wait until there is a fire in your house to buy a fire extinguisher, we can’t wait for a problem to surface to address it when it comes to election laws.’” [Orlando Sentinel, [5/24/22](#)]
- **Allegations Of Voter Fraud In The 2020 Election Have Been Debunked Or Discredited.** “This, after more than three years during which claims of fraud have been debunked or discredited and during which no one has stepped forward or been indicted on a charge of having been involved in a broad effort to subvert the election results. A Post-University of Maryland poll conducted in November found that 6 in 10 Republicans believe there is ‘solid evidence’ that there was rampant fraud in 2020. There wasn’t.” [The Washington Post, [5/14/24](#)]

February 2023: States Newsroom Named Cord Byrd As One Of “Five Election Deniers Who Are Controlling State Voting Systems.” “Five election deniers who are controlling state voting systems [...] Florida’s governor appointed a secretary of state who has refused, when asked, to say Biden won the election... Cord Byrd.” [States Newsroom, [2/20/23](#)]

Cord Byrd And His Wife Esther Reportedly “Quit Twitter” After Her Comments Supporting The Capitol Insurrection Received Media Attention

After The Capitol Riot On January 6, 2021, Esther Byrd Reportedly Tweeted, “ANTIFA And BLM Can Burn And Loot Buildings And Violently Attack Police And Citizens. But When Trump Supporters Peacefully Protest, Suddenly “Law And Order” Is All They Can Talk About!” “DeSantis recently appointed Byrd’s wife, Esther Byrd, a former Marine who works in her husband’s law office, to the state Board of Education. She defended theories of QAnon, a far-right conspiracy cult that says the world is ruled by Satan-worshipping child molesters, after the couple was seen flying a QAnon flag on their boat. They both quit Twitter for more than a year after she posted comments supporting the Capitol insurrection. ‘ANTIFA and BLM can burn and loot buildings and violently attack police and citizens. But when Trump supporters peacefully protest, suddenly “Law and Order” is all they can talk about!’ she tweeted.

'I can't even listen to these idiots bellyaching about solving our differences without violence.'" [Orlando Sentinel, [5/13/22](#)]

- **At The Time, Cord Byrd Reportedly Dismissed His Wife's Comments As "Hyperbole."** "ANTIFA and BLM can burn and loot buildings and violently attack police and citizens. But when Trump supporters peacefully protest, suddenly "Law and Order" is all they can talk about!" she tweeted. 'I can't even listen to these idiots bellyaching about solving our differences without violence.' At the time, Cord Byrd laughed off her comments as 'hyperbole.'" [Orlando Sentinel, [5/13/22](#)]
- **Cord Byrd Regarding His Wife's Statements On The Capitol Insurrection: "People Use Hyperbole All The Time... The Speaker Of The House Has Said, And I Quote, 'I Just Don't Know Why There Aren't Uprisings All Over The Country.'"** "For his part, the Representative claims that his wife shouldn't be read too literally. 'People use hyperbole all the time,' Byrd told WJXT last year. 'The Speaker of the House has said, and I quote, "I just don't know why there aren't uprisings all over the country.'" [Florida Politics, [3/12/22](#)]

Cord Byrd And His Wife, Esther Byrd, "Quit Twitter" For More Than A Year After Esther Publicly Supported The Capitol Insurrection On Social Media. "DeSantis recently appointed Byrd's wife, Esther Byrd, a former Marine who works in her husband's law office, to the state Board of Education. She defended theories of QAnon, a far-right conspiracy cult that says the world is ruled by Satan-worshipping child molesters, after the couple was seen flying a QAnon flag on their boat. They both quit Twitter for more than a year after she posted comments supporting the Capitol insurrection." [Orlando Sentinel, [5/13/22](#)]

Cord Byrd And His Wife Esther Were Seen Displaying QAnon Paraphernalia

Cord Byrd And His Wife, Esther Byrd, Were Identified Aboard A Boat Flying A QAnon Flag

Cord Byrd And His Wife, Esther Byrd, Were Reportedly Seen "Flying A QAnon Flag From Their Boat." "DeSantis recently appointed Byrd's wife, Esther Byrd, a former Marine who works in her husband's law office, to the state Board of Education. She defended theories of QAnon, a far-right conspiracy cult that says the world is ruled by Satan-worshipping child molesters, after the couple was seen flying a QAnon flag on their boat." [Orlando Sentinel, [5/13/22](#)]

Cord Byrd's Wife, Esther Byrd, Is A Member Of Moms For Liberty And A Supporter Of The January 6 Insurrection And Proud Boys

Esther Byrd, Cord Byrd's Wife, Is A Member Of Moms For Liberty

Cord Byrd's Wife Esther Byrd Is A Member Of Moms For Liberty. "Florida Governor Ron DeSantis announced Thursday the appointment of Esther Byrd, member of Moms for Liberty - Duval to the state Board of Education. The appointment is subject to Senate confirmation." [Moms for Liberty, [3/14/22](#)]

In A Facebook Post, Esther Byrd Alluded To “Coming Civil Wars” In Which “Every Elected Official In [Washington,] DC” Will Be Either “With Us [Or] Against Us”

After The January 6 Capitol Riots, Esther Byrd Authored A Facebook Post Alluding To “Coming Civil Wars,” In Which She Claimed That “Every Elected Official In DC” Will Be Either “With Us [Or] Against Us.” “After the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riots, Mrs. Byrd offered a defense of those ‘peacefully protesting’ the certification of the 2020 Presidential Election while alluding to ‘coming civil wars’... ‘In the coming civil wars (We the People vs the Radical Left and We the People cleaning up the Republican Party), team rosters are being filled,’ mused Byrd. ‘Every elected official in DC will pick one. There are only 2 teams... With Us [or] Against Us.’” [Florida Politics, [3/12/22](#)]

- **Esther Byrd On Facebook: “In The Coming Civil Wars (We The People Vs The Radical Left And We The People Cleaning Up The Republican Party), Team Rosters Are Being Filled... Every Elected Official In DC Will Pick One. There Are Only 2 Teams... With Us [Or] Against Us.”** “After the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riots, Mrs. Byrd offered a defense of those ‘peacefully protesting’ the certification of the 2020 Presidential Election while alluding to ‘coming civil wars’... ‘In the coming civil wars (We the People vs the Radical Left and We the People cleaning up the Republican Party), team rosters are being filled,’ mused Byrd. ‘Every elected official in DC will pick one. There are only 2 teams... With Us [or] Against Us.’ ‘ANTIFA and BLM can burn and loot buildings and violently attack police and citizens,’ Byrd wrote on her personal Facebook page” [Florida Politics, [3/12/22](#)]

Esther Byrd Also Publicly Defended The Proud Boys

Cord Byrd’s Wife, Esther Byrd, Defended The Proud Boys On Multiple Occasions, Claiming That They And Their Supporters Were Being Thrown In “[Facebook] Jail.” “During former Rep. Byrd’s last campaign for the Florida House, Mrs. Byrd offered an unsolicited defense of the Proud Boys, after Donald Trump famously urged them to ‘stand back and stand by’ when pressed to condemn the alt-right movement. Mrs. Byrd, a staunch supporter of the former president, subsequently claimed that many of them and their supporters have been thrown in ‘FB Jail,’ a metaphorical lockdown preventing them from posting to Facebook for some period of time. ‘Why do you think Facebook is throwing people in FB Jail who share information about Proud Boys? (Side note: I must really have great friends cause a whole bunch have been locked up!) I think it’s because they’ve seen a drastic spike in searches and they are worried that people are educating themselves rather than blindly believing what MSM narrative. Anyone have a better theory?’” [Florida Politics, [5/22/22](#)]

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